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## Blog

### View Comet Over Lake Michigan

Posted by admin on March 6, 2013



A good place to observe [Comet Pan-STARRS](#) (C/2011 L4) in mid-March is from the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Join the Andrews University Astronomy Club for [Astrowatch: Comet Pan-STARRS at Weko Beach](#) on March 12, 2013, in Bridgman, MI, where they will have telescopes set up and will conduct family activities related to comets.

At sunset, a thin crescent moon will be just to the right of the anticipated comet. Awaiting its emergence from the dusk, Comet Chef Chuck Bueter and visitors will [make a dry ice comet](#). Members of the Andrews University Department of Physics will be on hand to lend their expertise about comets and other astronomy topics. Event is free and open to the public.

If the sky is clear, show up early and enjoy a Lake Michigan sunset at 7:47 p.m. EDT. Then watch twilight descend and the stars come out. Comet Pan-STARRS is expected to be about 2nd magnitude in brightness, equivalent to the stars of the Big Dipper. Naked-eye views may reveal a subtle tail, but telescopes and binoculars will bring clarity to this icy visitor from deep space. Other telescopic highlights include the giant planet Jupiter straddled by its four visible moons, the Orion Nebula, and the Pleiades star cluster.

Comet Pan-STARRS is one of at least two major comets visiting the inner solar system in 2013. [Comet ISON](#), nearest the sun on Thanksgiving Day 2013, is expected to be the brightest comet in years if it survives its sungrazing. Comets are unpredictable, however, and they have a track record of defying astronomers' predictions.

In the event of cancellation, notice will be placed on the Andrews University Observatory Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/au.observatory](http://www.facebook.com/au.observatory)) or at [www.andrews.edu/agenda/keywords/AstroWatch](http://www.andrews.edu/agenda/keywords/AstroWatch)

Weko Beach is located in southwestern Michigan, just north of Warren Dunes State Park.



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