

Cache Valley Clear Skies

The Journal of the Cache Valley Astronomical Society



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www.cvas-utah.org

No Meeting This Month

There will be no CVAS meeting in May. Instead we will be having several star and solar parties. We have a club star party scheduled for June 12th at Mount Logan Park. We will set up on the basketball court. We also have a solar party scheduled for June 13th at the Logan Library. Please see Tom's column below and the Upcoming Events column for more information about these events as well as other events where the club can use some help.

The President's Corner By Tom Westre, CVAS President



This winter was not bad for observing. I kind of looked forward to May when the weather would really improve and I could observe in more milder temps. April 28 was a good night for observing. I managed to image 8 targets. After that evening I

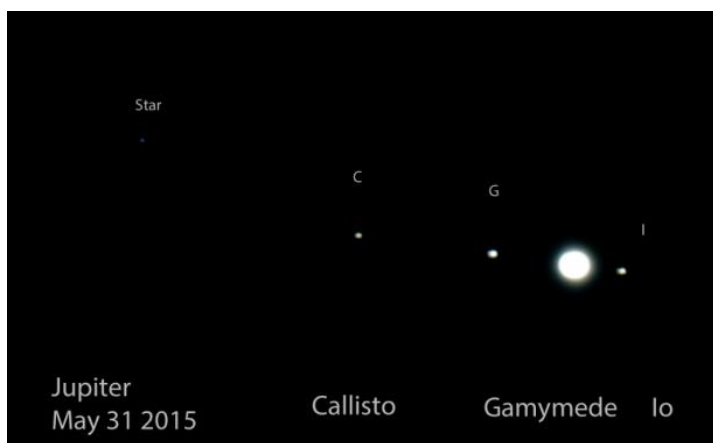
looked forward to May when new constellations would appear. What I did not anticipate was an almost monthly rain record for May of nearly 4 inches. I never got out. What a bummer. My first night out was May 31. I managed to get five targets: M13, M12, Comet Lovejoy, Jupiter and its moons, and M65 and that was with a nearly full moon. After about an hour I had to quit, due to clouds moving in, by 11pm the sky was about 80% covered with clouds. Another bummer. I'm not sure what the rest of the summer will be like, but I remain hopeful. Here are some images from May 31.



Comet Lovejoy



Messier 13 in Hercules



Jupiter, Io, Ganymede and Callisto

Looking to June we have several activities planned that will need some club volunteers.

CVAS has been asked by the leaders of the Nibley Stake Girls camp to help them on the evening of June 24 by providing telescopes for an a star party. I will send out an email with more details, but if you think you can help let me know. We will a sky presentation with laser pointers to be followed by the star party. It would be nice if we had about five telescopes as there will be about 300 girls in attendance.

I will be teaching an astronomy class at USU as part of the USU Summer Citizens program. Hundreds of retired folks from out of state, mostly from Arizona, come to USU for much of the summer. Many courses are offered. My astronomy course is from June 22-26. I would like to have a star party for them on the evening of June 26 on the campus. If

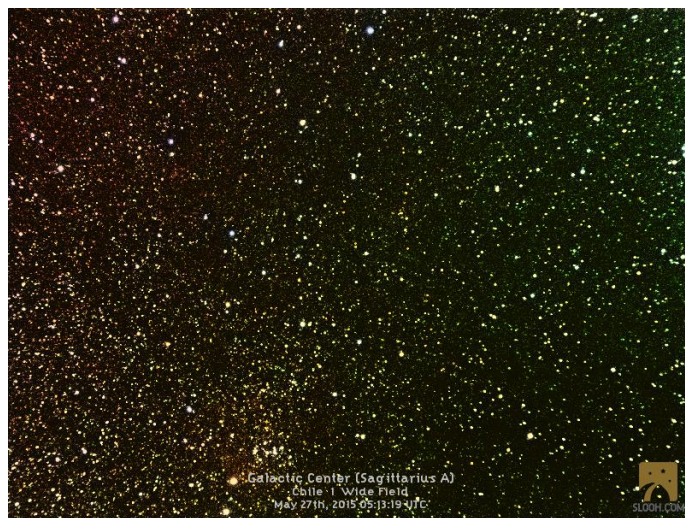
we could provide several telescopes that would be nice. If you think you can help let me know. If you can assist with either one or both of these events give me call at 435-787-6380. Your help will be greatly appreciated. It's always exciting to be able to share our love of astronomy with everyone. These events are a great way to accomplish that goal Finally, I am updating our club website (cvas-utah.org). If you have done any astrophotography and would like to submit pictures for the website, send them to me at twestre45@aol.com. Give me a short description including types of camera and telescope as well as exposure settings.

A Few Images from “Down Under”

- Submitted by Dale Hooper

In May, while it rained nearly every night in Cache Valley, I finally got a chance to use the SLOOH telescopes located in Chile. This allowed me to finally take some images of objects that are unobservable or very difficult to observe from here.

The first image is of Sagittarius A, which is the center of our Milky Way galaxy. Hidden in this field-of-view (but unobservable in visible frequencies) is Sagittarius A*, a supermassive black hole with a mass of about 4.1 million solar masses.



Sagittarius A - Center of the Milky Way Galaxy

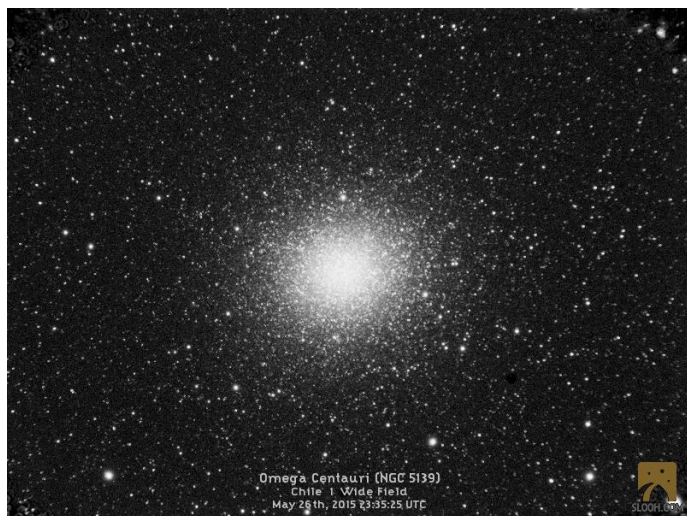
The second image is of Centaurus A. This galaxy is very active in radio frequencies. It has an active

central supermassive black hole with a mass of 55 million solar masses. This galaxy also has a relativistic jet which is observable in radio and x-ray frequencies. Many astronomers believe that it was a large elliptical galaxy which underwent a recent collision and merger with a smaller spiral galaxy.



Galaxy Centaurus A - NGC 5128

The third and final image is a wide field shot of the globular cluster Omega Centauri. I've been trying to get opportunities to observe this visually through a telescope for several years without success. So it was really fun to get this image. Omega Centauri is the largest globular cluster in the Milky Way. It is about 150 light years in diameter. Many astronomers feel that it was once the core of a dwarf galaxy that was disrupted by the Milky Way.



Globular Cluster Omega Centauri - NGC 5139

Spotlight on Libra

- Submitted by Dale Hooper

Since May was so rainy everyone is probably still working on observing the galaxies in Virgo that we discussed last month. Because of this, I thought it would be a good idea to pick a constellation for this month which doesn't have quite as many double stars and deep sky objects. I must admit that it is always fun to say the names of alpha Librae – Zubenelgenubi (zoo-BEN-el-je-NEW-bee) and beta Librae – Zubeneschamali (zoo-BEN-ess-sha-MAH-lee).

I think it might be fun some time to tell the fast food order taker that my name is Zubenelgenubi when they ask for my name – and then watch their reaction as I spell it out to them. It turns out that Zubenelgenubi is actually a very nice double star.

Because Libra has no deep sky objects which rate four stars in *The Night Sky Observer's Guide* (Libra is in Volume 2), I've included objects which score three stars. However, all of the double stars that I've included do rate at least four stars. As usual, the table is organized according to increasing Right Ascension values.

Object	R.A.	Dec.
NGC 5728 (Galaxy mag 11.5)	14h42.4m	-17°15'
Mu Librae (Double star)	14h49.3m	-14°09'
Alpha Librae (Double star)	14h50.9m	-16°02'
H N 28 (Double star)	14h57.5m	-21°25'
NGC 5791 (Galaxy mag 11.9)	14h58.8m	-19°16'
NGC 5796 (Galaxy mag 11.6)	14h59.4m	-16°13'
NGC 5812 (Galaxy mag 11.2)	15h01.0m	-07°27'
Delta Librae (Double star)	15h01.0m	-08°31'
NGC 5861 (Galaxy mag 11.6)	15h09.3m	-11°19'
NGC 5878 (Galaxy mag 11.5)	15h13.8m	-14°16'
NGC 5897 (Glob Clstr m 8.6)	15h17.4m	-21°01'
NGC 5898 (Galaxy mag 11.4)	15h18.2m	-24°06'
NGC 5903 (Galaxy mag 11.1)	15h18.6m	-24°04'
Merrill2-1 (Plntry Neb m11.6)	15h22.3m	-23°38'
Struve 1962 (Double star)	15h38.7m	-08°47'

CVAS Minutes – May 2015

There was no meeting May. However, the club did get together for a Pot Luck dinner and attempted star party on May 15th at Mount Logan Park. Everyone in attendance had an enjoyable time sharing dinner and conversing with each other. Shortly after dinner the weather took a quick turn for the worse. It became even cloudier and it was accompanied by a fairly cold wind. So everyone decided to head home and hope for clearer skies in the future.

- Dale Hooper

Upcoming Star Parties

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|--------|--|
| 12 Jun | Club Star Party, Mt Logan Park |
| 13 Jun | Solar Party, Logan Library, 11am – 1pm |
| 24 Jun | Star Party for Nibley Young Women's Camp – 300 girls are expected so MUCH help is needed |
| 26 Jun | Star Party for the Summer Citizens |

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 3 Jun | 200-inch Hale Telescope dedicated, 1948 |
| 13 Jun | Pioneer 10 leaves solar system, 1983 |
| 14 Jun | Mercury 0.04 deg north of Moon |
| 16 Jun | New Moon |
| 18 Jun | Sally Ride, first American woman in space, 1983 |
| 21 Jun | Summer Solstice and Father's Day (remember he wants astronomy gear) |
| 26 Jun | Charles Messier's birthday, 1730 |
| 27 Jun | Venus less than 2 degrees from Jupiter for the next week |
| 30 Jun | Jupiter and Venus 1/3 degree apart, Tunguska impact, 1908 |