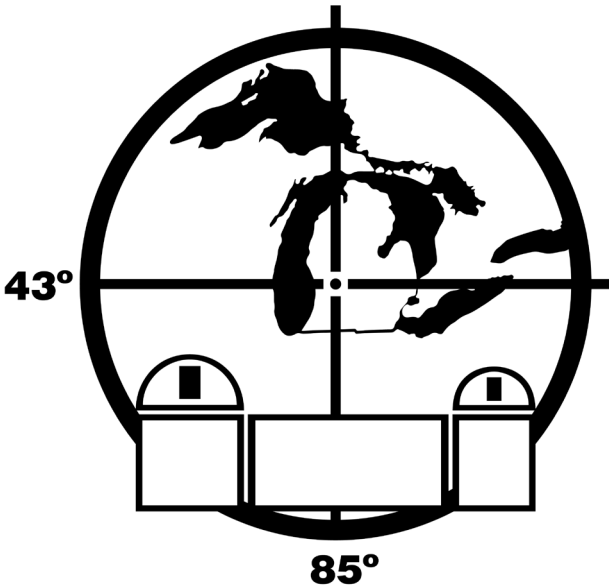


**Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical
Association & James C. Veen Observatory**

2022

Meeting and Activities Guide



3308 Kissing Rock Ave SE
Lowell, MI 49331

graaa.org
616-897-7065

ABOUT THE GRAAA

GRAAA's Mission Statement: *“To promote community interest and participation in astronomy through outreach, education, and research”*

The Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association is a non-profit group of astronomy enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds, drawn to a common interest in the wonders of the universe. Founded in 1955, the GRAAA is an eclectic mix of individuals and families. A variety of activities are offered, allowing members to select a level of participation appropriate to their interests and available time.

Program meetings are held from 7 to 9pm, usually on the 3rd Thursday evening of January through May and September through November. In 2022 all meetings will include a virtual option via Zoom whenever possible, with details and virtual link posted at graaa.org at least one week prior to each event. GRAAA activities this year will take place at multiple venues: Albertus Magnus Hall of Science at Aquinas College (1661 Robinson Rd., Room AH104), facilities of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and at the James C. Veen Observatory (find details under “Calendar”). Ample free parking is available at all cooperating venues. Meetings and other GRAAA activities provide opportunities to hear presentations by astronomy specialists, to learn new ways to enjoy a fascinating hobby, and to share information with fellow amateur astronomers. Guests and public are always welcome. **Keep this guide in a safe place for reference, and check graaa.org periodically for any changes or updates to events.**

SPECIAL EVENTS are noted in **bold** capital letters, and provide unique opportunities to hear noted speakers and to participate in observing sessions and outreach events. They traditionally include two social events, this year the annual Star-be-que picnic at the Veen Observatory on June 25th and the Holiday dinner party on December 8th. All GRAAA activities are conducted within current COVID-19 safety guidelines.

The James C. Veen Observatory, named after a co-founder and first president of GRAAA, is the crown jewel of the Association. It is a fully equipped education and sky observing center housing three major telescopes: one easily operated with minimal experience, one suitable for advanced observing and astrophotography, and a fully robotic instrument for imaging and research. Members can personally use these telescopes once trained to do so. Members are also encouraged to assist at Public Observing Nights at Veen. Upcoming dates are listed on the calendar found in this guide, and are also tabulated on the back cover for easy reference.

Visit the Association's website (graaa.org) to learn more and to find an online membership application to submit electronically or download for mailing. Also online are more complete descriptions of upcoming activities, including updates and virtual meeting links. GRAAA also maintains a social media presence (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). You are invited to contact any of the officers or board members listed at the end of the calendar to learn more. Find out how you too can become involved in a fascinating and gratifying hobby, and also how you can share your enthusiasm with others as a member of the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Public and guests welcome!

JANUARY

- 20 Thursday, 7:00pm - GRAAA Meets in Chaffee Planetarium**
Highlights of the Winter Sky, Webb Space Telescope, and "Incoming!" Join Chaffee Planetarium staff for a three-part presentation. First, highlights of the winter sky, including location of telescopic objects of interest; then a dramatic simulated unfurling of the Webb Space Telescope, followed by a fulldome show *Incoming!*, about objects wandering the solar system that could pose a threat to earth. Free parking for all Kent County residents in Museum parking ramp.

FEBRUARY

- 17 Thursday, 7:00pm - GRAAA Meets at Aquinas College**
Astronomy and Beyond, with Dr. Shannon Schmoll, Director of Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University. Dr. Schmoll will review the biggest stories in astronomy of the past year, and take a deeper dive into some areas of overlap with other pursuits such as astrobiology, planetary geology, and archeology. Free parking east of this new GRAAA venue for 2022, Albertus Magnus Hall of Science (Room AH104), 1661 Robinson Rd.
- 19 Saturday, 11:00am - SPECIAL EVENT at GR Public Museum**
Through the Glass Ceiling to the Stars, featuring Colonel Eileen Collins, the first woman to pilot a United States space shuttle and then to command a mission. The 11:00am presentation is part of *Roger That!*, a celebration of astronaut Roger Chaffee, sponsored by GVSU. Visit grpm.org to reserve free tickets ASAP—they're going fast!

MARCH

- 05 Saturday, 8:00pm - SPECIAL EVENT at Veen Observatory**
Exploring the Winter Sky - A week before Daylight Saving Time brings a return to later sunsets, join a winter star party. Bundle up and join us for a tour of winter deep sky objects with observatory and personal telescopes. Clear skies only.
- 17 Thursday, 7:00pm - GRAAA Meets at Aquinas College**
Pioneering Women of 20th Century Astronomy: Cecilia Payne, Vera Rubin, and Nancy Roman, with our good friend Dr. Larry Molnar of Calvin University. These may not be familiar names but all three made contributions that fundamentally changed how astronomers understand stars and galaxies. Their work influenced NASA's current structure to foster ongoing progress in astronomy, including the naming of major observatories in their honor.

APRIL

- 08 Friday, 8:30-11:30pm - SWAN at Veen Observatory**
Statewide Astronomy Night returns this year with hands-on NASA themed activities, tours, and telescopic observing (if clear). Public Museum staff and GRAAA members will facilitate, participating in this statewide effort to promote astronomy, coordinated by Michigan State University.
- 21 Thursday, 7:00pm - GRAAA Meets at Aquinas College**
GRAAA Today and Tomorrow - A Report to the Membership, presented by current GRAAA officers and key committee members. All members are encouraged not to miss this opportunity to hear about the current health and challenges of the group, and also to experience the unveiling of plans for major upgrades to the James C. Veen Observatory. Most importantly, this is an opportunity for members to offer comments and ask questions.
- 23 Saturday, 9:00-11:30pm - Veen Observatory Public Night**
First of the year! Public Observing Nights only take place if skies are clear. Check weather status on graaa.org, social media, or call 616-897-7065 for phone message. Featured objects will be star clusters, nebulas, and galaxies.

MAY

- 04 Wednesday, 7:30pm - SPECIAL EVENT at GR Public Museum**
Building Our Legacy, Learning from the Past, and Inspiring the Future, presented by Julie “Wisner” Brightwell, originally from Lowell, now a leading engineer with The Boeing Company. Over the past 20 years, she has had a variety of experiences within one of America’s leading contributors to aerospace technology. She will share some of these, emphasizing Boeing’s position in the evolving role of private enterprise in space missions to the moon and to Mars. Co-sponsored by the Roger B. Chaffee Scholarship, which she received in 1998.
- 07 Saturday, 9:30pm-Midnight - Veen Observatory Public Night**
International Astronomy Day! Clear skies only. Crescent moon, star clusters, nebulas, galaxies.
- 15 Sunday, 10:00pm-1:00am - SPECIAL EVENT at Roselle Park**
Total Eclipse of the Moon: A community eclipse watch in this park on Grand River Drive in Ada Township. Telescopes provided by GRAAA with accompanying presentation, display, and restrooms in nearby community building. Co-sponsored by Ada Township Recreation Dept. Clear skies only.
- 19 Thursday, 7:00pm - GRAAA Meets at Aquinas College**
Amateur Astronomy - What to Do and What Not to Do, a discussion of important aspects of effective observing and use of a small telescope led by experienced amateur astronomer Greg Comegys. A unique “swap meet” follows.

MAY (continued)

- 21 Saturday, 9:30-Midnight - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Public Observing Nights only take place if skies are clear. Check weather status on graaa.org, social media, or call 616-897-7065 for phone message. Featured objects will be star clusters, nebulas, galaxies.

JUNE

- 04* Saturday, 9:30pm-Midnight - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Crescent moon, star clusters, nebulas, galaxies. **Telescope Clinic at 8:00pm, free with paid admission. Bring your personal telescope for expert alignment and assistance. Additional clinics will take place July 9 and August 6.**
- 18 Saturday, 9:30pm-Midnight - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Star clusters, nebulas, galaxies.
- 25 Saturday, 6:30pm - SPECIAL EVENT at Veen Observatory**
Star-be-que, the annual GRAAA picnic potluck resumes after a two-year hiatus. Bring your favorite item to grill and a dish to pass, and enjoy time with fellow GRAAA members. Special program and observing if clear.

JULY

- 09* Saturday, 9:30pm-Midnight - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Gibbous moon, star clusters. **Telescope Clinic at 8:00pm, free with paid admission. Bring your personal telescope for expert alignment and assistance. Additional clinic will take place August 6.**
- 23 Saturday, 9:30pm-Midnight - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Star clusters, nebulas, Saturn late.

AUGUST

- 06* Saturday, 9:00-11:30pm - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Gibbous moon, Saturn, star clusters. **Telescope Clinic at 8:00pm, free with paid admission. Bring your personal telescope for expert alignment and assistance.**
- 20 Saturday, 9:00pm-4:30am - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Saturn, star clusters, nebulas, galaxies. **Spend the whole night with us at the Veen! Moon and Jupiter will be visible after midnight.**

SEPTEMBER

- 03 Saturday, 8:30-11:00pm - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Public Observing Nights only take place if skies are clear. Check weather status on graaa.org, social media, or call 616-897-7065 for phone message. Featured objects will be quarter moon, Saturn, Star clusters, Jupiter late.
- 15 Thursday, 7:00pm - GRAAA Meets at Aquinas College**
There is No Plan(et) B: Comparing Planets Near and Far, with Dr. Lauren Woolsey, Professor of Physics/Astronomy at Grand Rapids Community College. We welcome back one of GRAAA's favorite speakers to talk about a subject that has fascinated astronomers and the public for decades. From the first exoplanet discovery in 1992 to cutting-edge searches happening now, the goal has always been to find something that looks like home. Dr. Woolsey will describe what discoveries are most meaningful, with a reminder that a 2nd earth in the galaxy will be exciting, but we shouldn't start packing our bags.
- 17 Saturday, 8:30-11:00pm - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, nebulas, galaxies.

OCTOBER

- 01 Saturday, 8:00-10:30pm - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Quarter moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, star clusters.
- 15 Saturday, 7:30-10:00pm - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Quarter moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, star clusters.
- 20 Thursday, 7:00pm - GRAAA Meets at GR Public Museum**
My Trips Through the Solar System, with Dr. Brent Bos, this year's special guest for the annual James Marron Memorial Event. The award-winning NASA scientist, originally from West Michigan, has spoken to GRAAA in the past about exploration projects he has been involved with over his long career, including Mars Pathfinder, Phoenix, and OSIRIS-REx. This time, he gives us a personal perspective about "favorite things" encountered along a path of discovery inspired by a trip to the Chaffee Planetarium as a second grader, and then shares a look into what to expect from upcoming space missions.
- 29 Saturday, 7:30-10:00pm - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Clear skies only. Crescent moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, galaxies.

NOVEMBER

- 05 Saturday, 7:30-10:00pm - Veen Observatory Public Night**
Final Public Night of 2022! Clear skies only. Gibbous moon, Saturn, Jupiter.

NOVEMBER (continued)

- 17 **Thursday, 7:00pm - GRAAA Meets in Chaffee Planetarium**
The Star of Bethlehem, Casting New Light on an Old Mystery. Join Dave DeBruyn and Chaffee Planetarium staff as they turn the clock back to Biblical times and search the sky of that era for phenomena that might have played a part in the Gospel story of the Magi.

DECEMBER

- 08 **Thursday, 6:30pm - SPECIAL EVENT, Boulder Creek Golf Club**
Annual Member-Family Holiday Dinner Party, celebrating Christmas, the Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, and other festivals of the season. *Be aware that online pre-registration and advance payment at graaa.org are required.*

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Chris Miller	616-481-5933
chris.j.miller87@gmail.com	
Vice President: Dave DeBruyn	616-957-0769
ddebruyn@grpm.org	
Secretary: Jack McCarthy	616-560-3017
jm0506@comcast.net	
Treasurer: Jim Foerch	616-560-1045
jsfoerch@gmail.com	

Directors

Joe Branc	616-460-2280
joebranc@hotmail.com	
Marc Daneman	616-450-0110
marcdaneman@cs.com	
Tom Good	616-617-6964
riversideraconteur@gmail.com	
Ryan Horak	319-830-0364
horakr10@gmail.com	
Fran Huber	616-466-9812
franaticlunagirl@outlook.com	
Evelyn Marron	616-897-7880
jimandeviemarron@gmail.com	
Julia Trongo	231-740-4126
jpetrie79@gmail.com	
Eric VanZant	616-291-3011
eric.vanzant@yahoo.com	

Webmaster: Emily Hromi (emilyhromi@gmail.com, 330-958-4648)

Retain this guide in a safe place for future reference!

JAMES C. VEEN OBSERVATORY

3308 Kissing Rock Ave SE, Lowell Township

Public Observing Nights take place only if sky is clear. Status updates at graaa.org, social media, and 616-897-7065 by 6:30pm on date of event.

Note: Later arrival is best for dark sky and shorter wait times.

2022 Saturday night dates, times, and observing highlights

Apr. 23	9:00 - 11:30	Star clusters, nebulas galaxies
May 07	9:30 - 12:00	International Astronomy Day: Crescent Moon, etc.
May 21	9:30 - 12:00	Star clusters, nebulas, galaxies
June 04 *	9:30 - 12:00	Crescent moon, star clusters, nebulas, galaxies
June 18	9:30 - 12:00	Star clusters, nebulas, galaxies
July 09 *	9:30 - 12:00	Gibbous moon, star clusters
July 23	9:30 - 12:00	Star clusters, nebulas, Saturn late
Aug. 06 *	9:00 - 11:30	Gibbous moon, Saturn, star clusters
Aug. 20	9:00 - 4:30am	Open all night, Saturn, Jupiter, moon late
Sept. 03	8:30 - 11:00	Quarter moon, Saturn, star clusters, Jupiter late
Sept. 17	8:30 - 11:00	Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, nebulas, galaxies
Oct. 01	8:00 - 10:30	Quarter moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, star clusters
Oct. 15	7:30 - 10:00	Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, nebulas, galaxies
Oct. 29	7:30 - 10:00	Crescent moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, galaxies
Nov. 05	7:30 - 10:00	Gibbous Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, star clusters

* **Note: Telescope Clinics** at 8:00pm June 04, July 09, August 06. Free with admission
Clear skies only. Bring your personal telescope for expert alignment and assistance.

PUBLIC ADMISSION

Adults	\$5
Under 18	\$2
Under 5, GRAAA & GRPM members	FREE

Cash preferred, also accept credit cards and checks (payable to GRAAA).
Visit graaa.org for location, map, group tour information, photos, and more

The Veen Observatory receives annual financial and administrative support
from the Grand Rapids Public Museum.