



THROUGH THE EYE OF THE HUBBLE May Public Program

FRIDAY, MAY 18th, 8 pm, SOUTHERN CROSS will host DR. JAMES R. WEBB, FIU research astronomer, and his narration of the latest spectacular images of deep space, THROUGH THE EYE OF THE HUBBLE— a collection of awesome views from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. The SCAS astronomy programs are held in the FIU Astronomy Center, CP-145, Physics Building, University Park and include: prizes, food buffet, lively discussions and advice from friendly SCAS and FIU astronomers.

DR. WEBB, popular FIU professor, was the “generator” to renovate a 0.9 telescope, add a CCD camera at the Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, Arizona several years ago. His close friend, Dr. Terry Oswalt, Director of Astronomy/Space Science at Florida

Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL, established the SARA Consortium (Southeastern Assoc. of Research Astronomers) that now includes 10 universities in mid-western and southeastern United States. The Physics Dept. at each campus can link up with the SARA telescope to observe a dark sky and complete their astronomy assignments.

DR. WEBB organized a fund-raiser dinner, August 2005, Kovens Conference Center, FIU Biscayne Bay campus, North Miami, to launch the FIU Student Observatory project at University Park. Slow but steady progress has been made. He and his FIU

Committee will soon meet with the architect to discuss the design of the Observatory. In addition to his classes, blazar research, he found time to present an astronomy lecture to excited students at Palmetto Middle School last month. DR. WEBB has been invited to present papers re: Blazars Microavailability at the American Astronomical Society Meeting in Hawaii the end of May.

Bring friends to this exciting “visual feast” of the latest images from deep space THROUGH THE EYE OF THE HUBBLE, FRIDAY, MAY 18th. Park in the campus lot opposite the FIU Physics Building, SW 109th Ave./SW 8th St. Call: 305-661-1375 or www.scas.org.
-Barb Yager

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FOR SCAS/NASA NEWS
CALL THE 24-HOUR
HOTLINE:
305 661-1375
OR VISIT THE
NEW SCAS WEB SITE:
[HTTP://WWW.SCAS.ORG](http://WWW.SCAS.ORG)



Tadpole galaxy photo taken by Hubble Space Telescope

SCAS JUNE WORKSHOP

SCAS Astros are planning a ‘hands-on’ EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP, June 15th, 8 pm, FIU Astronomy Center, University Park. Deviating from a speaker format, SCAS Summer Workshops can acquaint and assist anyone in need of repairs, maintenance, assembly, purchases, alignment and much more! Utilizing the ‘storm season’ to get equipment ready or purchase equipment, to get ready for planetary observing this Fall: Mars and Jupiter!

The Coal Sack

The Coal Sack is a monthly publication of the Southern Cross Astronomical Society, Inc., Miami, Florida

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Please use e-mail when possible.

Change of Address: Please notify Managing Editor Barb Yager with change of address or other membership information.

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Check the larger SCAS STARGAZER now in the Sunday Miami Herald's Tropical Life section, by Barb Yager, now in its 23rd year!

IN APPRECIATION

-Barb Yager

Last Fall I began to dread this moment when I anticipated our wonderful Coal Sack Editor Lisa Merritt might have to resign as Editor and layout designer of the Southern Cross newsletter. She broke the news to me following the publication of the April Coal Sack. Her increasing work load of other printing assignments, and continuing as a certified grant writer kept her very busy. Last Fall she adopted another adorable Guatemalan 'daughter' which reduced her business hours to Monday-Friday only. It sent a chill!

Lisa did an artistic, creative and professional design layout combining screened (shaded) articles and beautiful and appropriate photos —not to mention correcting some of my accidental typing gaffs—which lifted our Coal Sack to the highest level yet of appearance and ease of reading items of interest in accurate categories. She was fun to work with, always helpful during a computer crisis, or sudden changes. I only hope she will find time to bring her family and her C-8 to our events more often when the girls reach school age! Words are not sufficient to thank Lisa for seven years of her beautiful work and a great contribution to Southern Cross.

SCAS's Information Booth



The attached photos are of the old Zoological Society's booth. Now the SCAS's information booth. It is slowly being converted by Mike Smith and Lester F. Shalloway. That is Lester painting behind the gas mask.

Photo credits: Mike Smith & Lester Shalloway



APRIL EVENTS

FIU SPRING STAR PARTY-

Friday, 13th FIU Astronomers held their Annual Spring StarParty on their telescope deck to celebrate the upcoming end of the semester! SCAS members Prof. JIM WEBB and FIU Lab Tech MIKE SMITH anchored the event which attracted at least 150 students, faculty and visitors who saw spectacular views of Venus, Saturn and Orion's Nebula in clear skies.



SCAS Booth at Metro Zoo

REDLANDS STAR PARTY-

Friday, 13th SCAS Astros were invited to hold a star party for the Youth For Christ Fellowship in the Redlands. Steve Van Ryn, Nick Stingone and Barb Yager arranged equipment for the large group. Several folks were speechless at their first views of Venus, Saturn, Sirius and the Pleiades star cluster.

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEKEND-

Friday 20th, Dr. Mike Palermi presented a superb SCAS program at FIU. Saturday 21st, SCAS members: LESTER SHALLOWAY, MIKE SMITH, BARB YAGER, ANDRE FERNANDEZ, MOHAN SUNDARAM, ANDRES & BETTE VALENCIA, JOSE CARDOZO and XIMENA MAUREIRA

supervised the SCAS exhibit of telescopes, astrophotos, posters and three tables piled with educational information from NASA, JPL, IDA, and SCAS in the Lobby of the Museum of Science. In the auditorium, very interesting presentations were given by DR. LESTER SHALLOWAY, TIPPY D'AURIA and DR. DON PARKER. ANDRES demonstrated his new astronomy program on his laptop. LESTER & MIKE SMITH held safe solaviewing in front of the Museum until clouds arrived about 2 pm.

Saturday, 21st-

SCAS members were invited to participate in the P.R.I.D.E. Week Kickoff at Larry & Penny Thompson Park. Team Metro sponsored the event that showcased many organizations. Homestead Middle School Band, County

leaders Katy Sorenson and George Burgess and hundreds of visitors enjoyed the event. SCAS members: JIM ROSE, STEVE & VICKIE VAN RYN and NICK STINGONE assisted visitors while SERGIO FIGUERA attempted solarviewing between the clouds. Sadowski Park Public Observing was cancelled that night due to clouds.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

DR. DON PARKER, world renowned planetary astrophotographer, has 3 superb images of Saturn on p.59 of May Sky & Telescope magazine. He was tracking a developing storm on the South Equatorial Belt last January... **ORLANDO CHIRINO** has moved from Miami Beach to the mainland where he teaches psychology at Keiser College. His family will return from Budapest, Hungary when school closes for the summer... **STEVE & VICKIE VAN RYN** attended their son's graduation from the University of Central Florida May 5th....

LESTER SHALLOWAY & MIKE SMITH are making (slow) progress renovating the old MetroZoo Membership

booth into the 'new' SCAS automated information booth. The leaking roof has been sealed, plexiglass windows cleaned, interior disinfected, exterior walls painted for new lettering. The final stages will have photos by SCAS members and a DVD loop illustrating SCAS activities. The next project will be the design and installation of a Solar System within MetroZoo.

TransAir Capt. JUAN MARTINEZ, formerly of Surfside, reports "NJ has not had really heavy snow in years. What we did have was COLD! It was in the teens for weeks. I HATE THE COLD!"

MAY ALMANAC AT A GLANCE

FULL MOON	Wednesday 2nd	6:09 a.m.
LAST QTR.	Thursday, 10th	12:27 a.m.
NEW MOON	Wednesday 16th	3:27 p.m.
FIRST QTR.	Wednesday 23rd	5:03 p.m.
FULL <i>Blue</i> MOON	Thursday, 31st	9:04 p.m.

SUNRISE: 6:35 a.m. (mid-month) SUNSET: 7:58 pm

MORNING SKIES: (predawn)

Golden JUPITER & its Moon System glow above Scorpius in SW.

Ruddy MARS brightens low in the east in Pisces the Fish.

Dim blue NEPTUNE in Capricornus, Sea Goat, sails across SE.

Blue-green URANUS lies in Aquarius in ESE.

SATURN, in Leo the Lion, sets in NW soon after midnight.

The Sagittarian Teapot 'pours' onto the Scorpion's tail, south.

The Great Square of Pegasus rises higher in the east.

Aries the Ram appears on NE horizon.

Andromeda rises higher in NE.

Cassiopeia arrives in NNE.

Vega leads the Summer Triangle overhead.

Cygnus the Swan soars within the Triangle.

The Big Dipper lies in NW—its 'bowl' faces Polaris, North Star.

Arcturus, Herdsman, sparkles in west.

Spica, in Virgo, descends into SW.

5th- Bright MOON floats below JUPITER in SW.

ETA AQUARID METEORS washed out by Moonlight

10th- Last Qtr. MOON glides about 2 degrees below NEPTUNE at 4 a.m.

12th- Waning MOON floats between URANUS (upper right) and MARS (lower left) in east.
The SUMMER MILKY WAY arches from the Teapot (S) to the Triangle (N).

EVENING SKIES:

9/10th- Brilliant VENUS, Evening Star, shines furthest north, in Gemini.

Overhead, silver-ringed SATURN leads Leo the Lion westward.

MERCURY hovers near the NW horizon, lower right of VENUS.

Golden JUPITER rises in SE mid-evening above Scorpius.

The Big Dipper hangs in the north.

Taurus the Bull slides below the NW horizon.

Gemini Twins drift lower in NW.

The Beehive star cluster in Cancer follows the Twins.

Procyon, Little Dog, lies to left of VENUS.

Bright Capella (right of VENUS) leads Auriga lower in NW.

Orion, Hunter, stretches above the western horizon early May.

Blazing blue Sirius sparkles low in SW.

Corvus the Crow flies ahead of Spica in Virgo, in south.

Star cluster Omega Centauri shimmers low in the south.

Vega leads the Summer Triangle higher in NE.

17th- Young MOON rises beside tiny MERCURY in NW.

19th- MOON perches on the point of the crescent Moon.

30th- MOON leads Scorpius across SE.

31st- BLUE MOON lies below Antares, red heart of Scorpius.



The 2007 LUNAR TIMETABLES
will be posted on the SCAS Website.

MEMBERS STAR PARTY

-Charlie Perillo

Saturday, April 14th, we drove to Mahogany Hammock, Everglades National Park. Skies weren't that great, but it was a great "night out" for me. I arrived around 7:30 pm, Tim, Steve and Nick were there with Larry and Andre. They were all set up and Tim was making final adjustments to his imaging setup. Mohan then arrived with his new CGC-11" `scope and promptly set up. I'm glad Tim encouraged me to set up my `scope. I observed Saturn, M-3, M-42, M-97, M-101, and M-51 as well as

planetaries: NGC: 2022, 2392, 2371 and 4361. Views of M-51, M-42 and others were shared through Mohan, Larry and Andres' scopes, rounding out a short night that clouded over about 10:30.

Total SCAS attendance were 7: Missing (and missed) were Scott, Ed, Chad with his new `scope, Mike and Herm. Pat had a good excuse—he was in Stockholm!

MAY STAR PARTIES-

May 12 & 19th, Tim Khan encourages SCAS Astros to drive to Monument Lake.
(let's hope fuel prices will drop somewhat) Contact Tim: timkhan@yahoo.com

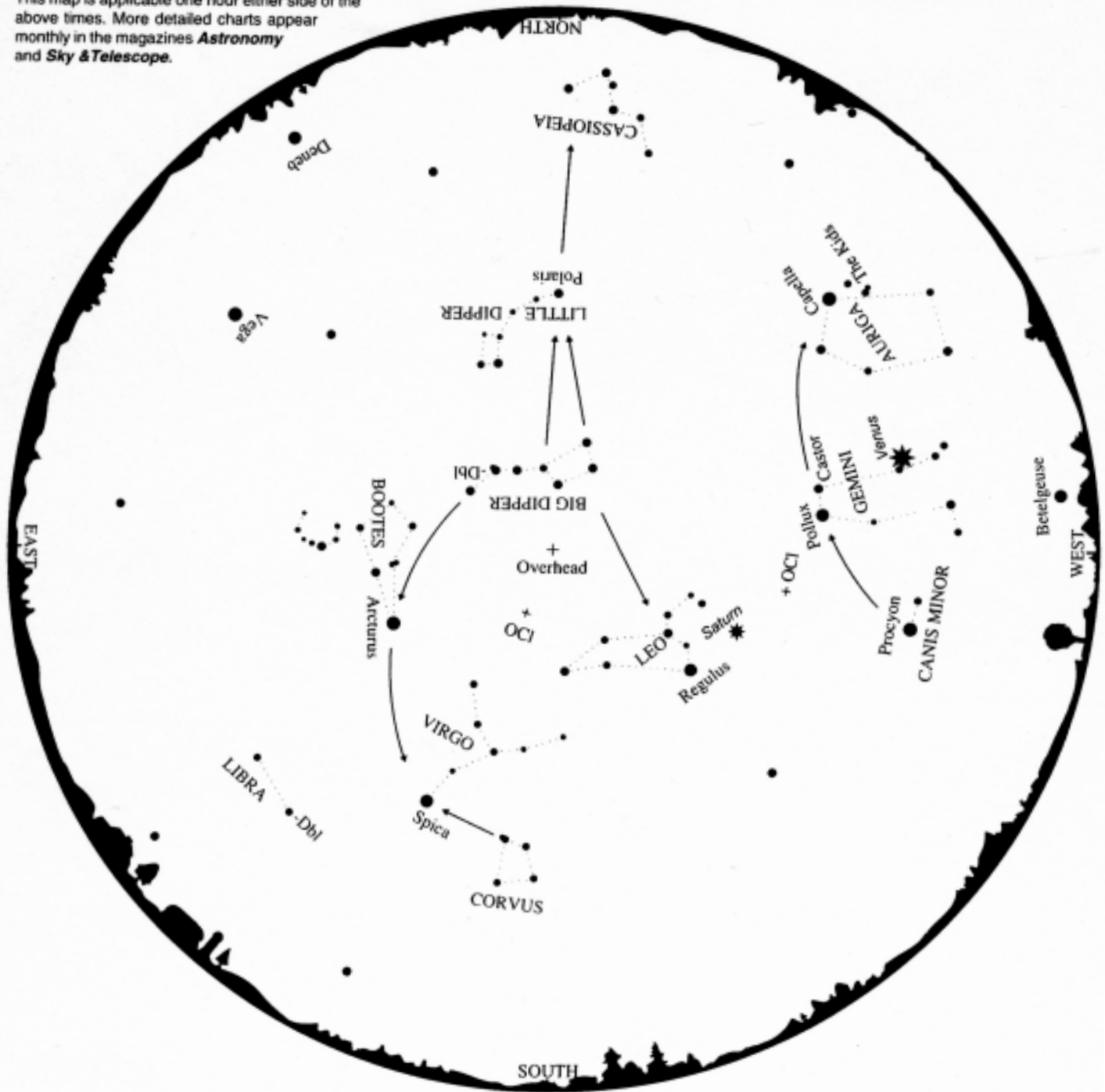
May Evening Skies

This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local daylight times:

Late April	11 p.m.
Early May	10 p.m.
Late May	9 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times. More detailed charts appear monthly in the magazines *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope*.

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 East Lansing, MI 48824-1324.



The planets Venus and Saturn are plotted for mid-May 2007. Eleven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Venus, Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Procyon, Saturn, Betelgeuse, Spica, Pollux, Deneb, and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. The double in Libra is more

challenging. The open or galactic star cluster (OCI) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. Coma Berenices, "The Hair of Berenice," is another open cluster (OCI), between Leo and Bootes. Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch

SPACE NEWS

SUPERNOVA SN 2006gy-

David Shiga, from space.newscientist.com website replied with the following information: September 18, 2006, SN 2006gy was first discovered. It happened in Galaxy NGC 1260, about 1 arc second from its core. It is located in the direction of Perseus, 240 million light years away. We're updating the story to include its location. <http://server2.sky-map.org/starview?>

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MARATHON IN THE SKY-

Aboard the International Space Station, 200 + miles above Earth, Astronaut Sunita (Sunny) Williams hopped onto the fitness treadmill to run the 26.2 mile Boston Marathon while the ISS circled the Earth at least twice! The famous race, (Holy Grail of Marathons) is traditionally held April 19th, a state holiday. Sunny's sister and girl friends, were running in the marathon throughout Boston, April 16th, (Monday holiday) along with thousands of runners in 50 degree wet, windy weather. She broke the previous female spacewalk record last February during a repair of a fluid line that leaked ammonia. She hooked up lines from a temporary cooling system to a permanent one, raising the record to 22 hrs.- 27min.

-space.newscientist.com 4/02/07

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NEW PLANETARY SYSTEM-

Swiss astrophysicists recently discovered a new nearby planetary system by using the "light-splitter" on the European Southern Observatory's telescope in La Silla, Chile.

They found a planet orbiting the red dwarf star Gliese 581—only 120 trillion miles away! This planet is 5 x heavier than Earth and may contain fluid water. It lies 20.5 light years away within the constellation Libra.

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IYA 2009-

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 is being planned as a global celebration of its contributions to society and culture, stimulating worldwide interest with special interest to young people in science. Several countries have formed committees to prepare activities—a collaboration between professional and amateur astronomers and science students. Stay tuned!

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SADOWSKI PARK UPDATE

Public Forum Postponed-

Miami-Dade County Parks had submitted its maintenance/management plan for Sadowski Park, SW 176th St./SW 79th Ave. in late March. Palmetto Bay Village Mayor Eugene Flinn had planned to hold a discussion at the May 7th Village Council Meeting. Mayor Flinn decided to postpone the May Meeting to allow more time for study and meet with the Sadowski Park Steering Committee before bringing their comments to the Village Council and to a public forum now scheduled 7:30 pm, Monday, June 11th at the Deering Visitor's Center auditorium, 16701 SW 72nd Avenue.

www.palmettobay-fl.gov/documents.htm

SCAS PRIZE WINNERS

Winter Star Party 2007

The Southern Cross Astronomical Society of Miami, Florida hosted another fantastic Annual Winter Star Party in the Florida Keys last February. Through the Herculean efforts by WSP Director Tim Khan, WSP Host Charlie Perillo, Registrars Fred & Lucille Heinrich and a host of hard-working SCAS "slaves" who drove to the site several weekends: Nick Stingone, Steve Van Ryn, Jim Rose, Andre Fernandes, Mike Smith and others who repaired, scraped, nailed, painted and swept Camp Wesumkee ship-shape prior to opening day for hundreds of attendees anxious for a warm week out of the freezing wind and snowdrifts! SCAS sends a sincere thanks to all. *Photo credits: Dr. Bill Williams at WSP*



Above shot is 3 hours of LRGB exposure with a 6-inch refractor and SBIG STL-11K CCD camera. It is a wide-field view of the *Cone and FoxFur Nebulae* in the constellation Monoceros. The bright blue star in the center is S Monocerotis with illuminates a blue reflection nebula underlying the red FoxFur Nebula in the foreground. The Cone Nebula is seen to the right at the base of the Christmas Tree Cluster NGC 2264.



Here is a close-up of the blue star S Monocerotis which is at the base of the *Christmas Tree Cluster NGC 2264* and illuminates the blue reflection nebula in stark contrast to the overlying mottled *FoxFur Nebula* projecting in from the upper left. The *Cone Nebula* can be seen on the right which is at the apex of the Christmas Tree Cluster. The cluster is a collection of bright stars pyriform-shaped (like a Christmas tree) lying on its side in this image. The apex star in the cluster likely illuminates the top of the Cone.



Here is a close-up of the *famous Cone Nebula* which lies 2600 light years distant. The Cone is a conical-shaped pillar of gas spanning 7 light years residing in the Orion arm of our galaxy. All these Cone shots were taken with the same telescope and camera. These close-ups were derived from the wide-field image. I oriented the Cone vertically as seen in most professional images of this object.



Attached is a 15-minute LRGB shot of the *Double Cluster in Perseus* using a 6-inch telescope and SBIG STL-11K CCD camera. The two clusters are 7600 light years distant and are thought to have formed at the same time. The clusters are likely gravitationally bound much like double stars although this is still not established with certainty. The Double Cluster is a naked-eye subject in dark skies and is beautiful in a low power telescope visually adjacent to the constellation Cassiopeia.

Lucky SCAS Winners:

Liz Feller, NY Solar Science Kit SCAS

Young Astronomers Division:

Chris Adair, FL Keys Cosmic DVD
 Joe Bergeron
 Len Espinosa, MI ZenithStar APO f/5.9 Williams Optics
 Maureen Parker Deep Space Calendar Astronomy Magazine
 Charlie Perillo Telescope Model DB-160 & Mount Galileo Optics

Harry Pickering WSP hooded sweat top
 Infinitees
 Reen Stanhouse, FL Keys Ticket to WSP 2008 WSP
 Nick Stingone WSP Mug and T-shirt WSP
 Steve Van Ryn Kick-Me-Nots 4-pack AstroGizmos