

STARGAZERS

ASTRONOMY CLUB

April 27, 2020 / \$0.00

• Our last meeting in quarantine
(hopefully) •

Dear Stargazers,

I hope that you have managed to make it through this semester as best you can. Please remember to take care of yourselves over the summer. Hopefully we will be able to continue our meetings on campus as usual next semester!

I wanted to thank you all for your efforts this semester, but also in prior semesters. I am preparing for graduation, so I have been reflecting on my years in Stargazers. This club has introduced me to many of my friends; people I never would have met otherwise. Before I joined Stargazers, the only things I could identify in the night sky was the Moon and the Big and Little Dippers.

When I first started Stargazers I was an English major. After a few semesters, I ended up working on a NASA grant project for community outreach (and later presented a poster at a NASA Consortium!). Dr. Gokhale invited me on his research trip to Flagstaff, Arizona, where I had the opportunity to operate a 31 inch telescope. While I treasure those memories dearly, I treasure our Open House events even more dearly. Even in the bitter cold, spending an evening at the Observatory with you all is one of the highlights of my time at Truman.

I hope to join you all in the fall for at least a few Open Houses. I am confident that the newly elected Executive Team will continue to encourage the growth and outreach of Stargazers. I wish you all luck on your finals, and I hope you all have a fantastic and safe summer!

Take care,
Rebecca Niemeier
Ex-Stargazers President

Announcements

The shirt orders have been delayed due to closings. Exec currently plans to mail everyone their shirts, so please email us a good mailing address to send your shirt.

Alternatively, you can let us know that you want to pick your shirt up in the Fall. Exec will tie-dye the shirts once we receive them. We will keep you up to date as we know more.

Your Executive Team for Fall 2020 is:

President: Rebecca Schroeder

Vice President: Joey Mott

Secretary: Nick Maag

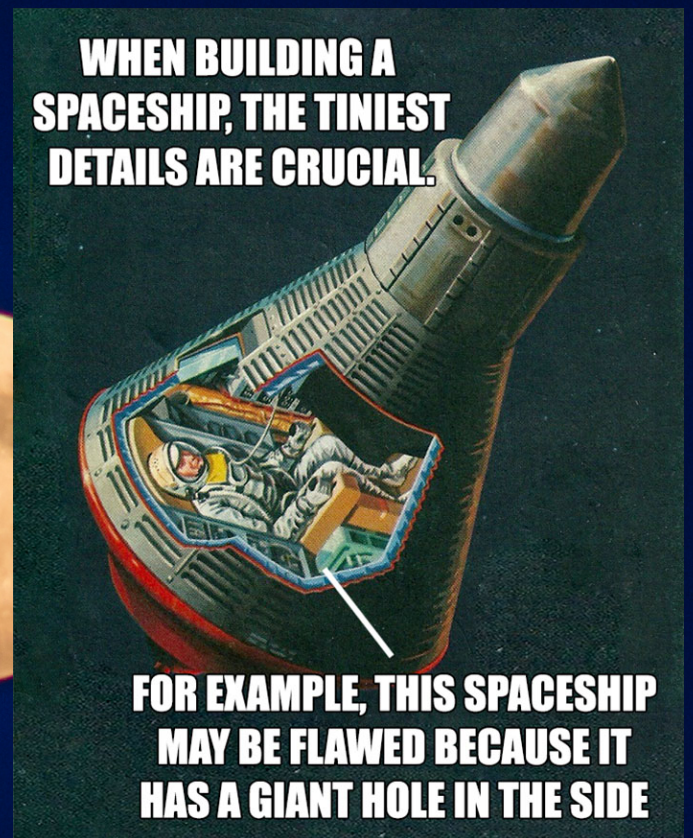
Treasurer: Adele Raquepaw

Risk Manager: Madeline Wright

Web/PR: Wyate Schmidt

Director of Outreach: Nick Maag

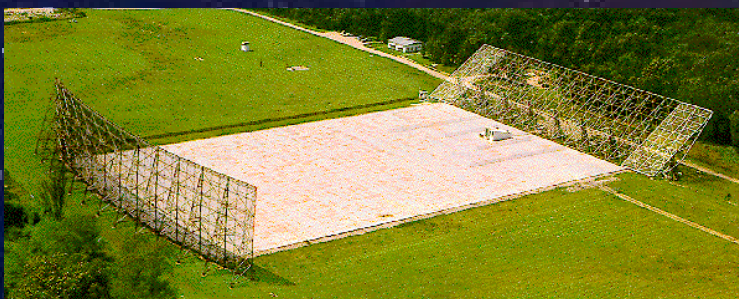
Associate Director(s) of Outreach: Kendall Vickers



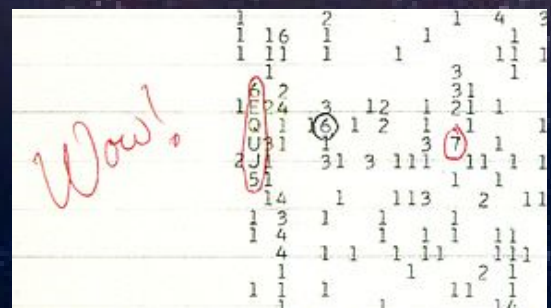
The "Wow!" Signal

In August of 1977, astronomer Jerry Ehman found something interesting in one of the computer readouts from the Big Ear telescope, which is supposed to search for possible alien signals. While pointed at the star Chi Sagittarii, a string of printouts was printed with the numbers and letters "6EQUJ5". It has become to be known as the "Wow! signal" and is the currently the best candidate for being an actual extraterrestrial signal. It was caused by a burst of narrowband radio waves with a frequency of 1,420 MHz. Narrowband radio waves tend to be human made, as wideband radio waves come from natural sources in space, like galaxies and stars.

There have been possible explanations for this phenomena, including one by Antonio Paris of St. Petersburg College. He found that there were two comets that had been in the observing area of the telescope that night that weren't discovered until years later. Since comets release high levels of hydrogen, it could explain the megahertz frequency that was recorded, but nothing has been confirmed at this point.



Big Ear Telescope



The Printout

Sci-fi Movie Review

JOHN CARTER (2012)



In the American 1880's, former Confederate army captain John Carter suddenly dies, leaving his whole grand estate to his nephew. Included in this inheritance, the nephew receives Carter's personal journal. In it, Carter describes his crazy experience on Mars, and how his sudden death is actually a cover story so that he can return to the red planet.

The film cuts to Carter's accidental discovery of a medallion that transports him to Mars. Gravity is different and he meets alien beings. His foreign captors quickly discover that Carter can jump higher and farther than any being they've ever seen. They bring him back to their camp where he learns that Mars is currently war-torn. The two cities are fighting over control of the planet.



JOHN CARTER (CONT.)



On Mars, there is different solar technology allowing ships to ride on light. Carter sees large ships fighting overhead and spots a human woman falling from one of the ships. He uses his jumping abilities to catch her as she falls. He learns that she is a princess of one of the cities, but she's engaged to be married to the merciless leader of the other city. Though this marriage would help the war efforts, she's refused the offer. Throughout the story, the two sides battle while being manipulated by prophet-like beings who own all of the transporting medallions. Eventually, the princess and Carter help defeat the other city, stop the arranged marriage, and recover another medallion so Carter can return home. He realizes that Mars is his home now though, so he marries the princess and throws the medallion away.

However, one prophet being stalks Carter to his Mars home and abruptly transports him back to Earth. Without a medallion, Carter cannot return. After years of study and travel, Carter devises a trap for a prophet being. With his nephew's help, Carter kills the being and steals his medallion. He happily leaves Earth and gives all of his Earthly things to his nephew.

Pros:

- Great world-building, acting, and special effects
- Sci-fi, fantasy, drama, thriller, action, adventure, family, romance, etc. movie! and DOG :)

5/5 Medallions !!!

Cons:

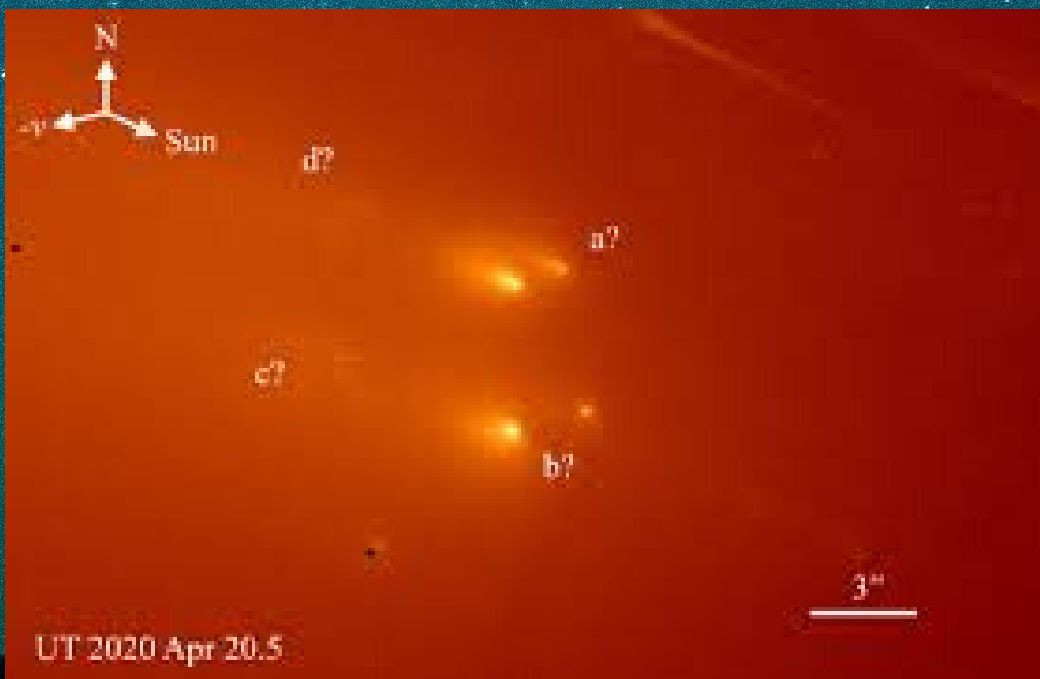
- Very long movie (over two hours)
- Baby plot holes here and there



Astronews

Hubble Witnesses Comet Crumble

This week, the Hubble Space Telescope was used to witness the death of the comet C/2019 Y4, also known as Comet ATLAS. The comet was hoped to reach closer to the sun for it to be extremely bright, but when it passed the orbit of Mars, Earth-based telescopes detected that it had likely exploded or fallen apart. This was confirmed by Hubble. Hubble was able to make out mini comets in the debris field, pictured below.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Interact with us from anywhere

Spontaneous Stargazing GroupMe
Email us to be added! This is basically a group chat that is usually used to set up impromptu visits to the University Farm, but is now open for general space-related discussion.

Facebook Pages
TSU Stargazers Astronomy Club
Truman State Astrophotography

Twitter
@TsuStargazers

Instagram
@tsustargazers

Websites
observatory.truman.edu
stargazers.truman.edu

Email
stargazers@truman.edu

Space related content is appreciated