

The July Sky

For Your Eyes Only:

The all-sky chart for this month shows the outlines of the Milky Way (our home galaxy) cutting across the sky. To see it you must leave the cities for darker skies. It's worth seeing at least once a summer when the brightest parts visible from Lexington are overhead.

For Your Binoculars:

Jupiter is the brightest object above the eastern horizon at midnight this month. A pair of binoculars steadied against a house or car will show small points of light very close to Jupiter. These are the Galilean Moons. There are four, all discovered by Galileo over a period of a few days in January, 1610. As they orbit Jupiter, they appear to move back and forth with exacting regularity. Io completes an orbit in less than two days, while Callisto takes more than two weeks to make the trip once around the giant planet. The innermost moons Io and Europa will be difficult to see with a typical pair of 7-power binoculars. The outermost, Ganymede and Callisto will be easier targets. Which moons are you seeing? You can use <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/javascript/jupiter> to create a schematic drawing for any time and date.

A comet discovered almost two years ago is making a trip through the inner solar system. It's probably visible in your binoculars from a dark site. It never gets very close to either the Sun or the Earth, which is a shame. A bit closer and it might have been a spectacular evening comet for the northern hemisphere. You can find an all-sky finder chart and a *Comet 2009 P1* finder chart at our web site:

www.pa.uky.edu/observatory

... and for more observing opportunities, check out the website of our good friends at the *Bluegrass Amateur Astronomy Club*:

<http://www.ms.uky.edu/~bgaac/>

UK MacAdam STUDENT OBSERVATORY

UK's MacAdam Student Observatory, designed and built in 2007, was officially opened in 2008. The Observatory is located atop Parking Structure #2 between the W.T. Young Library and the Chemistry-Physics Building, and its dome houses a high-quality 20-inch reflecting telescope plus a variety of state-of-the-art optical instruments. The Observatory is dedicated to serving UK students as well as astronomy enthusiasts of every age and experience level throughout Kentucky.

Are you interested in informal talks on astronomy and astrophysics? Are you curious about telescope design and operation? Would you care to take a look through the eyepiece?

The Department of Physics & Astronomy in UK's College of Arts & Sciences welcomes you! Join us to experience the excitement of stargazing through a powerful telescope. An up-to-date calendar of events can be found on our website:

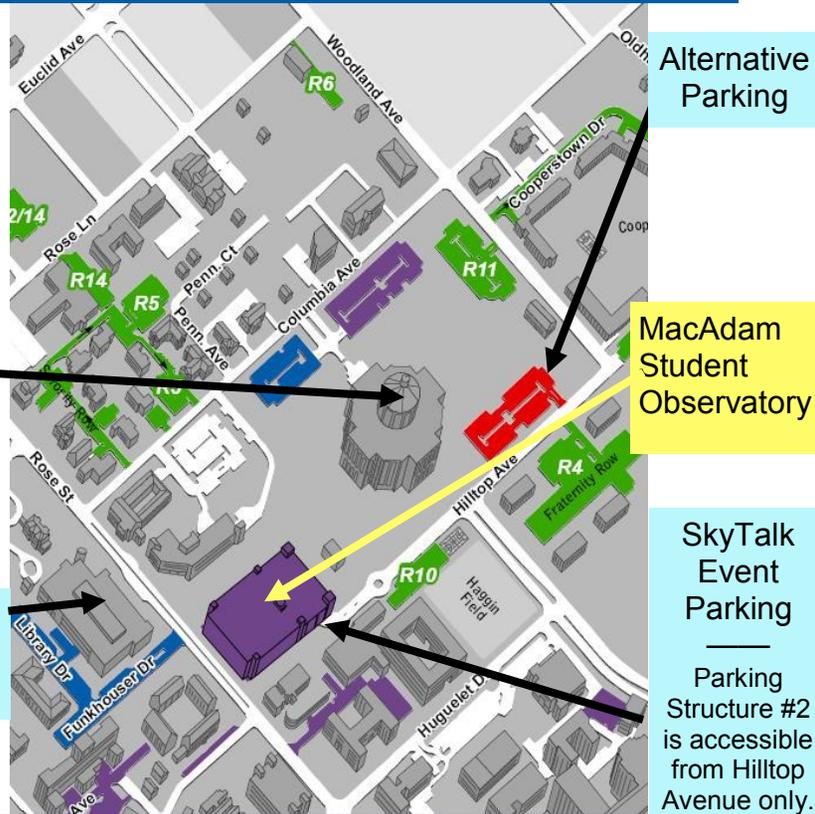
www.pa.uky.edu/observatory

See us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/MacAdamStudentObservatory>



How to find the MacAdam Student Observatory



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 talk? Then come after!

Next month:

Dr. Moshe Elitzur—University of Kentucky
October 13, 2011 - **8 PM** - Chem-Phys Rm 155
Title: How do we know the age of the universe?

Kentucky SkyTalk



Tim Knauer—[University of Kentucky](#)
[Department of Physics and Astronomy](#)

Thursday - September 8, 2011 8PM - Chem-Phys155

UK—Astronomy from the Big City

How much astronomy can you teach, how much data can you take, from the middle of a city with a population of 300,000? Actually, quite a bit. A large telescope, CCD technology, and patience can produce knowledgeable students trained in the basics of observational astrophysical techniques.

This presentation is part of the *Kentucky SkyTalk* series. These are presented by the UK Department of Physics and Astronomy, and the MacAdam Student Observatory. Held every 2nd Thursday of the month, they are always free and open to the public.