The August Sky

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, given by a veteran eclipse chaser, Dr. Tom Tro-land. 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?

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:

July 22 at 9:00pm  September 16 at 8:00pm
August 19 at 8:30pm  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. A simulated view of the eclipsed sky can be found here.
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:
Angela Collier
September 14, 2017 - 8:00 PM - Chem-Phys Room 155

Kentucky SkyTalk
Dr. Tom Troland—University of Kentucky
Thursday - August 10, 2017 8:00 PM
Chemistry-Physics Building Room 155

The August 21 Total Solar Eclipse
Don't You Dare Miss It!

Total solar eclipses are the most spectacular predictable natural phenomena. But you must be in the total eclipse path to see this spectacle. In Lexington, 95% of the Sun's disk will be covered. But this is not good enough! Learn where to see the total eclipse, how to protect your eyes, and what to look for as day turns briefly into night on August 21.

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 every month, they are always free and open to the public.