



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron
www.acaoh.org

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February 2021

President's column

by Gregg Crenshaw

ACA Monthly Membership Meeting virtually on Zoom February 26, 2021 at 8:00

Speaker to be announced. Watch for announcement on web site or your email

Astronomy Club Of Akron is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: February ACA Monthly Meeting

Time: Feb 26, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99167300090?pwd=WF1Rc1BHUUUp3bCt0dXhSN2J1WkVIZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 6730 0090

Passcode: 079384

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,99167300090#,,,,*079384# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,99167300090#,,,,*079384# US (New York)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 991 6730 0090

Passcode: 079384

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/99167300090>

Welcome new ACA members:

Alan Sponseller

Ronald and Diane Muhlbach Family

Tom Fuller Family

Glad to have you! I hope you will log into our Zoom virtual club meetings and face to face meetings when we can. Hope to be able to observe the universe through telescopes together this year!

NASA's Perseverance Rover to land on Mars February 18

NASA's Mars 2020 mission is set to land the Perseverance Rover on Mars Thursday, February 18.

Hopefully the newsletter will be out before that date. Coverage of the landing begins 2:15 PM EST on NASA TV.

Landing at approximately 3:55 PM. To stream NASA TV. Click or copy and paste:

<https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/#public>

NASA TV is also available on YouTube click or copy and paste:

<https://www.youtube.com/nasa>

Live streamed images of the landing will not be possible due to a lag in data relay from Mars to Earth. During landing, the rover will plunge through the thin Martian atmosphere at more than 12,000 mph (about 20,000 kph). A parachute and powered descent will slow the rover down to about 2 mph (3 kph). During what is known as the sky crane maneuver, the descent stage will lower the rover on three cables to land softly on six wheels at [Jezero Crater](#).

NASA chose Jezero Crater as the landing site for the Perseverance rover. Scientists believe the area was once flooded with water and was home to an ancient river delta.

Jezero Crater tells a story of the on-again, off-again nature of the wet past of Mars. More than 3.5 billion years ago, river channels spilled over the crater wall and created a lake. Scientists see evidence that water carried clay minerals from the surrounding area into the crater lake. Conceivably, microbial life could have lived in Jezero during one or more of these wet times. If so, signs of their remains might be found in lakebed or shoreline sediments. Scientists will study how the region formed and evolved, seek signs of past life, and collect samples of Mars rock and soil that might preserve these signs.

February Astronomical Events

Feb 03 14:33 Moon at Perigee: 370127 km
04 12:37 LAST QUARTER MOON
06 19:29 Moon at Descending Node
08 09 Mercury at Inferior Conjunction
10 06:16 Saturn 3.4°N of Moon
11 14:06 NEW MOON
18 05:22 Moon at Apogee: 404467 km
18 17:47 Mars 3.7°N of Moon
19 13:47 FIRST QUARTER MOON
20 00 Venus at Aphelion
20 20:44 Moon at Ascending Node
23 03 Mercury 4.0°N of Saturn
23 20:10 Pollux 3.7°N of Moon
26 09:04 Regulus 4.6°S of Moon
27 03:17 FULL MOON

March Astronomical Events

Mar 02 00:19 Moon at Perigee: 365422 km

03 18:36 Mars 2.6°S of Pleiades
05 00 Mercury 0.3°N of Jupiter
05 19:56 Moon at Descending Node
05 20:30 LAST QUARTER MOON
06 06 Mercury at Greatest Elong: 27.3°W
09 18:02 Saturn 3.7°N of Moon
10 10:35 Jupiter 4.0°N of Moon
10 19 Neptune in Conjunction with Sun
10 20:02 Mercury 3.7°N of Moon
13 05:21 NEW MOON
13 21 Mercury at Aphelion
18 00:04 Moon at Apogee: 405253 km
19 12:48 Mars 1.9°N of Moon
19 22:31 Moon at Ascending Node
20 04:37 Vernal Equinox
21 09:40 FIRST QUARTER MOON
23 05:26 Pollux 3.5°N of Moon
25 19:17 Regulus 4.7°S of Moon
26 01 Venus at Superior Conjunction
28 13:48 FULL MOON
30 01:12 Moon at Perigee: 360311 km