

## The Skyscraper

Vol. 31 no. 11

the monthly publication of



### The Amateur Astronomical Society of Rhode Island

47 Peepthead Road  
North Scituate, RI 02857

[www.theskyscrapers.org](http://www.theskyscrapers.org)

#### President

Dan Lorraine

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Steve Hubbard

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Bob Horton

#### Secretary

Joel Cohen

#### Treasurer

Bill Kirby

#### Trustees

Ted Ferneza

Jack Szelka

Richard Arnold

#### Members at Large

Ken Dore

Mercedes Rivero-Hudec

#### Membership Committee Chairperson

Pat Landers

#### Librarian

Dave Huestis

#### Editor

Jim Hendrickson 354-4906

See back page for directions to Seagrave Observatory.

Please submit items for the newsletter by November 15 to Jim Hendrickson, 1 Sunflower Circle, North Providence, RI 02911 or e-mail to [jim@distantgalaxy.com](mailto:jim@distantgalaxy.com)

#### Email subscriptions:

To receive *The Skyscraper* by email, send email with your name and address to [jim@distantgalaxy.com](mailto:jim@distantgalaxy.com). Note that you will no longer receive the newsletter by postal mail.

© 2004 Skyscrapers, Inc.

# The Skyscraper

November 2004

## November Meeting

Friday, November 5, 2004; 7:30pm at Seagrave Observatory

Our speaker for this evening will be Rob Gendler. Rob is a local amateur astronomer from the Ct area and is famous for his many high quality images of various astronomical objects taken from the driveway of his home. He has had many of his images published in places such as Sky and Telescope.

His talk is entitled: "The Hybrid Image: A New Astroimaging Philosophy." This will include lots of images and details the evolution of the imaging and processing techniques that he's used over the past few years.

You may visit his website for more information: [www.robgendlerastropics.com](http://www.robgendlerastropics.com)

## Skyscrapers Calendar

Public observing is held every Saturday at Seagrave Observatory weather permitting and when the grounds are accessible.

**November 5 7:30pm November Meeting** at Seagrave Observatory  
**Friday**

**November 6 8:00pm Public Observing Night** at Seagrave  
**Saturday** Observatory

**November 12 6:30pm Skyscrapers Star Party** at Oak Ridge  
**Friday** Observatory

**November 13 8:00pm Public Observing Night** at Seagrave  
**Saturday** Observatory

**November 20 8:00pm Public Observing Night** at Seagrave  
**Saturday** Observatory

**November 27 8:00pm Public Observing Night** at Seagrave  
**Saturday** Observatory

## Online Extras

### AstroAssembly 2004 Photo Gallery

A collection of photos from the 2004 AstroAssembly convention  
<http://www.theskyscrapers.org/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/1974>

### Lunar Eclipse Photos

If there is one type of astronomical event that Southern New England weather always seems to cooperate with, it is a total lunar eclipse. We had some excellent viewing of the October 27, 2004 eclipse at Seagrave Observatory.  
<http://www.theskyscrapers.org/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/2031>

# A Few Shooting Stars in November

*Dave Huestis*

During the last few years we were all anxiously awaiting November because of the continued potential for some residual leftovers from the Leonid meteor storm that reached its peak in 2001. Unfortunately we'll have to wait until 2031 to 2033 for the next major storm. Presently we'll have to be content with somewhere between 15 to 20 meteors per hour. With a rate that low, you better observe this shower with a friend or you'll soon fall fast asleep. Yes, we got spoiled with the high meteor activity we experienced for a couple of years, but the above listed rates are normal for the Leonids between storm level periods. Before I highlight the specifics of this now mediocre meteor shower, lets see what other astronomical events can be seen during November.

First up is the Taurid meteor shower. This shower, comprising both a northern and a southern component, spans several weeks. However it is most active from the 3rd to the 12th. Early in this time frame the Moon will be at last quarter, then shrinking to New on the 12th. Moonlight will therefore only slightly interfere with observing this minor meteor shower.

Though the Taurids are slow meteors, entering our atmosphere at only 17-miles per second, these shooting stars are also bright. More often than not they are yellow in color. Fairly frequently they become fireballs that fragment into multiple meteors. This characteristic alone makes them worth watching. Expect five to ten Taurids per hour.

At mid-month, on the night of November 16-17, the peak of the Leonid meteor shower occurs. I wish I could say that astronomers have found another new and

previously unknown dense stream of particles getting ready to pulverize our atmosphere, but research has not revealed such a scenario.

Even though the crescent Moon will set early on the 16th, the best time to view the Leonids are after midnight. With no Moon to spoil the view, you should have no difficulty in seeing 10 to 15 Leonids per hour from a dark location.

Leonid meteors blaze across the sky at an amazing speed of 44 miles per second. No Leonid has been known to reach the ground as a meteorite because they are completely annihilated upon entry into our protective atmosphere. Leonids are greenish and bluish meteors, usually bright, with half of them leaving trains of dust which persist for minutes. Like the Taurids earlier in the month, Leonids often produce fireballs as well.

Remember, Seagrave Observatory is open free of charge to the public every clear Saturday night. I'd advise you to visit soon before winter settles in. First, The Old Farmer's Almanac has predicted a bad winter for us, and secondly the National Weather Service has recently done likewise. With the early and bountiful snow last year, then the brutal cold during February, and then there was the rainy late March which left our parking lot a small pond, we didn't reopen Seagrave Observatory until the second week in April!!! So come out for a visit before Mother Nature causes us to hibernate once again! Check our web site - <http://www.theskyscrapers.org> - for further information, and always keep your eyes to the skies.



### **Directions to Seagrave Observatory**

#### **From the Providence area:**

Take Rt. 6 West to Interstate 295 in Johnston and proceed west on Rt. 6 to Scituate. In Scituate bear right off Rt. 6 onto Rt. 101. Turn right onto Rt. 116 North. Peeptoad Road is the first left off Rt. 116.

#### **From Coventry/West Warwick area:**

Take Rt. 116 North. Peeptoad Road is the first left after crossing Rt. 101.

#### **From Southern Rhode Island:**

Take Interstate 95 North. Exit onto Interstate 295 North in Warwick (left exit.) Exit to Rt. 6 West in Johnston. Bear right off Rt. 6 onto Rt. 101. Turn right on Rt. 116. Peeptoad Road is the first left off Rt. 116.

#### **From Northern Rhode Island:**

Take Rt. 116 South. Follow Rt. 116 thru Greenville. Turn left at Knight's Farm intersection (Rt. 116 turns left) and follow Rt. 116. Watch for Peeptoad Road on the right.

#### **From Connecticut:**

- Take Rt. 44 East to Greenville and turn right on Rt. 116 South. Turn left at Knight's Farm intersection (Rt. 116 turn left) and follow Rt. 116. Watch for Peeptoad Road on the right.
- Take Rt. 6 East toward Rhode Island; bear left on Rt. 101 East and continue to intersection with Rt. 116. Turn left; Peeptoad Road is the first left off Rt. 116.

#### **From Massachusetts:**

Take Interstate 295 South (off Interstate 95 in Attleboro.) Exit onto Rt. 6 West in Johnston. Bear right off Rt. 6 onto Rt. 101. Turn right on Rt. 116. Peeptoad Road is the first left off Rt. 116.



**47 PEEPTOAD ROAD  
NORTH SCITUATE, RI 02857**