Clear your calendars now for the August 21st total eclipse of the Sun. From Lexington, the Moon will cover only 95% of the Sun’s disk, a very poor second to seeing a total eclipse. And any part of the Sun’s disk that is visible is dangerous to view without proper filtering. (You cannot make your own safe filter.) Safe glasses for viewing the Sun can be purchased inexpensively from sites such as here, here, and here. I would order now, as this is going to be a very well observed eclipse from coast to coast. For most people this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be wowed by the Sun.

The August SkyTalk will be devoted to August’s total eclipse. If you miss this one, there is another one in North America in 2024 on April 8th, but what are the odds of a clear day in early April?

There is a faintish comet that will likely remain a telescopic or photographic object. Yet comets are notoriously unpredictable. You can get a finder chart here.

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

- 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 the event 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’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
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:
Tim Knauer
June 8, 2017 - 8:00 PM - Chem-Phys Room 155
Powers of Ten-The Universe in 45 Steps

Our Galactic Neighborhood: The Local Group
I will discuss the our local group of galaxies that include the Milky Way, The Andromeda Galaxy (M 31), the small spiral M33, and their various satellite galaxies. In the talk, I will discuss how dark matter controls the formation of groups, how the galaxies and their satellites form and what we expect the future of the Local Group to be. This future includes the merger of the Milky Way and M31 and the expected final plunge of the Local Group into the Virgo Cluster of Galaxies.

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 2nd Thursday of the month, they are always free and open to the public.

Ron Wilhelm—University of Kentucky
Thursday - May 11, 2017 8:00 PM
Chemistry-Physics Building Room 155

Richard Powell
http://www.atlasoftheuniverse.com/