

## The March Sky

[Messier 44](#) is a nearby (600 light-years) star cluster, known since antiquity. The brightest stars in the group are *just* detectable with the naked eye, the entire cluster appearing as a faint cloud of light. Because M44 lies near the plane of the solar system, it is often host to solar system objects, such as [asteroids](#) and [planets](#). The cluster was known as the “little cloud” by Hipparchus, 17 centuries before the invention of the telescope. It was the praesepe (“manger”) to the Romans. In 2012, [planets were found](#) in orbit around stars in M44.

Come and see the sky through many different telescopes at one of the [Blue Grass Amateur Astronomy Club](#)'s outings at [Raven Run](#). The (Saturday) dates in 2017 are:

March 25th at 8:15pm  
April 22 at 8:30pm  
May 27 at 9:00pm  
June 24 at 9:15pm  
July 22 at 9:00pm  
August 19 at 8:30pm  
September 16 at 8:00pm  
October 21 at 7:00pm.

**Call Raven Run** an hour before sunset to verify that the weather will be sufficiently clear.

You will find an [all-sky finder chart](#) and the PDF of this flyer at [our web site](#).

## UK MacAdam STUDENT OBSERVATORY

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.

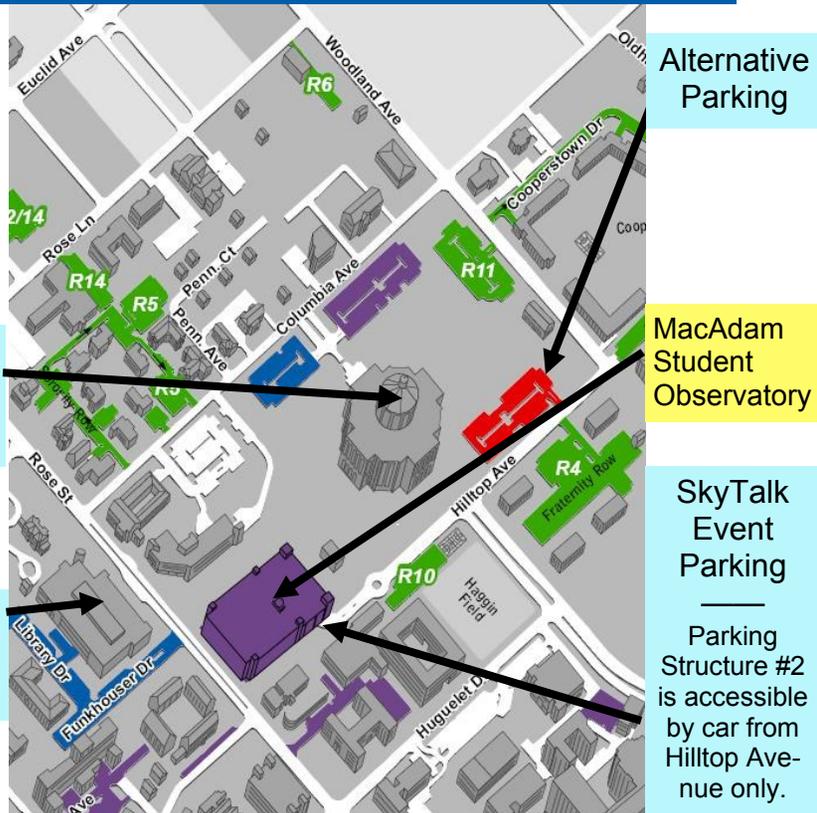
Are you interested in informal talks on astronomy and astrophysics? Are you curious about telescope design and operation? Would you care to take a look through the eyepiece?

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 Avenue only.

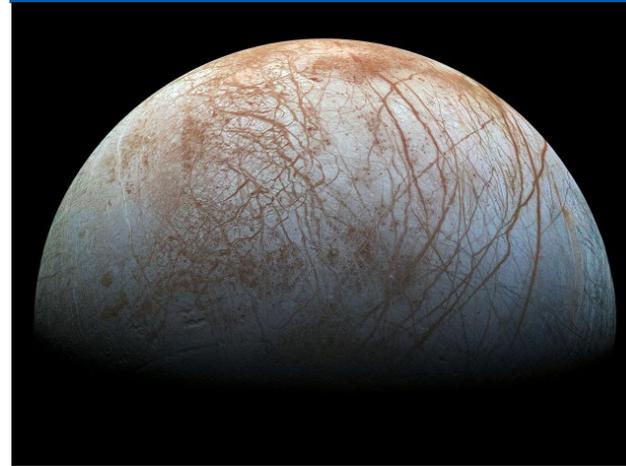
### Monthly Meetings

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:

April 13, 2017 - **7:00 PM** - Chem-Phys Room 155

## Kentucky SkyTalk



Jupiter's moon *Europa* is mostly water ice and liquid water, perhaps [more water](#) than the Earth has.

Image Credit:  
NASA / *Galileo*  
<http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/>

**Dr. Tom Troland— University of Kentucky**

**Thursday - MArch 9, 2017 7:00 PM**

**Chemistry-Physics Building Room 155**

***Life in the Solar System - Where Else Besides Earth?***

Visions of a waning civilization on Mars are now the stuff of 19th century fantasy. But modern studies of the Solar System suggest microscopic life could have developed in several locales beyond Earth. Does life usually develop wherever liquid water exists? We don't know. But if it does, we are not alone in the Solar System. We may share our solar environment with microscopic life on one planet, several satellites and even a dwarf planet or two. Spoiler alert - No evidence yet exists for life beyond the Earth. But who knows what tomorrow will bring?

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.