



# NTAC NEWS

## 2024 Eclipse Edition

### FROM THE EDITOR

We have something different for you this month. The March issue, which is already past my self-imposed deadline, has transformed into a 2024 Eclipse Special Edition. Everybody has been working tirelessly in preparation for this event, and now it's upon us.



We have the usual contributions from David Smith, a story about a special amateur radio station set up by John Green, the complete rally schedule, and a few notes about shareholder preparedness. We'll be back to the regular Park news next month. Please send your stories to [NTACNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NTACNewsletter@gmail.com). Kim and I will be hitting the road soon enough, so I'll be relying on you to fill out the issues, otherwise you'll just be reading birthdays, anniversaries, links, and the calendar!



Photo by Amy Van Artsdalen (in case you can't read the signature down there in the lower right corner).

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## 2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE

*Well, this is it. Preparations started 5 years ago and now we get to see what's going to happen and how it will all come together. I think we've done as much as we could do. Thank you volunteers! —Editor*

### McDonald Observatory Safety Report

from David Smith

*The following is from a newsletter that David S. receives. The full McDonald Observatory site with eclipse information can be found [here](#). —Editor*



First and foremost, **you must never look at the sun with your naked eye.**

Without proper eye protection, looking at the sun can result in retinal burns. This eye injury can be a temporary or permanent injury and can occur with no pain. It may be hours or days before you experience the symptoms of this injury.

To protect your eyes and the eyes of eclipse spectators around you, remind everyone not to look up at the sun

without eclipse glasses or eclipse viewers that offer solar filters to protect their eyes. Please be sure you purchase them from a reputable source. The American Astronomical Society maintains a list of certified manufacturers and distributors. [Find the list here](#). Map from NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio.

Eclipse viewers must be used through almost all of the total eclipse event. If you are in the path of totality on April 8, you will experience a brief time when the moon covers the entire sun. When the entire face of the sun is eclipsed by the moon, the view through your solar glasses will go dark and you will be able to look up safely without your eclipse viewer to see the sun's corona shining around the disk of the moon. Image by Justen Pautzke.



## Amateur Radio Special Event Station at NTAC

from John Green

Some of you may have heard about amateur radio, sometimes called “Ham” radio. It is a hobby using radio to communicate with other ham operators around the world. It requires a license issued by the government after the applicant passes an examination. Currently, there are 14 licensed ham operators who reside in the NTAC.

Starting on April 1 and ending on April 14, a special and temporary radio call sign, N5S, or phonetically, “November five Solar” will operate here at NTAC. This call sign was issued by the FCC for a Special Event Station to commemorate the Solar Eclipse event here in Hillsboro, TX on April 8, 2024. This station is located at 911 Avenue F, the home of John & Rita Green. John’s station will be in operation with the objective of contacting other ham stations around the world. A confirmation card, called a QSL, will be sent to each station who contacts N5S during the 2-week period. An image of the front of the card is shown below. In addition to the station here at NTAC, 2 other stations, W5S and K5S, will be active in Hill County and operated by members of the Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society (LWARS). A station who successfully contacts all 3 Hill County stations will receive a specially designed certificate verifying this accomplishment.

Many of the hams in NTAC will be assisting John in this project. Many of the NTAC hams will be operating John’s station and making contacts with distant stations around the world. John also invites any NTAC resident



QSL card

interested in observing this activity to stop by and see amateur radio in action. Station operation during the period April 5 through April 8 will be limited due to the NTAC Solar Eclipse event. NTAC hams will be involved as communicators helping out with traffic, parking, emergencies, etc. Watch for the orange vests or someone with a radio walkie talkie at the Terraport, gate, or on the front porch of the Rally room near the office.

Please give John a call at (309) 657-3102 to let him know when you would like to stop by. A special ham radio themed rally is planned for May 9-12, 2024 and will be held here at NTAC. A major feature of this rally is an exam session

will be held on May 12 for any candidate looking to obtain a ham radio license. The rally is being hosted by John and Amy Van Artsdalen and supported by WBCCI/ACI Region 9.

*Since the HAM station and the upcoming HAM Rally bookend the Eclipse Rally, do the 3 events together constitute a HAM sandwich? —Editor ... with apologies*

## **2024 Astronomical Events**

from David Smith

*For those of you who can't get enough astronomy, KOA has an article on their website listing a full slate of celestial events occurring in 2024. I'm excerpting a few here, but check out the full slate at <https://koa.com/blog/celestial-events/>.*

### **APRIL 20 – JUPITER AND URANUS VISIBLE**

While Jupiter will have been an easily visible fixture in the western sky after sunset for months, Uranus is much harder to spot. On April 20, the proximity of the two planets, just .5 degrees apart, will make finding Uranus easier.

Looking west, when the sky falls dark after sunset, Uranus will appear as a greenish "star" just to the right of Jupiter. Binoculars or a small telescope are suggested.

### **APRIL 21 – 22 – LYRID METEOR SHOWER**

Active from April 15 – 25, the Lyrid meteor shower will reach its peak around April 22. This annual event occurs when space debris from comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher becomes visible from Earth.

In a dark sky, not illuminated by the Moon, you'll typically see 10 – 15 Lyrids per hour with uncommon surges that bring rates of 100 an hour. Unfortunately, the brightness of the nearly full Moon will affect visible meteors.

### **APRIL 23 – FULL PINK MOON**

While the name suggests it, April's full Moon, unfortunately, isn't pink. Instead, this full Moon's name reflects the spring flowers that bloom in April.

The Pink Moon will reach peak illumination at 7:49 p.m. (EDT).

### **MAY 4 – 6 – ETA AQUARID METEOR SHOWER**

The Eta Aquarid meteor shower is active between April 15 and May 27, with its peak beginning on May 4. The best mornings to watch will be the pre-dawn hours of May 5 – 6.

One of the better meteor showers of the year, the chunks of space debris that create the Eta Aquarids come from one of the most famous heavenly visitors: Halley's Comet. The best viewing of this strong shower, with 60 meteors per hour, is in the Southern Hemisphere. North of the equator, observers can expect to see around 10 to 30 meteors during the shower's peak.

### **MAY 23 – FULL FLOWER MOON**

The last full Moon of spring, the Flower Moon, gained its nickname due to the growing abundance of flowers in the late spring. The Flower Moon will be at its brightest at 9:53 (EDT).

**Eclipse Rally Schedule**

from the NTAC website

**Friday, April 5**

Begin arrival at NTAC

5:30—Welcome potluck dinner hosted by NTAC Ladies Club; bring a dish to share (**Open to All**)

**Saturday, April 6**

9:00A, 9:30A, 10:00A—Meyer Observatory docent led tour in nearby Clifton, TX

Lunch on Your Own

1:00P—Elizabeth Jose - Painting Demo

Explore the Surrounding Area

Dinner on Your Own

5:30 PM—Game Night (BYOB) or Dinner on Your Own – Explore the Local Area

Texas 42 Domino Tournament – *Organized*  
Pool, Ping Pong, Rummikub, Mexican Train, etc. – *Non-Organized*

**Sunday, April 7**

10:00A—Class – What to Expect during the Eclipse (**Open to All**)

Lunch on Your Own

1:00P—Class – Photographing the Eclipse

5:30P—Catered Dinner - Delicious Texas BBQ from Tony's Backyard BBQ

7:00P—Entertainment with Antsy McClain

**Monday, April 8**

8:00A—Breakfast by NTAC Men's Shop Talk

**Eclipse begins: .....12:21 PM**

**Eclipse Duration:.....2 hrs, 39 min, 55 sec**

**Totality Duration: .....4 min, 24 sec**

**Partial Begins: .....12:21:27 pm**

**Totality Begins: .....1:38:46 pm**

**Maximum Totality:.....1:40:58 pm**

**Totality Ends: .....1:43:10 pm**

**Partial Ends:.....3:01:22 pm**

3:30P—Class - Eclipse Soundscape Data Gathering (**Open to All**)

7:00P—Men's Final - NCAA March Madness Party (**Open to All**) - Bring Snacks to share

***But Wait! There's More! —Editor***

*Along with all the official happenings, NTAC residents are hosting two other events to which **all are invited.***

**Saturday, April 6**

Avenue C, Lot 609—Starting at 10:00, they'll be serving "walking-around" corn. Grab an ear and continue on your way. From 11:30 until the food is gone or stomachs are full, **Richard Redding** and **Kevin Pflug** will be smoking a variety of meats for all to enjoy. Bring a side and set-ups and meander by when you're hungry for lunch. **DON'T ALL SHOW UP AT ONCE**; you might find yourself sitting in the middle of the street or on a neighbor's driveway.

**Monday, April 8**

Mabel's Garden—Weather permitting, our resident yoga instructor, **Cheryl Moniz**, will be conducting our usual Monday morning yoga practice at 9 AM in the beautiful *Mabel's Garden* next to lot 402 on Avenue B. Hope I can break away from my duties to be there. I think I'll need this!

**Shareholder Preparedness**

from David Majkowski

Here are a few tidbits, in random order, that I've picked up over the last several weeks. Hope you find them useful.

- The front gate will be open from 6 AM to 6 PM every day. The Parking/Security committee will station two teams of 1 or 2 people at the gate during these hours from Thursday through Tuesday. Teams will rotate every 2 hours.

- The guest code for opening the gate after hours is 2024#. Share it with guests if they forget.
- If you must leave the Park, make sure you bring your mirror hang-tag with you in your vehicle. Some of our security volunteers are fairly new residents and don't know all their neighbors yet. Please make it easy for them. Pick up your tags in the Card Room Wednesday after 10:15.
- Avenue F will be closed to vehicles during the eclipse on Monday because it along the most direct path of totality.
- There will be no parking at the Clubhouse during the rally. **Millie O'Donnell** will be captaining a golf cart valet service that will get you there and back for events and necessities. Give her a call if you need a ride.
- The dumpster will be emptied on Friday morning, but not again until Tuesday. The Republic truck driver told me Monday morning they may come twice on Tuesday if the loads are large. Please, Please, **PLEASE** help us manage the garbage. Consider setting aside your fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and other non-meat foodstuffs and adding them to the compost pile near the Shop Building on South Park Ave. If you have an outside can, fill it over the weekend and dump it Tuesday. Let's all be good Garbage Stewards this weekend. (Bet you never thought anyone would ever ask you to be a Garbage Steward! I'd even put money on it.)
- We have a Trash Team that will manage the dumpster, a garbage trailer, and several trash barrels around the Park. They're looking forward to being Garbage Stewards—myself included!
- The catered dinner and concert on Sunday night are paid events. There will be Security volunteers at each door of the Rally Room—West (near the mailboxes), East (near the soundboard), and at the hallway door—checking wristbands of paid guests. Please make sure you are wearing your wristband when you come for the dinner and show. Make it easy on our volunteers. (Wait, I said that already. Oh well, can't say it enough. Please make it easy on our volunteers. There! Said it again!)
- We still have a few open slots to work Parking and Security. If you want to volunteer a few hours of your time, please let me know at [NTACNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NTACNewsletter@gmail.com) and I'll see if we can't find you one or two ... or three if you're ambitious or bored
- Above all, heed the advice of our Parking Leader, **Jim Courtney**: "Please stay flexible, smile, it is what it is."

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Editor's Note—I'm pulling these birthdays and anniversaries from the directory published at the beginning of the year. That gives short shrift to members who joined during the year. I suppose an apology is due those folks, but, rest assured, your time will come.*

### **Happy April Birthday!**

Pamela Faulk & Gayle Steed (2nd); Andy Dunkinson & Mark Wright (6th); Tammy Terry (7th); Janie Haddaway (11th); Stacey Daniel (14th); John Calvin (15th); Evelyn Martinez & Richard Redding (16th); Sue Arnesen & Wanda Sumner (18th); Suzanne Bond (24th); Bill Stallworth (26th); David Thorne (30th).

### **Happy April Anniversary!**

Larry & Cindy Lethem (25th).

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## NTAC ONLINE

Please visit our Social Media and Internet Web sites frequently for updates. Don't forget to share with others!

NTAC Website—[www.ntaci.com](http://www.ntaci.com)

NTAC Public Facebook Page—<https://www.facebook.com/AirstreamCommunity/>

NTAC Instagram Account—<https://www.instagram.com/northtexasairstreamcommunity/>

NTAC Twitter Account—<https://twitter.com/NTAirstreamComm>

NTAC Private Facebook Group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthTexasAirstreamCommunity>

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## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

There is a lot to do in Hillsboro and the Hill County area. Here are some links to explore. We will check these periodically to ensure they are still active and have not moved. If you find dead links, please report them to the editor at [NTACNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NTACNewsletter@gmail.com).

### **Hill County**

Home page—<https://www.co.hill.tx.us/>

Appraisal District—(254) 582-2508, <https://hillcad.org/>

Office of Emergency Management—(254) 582-2023, <https://www.co.hill.tx.us/page/hill.Emergency> or <https://hilloem.com/>

Tax Office—(254) 582-4000, <http://hilltax.org/>

### **Hillsboro**

City of Hillsboro—<https://www.hillsborotx.org/>

Hillsboro Arts League—Cheryl Moniz, (682) 847-6126; <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089085022912>

Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce—(254) 582-2481, <https://hillsborochamber.org/>

Hillsboro City Library—(254) 582-7385, <https://www.hillsborotxlibrary.org/>

Hillsboro Reporter—(254) 582-3431, <https://hillsbororeporter.com/>

### **Hill College**

Home page—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/>

Athletics—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/Athletics/index.html> (click on each sport for links to the current schedule)

Continuing Education—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/JobTraining/index.html>

Performing Arts Series—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/CampusLife/PerformingArts/PASeries.html>

Texas Heritage Museum—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/Museum/Index.html>

**Don't forget to visit our hometown—ECLIPSEBORO!**

**<https://www.eclipseboro.com/>**

# @NTAC (Activities Calendar Highlights)

For the latest updates, please check the [online version of the calendar](#) in the *Shareholder Resources* section of our website, or the printed copy posted in the hallway of the clubhouse.

North Texas Airstream Community Activities Calendar						
April-24						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 2-4P Canasta Card Rm	10A Eclipse Meeting Rally Rm 1:00 PM Card Room Closed Closed Executive Session	9-10A Yoga Rally 10:15-12 Eclipse info pickup cdrom 5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm Shop Talk- Pavilion	10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's Villa 311 1P-2P Book Club Card Rm 2-4 Canasta Card Rm	Solar Eclipse Arrival Day Eclipse Rally Welcome Potluck	Meyer Observatory Tour 1 PM Elizabeth Jose Painting Demo
	7-8 Apr <b>National Library Week</b> 10 AM Class Eclipse What to Expect 1 PM Class Eclipse Photography 5:00 Dinner 7:00 Antsy McClain	9-9 Apr Joker After Potluck	10-10 Apr 1-3 Eclipse info pk up card room 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 10-15 Ladies Club - Card Rm 5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm Shop Talk- Pavilion	11-11 Apr 10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's Villa 311 2-4 Canasta Card Rm	12-12 Apr Eclipse Event 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 10A Bridge - Card Room	13-13 Apr Eclipse Event 5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
	14-14 Apr Eclipse Event 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 2-4P Canasta Card Rm	15-15 Apr CARD ROOM CLOSED Board Nominee Mtg 10 A 6:30 Joker	16-16 Apr 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 2P CARD ROOM CLOSED Board Nominee Mtg 5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm Shop Talk- Pavilion	17-17 Apr 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 2-4 Canasta Card Rm	18-18 Apr 6pm-8 Ball Club-Rly Rm 10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's Villa 311 2-4 Canasta Card Rm	19-19 Apr 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 10A Bridge - Card Room Featherweight Seminar 5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
	20-20 Apr 4P Ice Cream Rally Rm	21-21 Apr United Methodist Rally 23-23 Apr Closed Executive Session 1 PM Card Room	22-22 Apr Earth Day 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 2-4P Canasta Card Rm	23-23 Apr 10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's Villa 311 2-4 Canasta Card Rm	24-24 Apr 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 10:15 Ladies Club - Card Rm	25-25 Apr Stitchin' & Fishin' Rally Arbor Day 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 10A Bridge - Card Room 5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
	26-26 Apr 4P Ice Cream Rally Rm	27-27 Apr 5:30 Potluck Joker After Potluck	28-28 Apr Stitchin' & Fishin' Rally	29-29 Apr 9-10A Yoga Rally/Card 2-4P Canasta Card Rm	30-30 Apr COACHES FOR CHRIST RALLY	

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