

# The November Sky

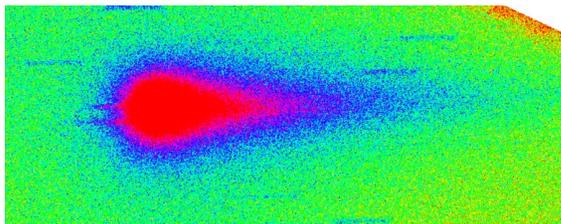
## For Your Eyes Only

No matter what happens, talk of astronomical happenings this fall have been, and will be, dominated by [Comet ISON](#). Comets are typically named after their discoverers, up to three of them. This comet is named after the acronym for the [observing program](#) that found it. For English speakers it is certainly easier to pronounce than Comet *Nevski–Novichonok*. Interestingly, this comet appeared in images from [two other](#) survey programs, but went unrecognized at the time. The MacAdam Student Observatory camera has been following Comet ISON since January. Will it become a naked-eye object this fall? Before [perihelion](#)? After perihelion? Not at all? Finder charts for Comet ISON can be found at our web page.

## For Your Binoculars

Learning to point a pair of binoculars or a small telescope can be problematic for beginners. However, on the mornings of November 17 and 18, Comet ISON will be within one binocular field-of-view of the bright star Spica. Spica will be low in the eastern sky at 6 AM, before twilight begins. If you're unsure, use the handle of the big dipper in the northeast and 'follow the arc to Arcturus, then a spike to Spica.' On the 17th, look above Spica, and on the 18th, below. Don't be fooled by the much higher Mars. Spica will be less than  $15^\circ$  above the horizon at 6 AM, about the angle your fist subtends when held at arm's length.

Comet ISON in false color. MacAdam Student Observatory image (2013-11-01)



You can get finder charts for the comet in [November](#) and [December](#) as well as an [all-sky finder chart](#) for this month at [our web site](#).



UK's MacAdam Student Observatory, designed and built in 2007, was officially opened in 2008. The Observatory is located atop Parking Structure #2 between the W.T. Young Library and the Chemistry-Physics Building, and its dome houses a high-quality 20-inch reflecting telescope plus a variety of state-of-the-art optical instruments. The Observatory is dedicated to serving UK students as well as astronomy enthusiasts of every age and experience level throughout Kentucky.

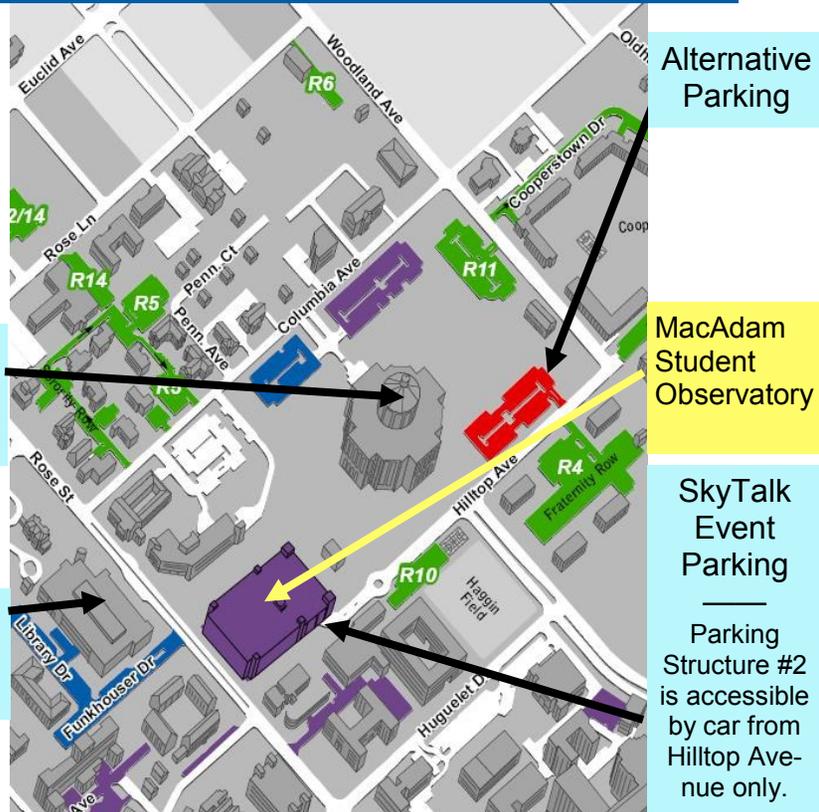
Are you interested in informal talks on astronomy and astrophysics? Are you curious about telescope design and operation? Would you care to take a look through the eyepiece?

The Department of Physics & Astronomy in UK's College of Arts & Sciences welcomes you! Join us to experience the excitement of stargazing through a powerful telescope. An up-to-date calendar of events can be found on our website:

<https://pa.as.uky.edu/observatory>



## How to find the MacAdam Student Observatory



W.T.  
Young  
Library

Chemistry/  
Physics  
Building

Alternative  
Parking

MacAdam  
Student  
Observatory

SkyTalk  
Event  
Parking

Parking  
Structure #2  
is accessible  
by car from  
Hilltop Ave-  
nue only.

### Monthly Meetings

The MSO hosts monthly public-observing sessions, each with a kick-off 40 minute presentation in the Chemistry-Physics Building. The presentations will take place even on cloudy nights. If the sky is clear, the observatory will open after the talk! Can't make the SkyTalk? Then come after!

Next month:

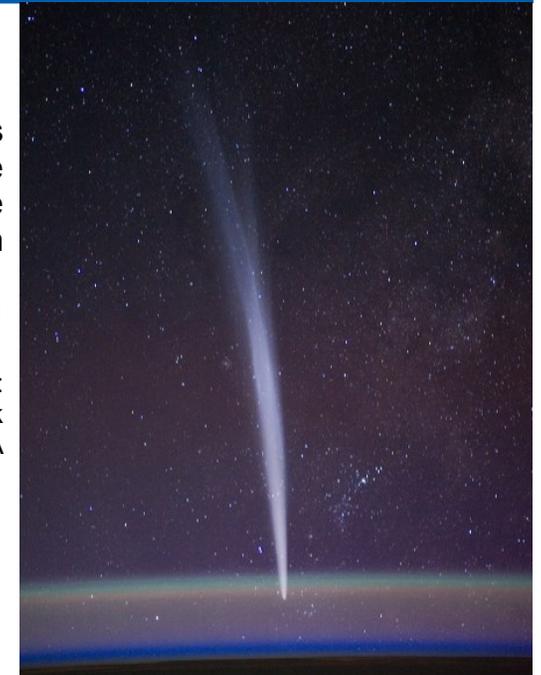
December 12, 2013 - 7 PM - Chem-Phys Room 155

## Kentucky SkyTalk

Comet Lovejoy as  
seen from the  
International Space  
Station

December 24, 2011

Image Credit:  
Dan Burbank  
[ISS Expedition 30](#), NASA



Tim Knauer — [University of Kentucky](#)  
Thursday - November 14, 2013 7PM  
Chemistry-Physics Building Room 155

*Comet ISON and the Sungrazers*

There is a family of comets that visits the inner solar system at largely unpredictable intervals called *Kreutz Sungrazers*. These Kreutz-family comets are named after the astronomer that first made the association between them. These comets are *only* visible from the northern hemisphere for a day or so as they round the Sun giving the southern hemisphere the best views. However, for the rest of this fall and perhaps into 2014, we have a *chance* at a comet of our own, here in the north.

Tonight's *Kentucky SkyTalk* is part of an ongoing series. These are presented by the UK Department of Physics and Astronomy, and the MacAdam Student Observatory. Held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, they are always free and open to the public.