

Cache Valley Clear Skies

The Journal of the Cache Valley Astronomical Society



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Meeting Announcement

Our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Physics Conference Room (room 244) in the Science Engineering Research (SER) building directly east of the library. Blaine Dickey will be giving us a presentation about video astronomy with the Mallinam Jr. Pro. This technology provides amateur astronomers with a lot of new possibilities. This should be a very interesting discussion for anyone who has a desire to stack up the photons collected by their telescope!

Two Eclipses in October



April 2014 Lunar Eclipse – photo by Dale Hooper

As mentioned in the upcoming events section – remember to get up early on October 8th for the last

total lunar eclipse of the year. If the weather permits this should be a really nice event from here in Cache Valley.

Then on the afternoon of October 23rd we will be treated to a partial solar eclipse. The sun will 58% eclipsed in Cache Valley. Be sure to observe safely! Either use filters or a projected image.

President's Corner

by Tom Westre October 2014



It's hard to imagine how fast time passes since we officially reorganized CVAS a year ago. I have learned a great deal over the past year. The one thing that stands out is that our club is diverse in interest and passions. We have a great sky in Cache Valley and at our Beaver site. We have a small but

strong core of members with a dedication to make our club an instrument for outreach in the valley. One of our weak areas is public relations and outreach to the schools in the area. If our club is to grow and be the type of influence in promoting astronomy we must grow. As the population of the valley increases we know there are potential members who have an interest in Astronomy. As I look at the census and demographics I have a growing concern that as a club we are growing stagnant. If our club is to stay relevant we must do all we can to reach these people, especially the youth of the valley. They are the future of Astronomy as a hobby or profession. We are facing extreme competition for the attention of young adults from other extracurricular activities. Aside from that, there is another issue, Astronomy itself is not a central focus of public education, but is often part of a larger topic of earth science. As I see the future for CVAS we must get out of our comfort zone and reach out and develop relations with the public schools, scouts and other youth organizations and find more ways to connect to K-12 schools and the University.

I have asked club member Lyle Johnson to be responsible for public relations. In my discussions with Lyle he has given me a number of ideas. Hopefully with Lyle and other committed club members we can continue to expand our outreach to the schools and younger people. I am asking any club member who believes they can help Lyle and our club leadership in this area to please contact me. This next year may be critical for the future success of CVAS and the promotion of a hobby we all love. Let's do what we can to get the "word" out to the Cache Valley that we are here. Your support of CVAS is a vital part of this effort. We hope to see everyone at our meetings this fall and winter, and we look forward to any input you have to further the advancement of CVAS.

Just a quick word regarding topics for our meetings. We would like to focus on topics that will help novice members who may have a limited background in Astronomy. In that regards, if you have any suggestions, such a buying your first telescope, or learning the Fall constellations, etc...let me know.

In closing, my thanks to Lyle, Dale, Dell, Ned and others who have supported CVAS. We look forward to a year of growth. It has been a privilege leading this organization. I will continue to support CVAS as we move forward in our mission.

Clear Skies
Tom Westre

Why Do I Like Astronomy?

by Dell Vance

Why do I like Astronomy and how did I get started? These are good questions and go back many years. I got my start when I was in 6th grade. I saw an ad in "Boys Life" about selling Christmas Cards with some great rewards, one being a reflector telescope. I sold all the boxes needed to get the telescope and gave up on my door-to-door salesman career. My school teacher, Mr. Olson, inspired me with his knowledge of the stars, along with the 9-inch reflector telescope that he had built himself. It took one star party with my friends in Mr. Olson's backyard and I was thoroughly hooked. I learned about stars and their classifications. I learned to find about 10 constellations and had a great time using my telescope to look at those stars. I was fascinated by the moon and my enthusiasm was rekindled when NASA put men on the moon. About the time I hit 16 my enthusiasm waned as I started driving and dating girls.

My love for astronomy never really died but it took a back seat for about 40 years. There were the occasional spikes as I helped my sons get their Astronomy Merit Badges or taught my daughters how to grind a lens for a telescope (that's another story), but that was about it.

As I neared retirement, I had a desire to get back into the hobby. After all, I could pick the place I lived, far from the big city lights, and supposedly have all the time I needed to study the stars as the old astronomers did. My wife and I moved to Newton, UT and found a great spot to see the heavens. My next goal was to upgrade from the little 3-inch reflector telescope, that I sold so many Christmas cards for, to a better telescope. That is when I first attended the Stargazers Club (now CVAS). I wanted

to get ideas from the “experts” on what telescope would be best for me. They were extremely helpful and always supportive with my efforts.

The old Christmas Card Telescope is gone now and I have Celestron NextStar 6 SE telescope. It is a great telescope and I am working on doing some astrophotography. However, I am still fascinated by seeing objects that the old great astronomers found using much lower quality equipment. I like

Astronomy because it provides stimulation for my imagination and a magnificent view of the wonders of the universe. You never run out of things to see or do (or even buy for that matter). I love this hobby and the great people it attracts.

Clear Skies


Deep Sky Pictures

by Tom Westre

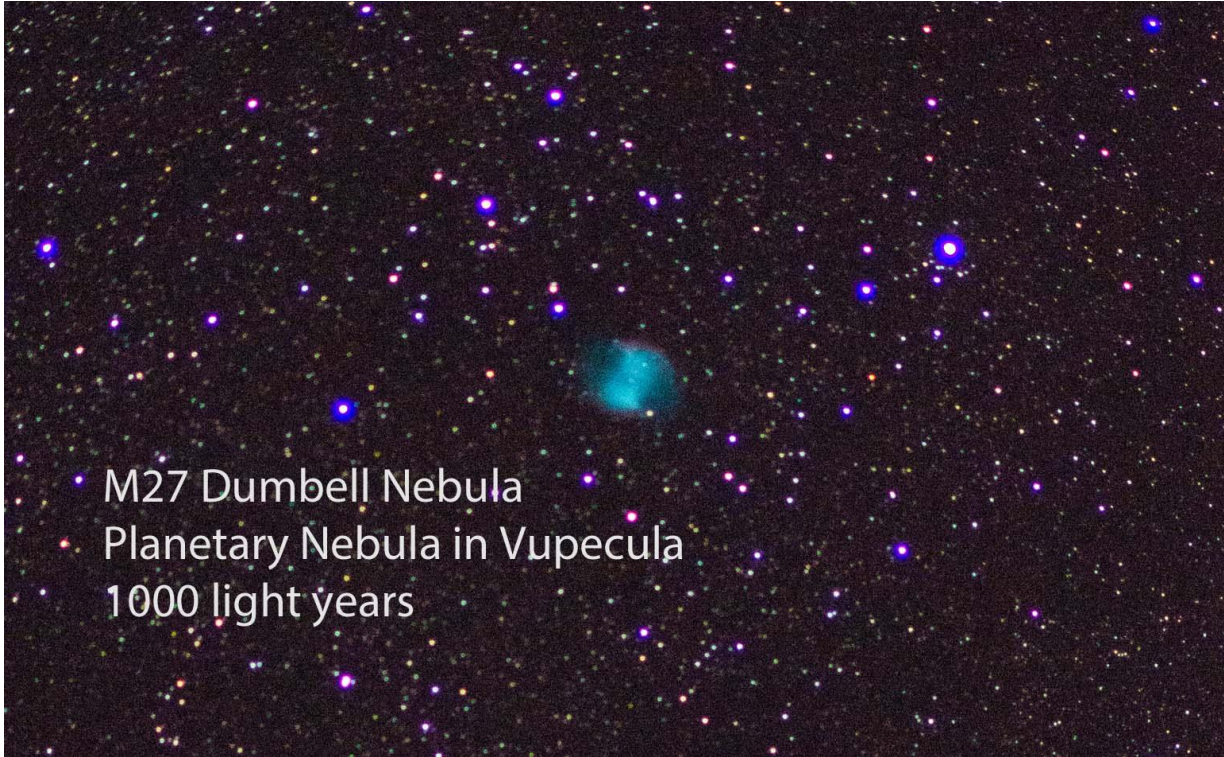
The evening of September 25, was a perfect night to be at the telescope. I used my Canon T3i and the 80 mm refractor I normally use as a guide scope to image the following targets. The 80mm refractor gives a wider field of view.



Double Cluster
Perseus
NGC 869 & 884
7000 light years



M17 Swan/Omega Nebula
Diffuse Nebula in Sagittarius



M27 Dumbbell Nebula
Planetary Nebula in Vupecula
1000 light years



M20 Trifid Nebula
Diffuse in Sagittarius
5000 light years

M8 Lagoon Nebula
Diffuse Nebula in Sagittarius
5000 light years

CVAS Minutes – September 2014

The annual general meeting of the Cache Valley Astronomical Society was held on September 17, 2014 in the Physics Conference Room (room 244) in the Science Engineering Research (SER) building.

Dave Hansen mentioned that he has the Science Unwrapped calendar for the year. Anyone interested in the topics can contact Dave for the list.

Friday September 19th is Observatory Night on campus. There will be public observing and they may need some help from club members. James Cliburn is in charge of the observatory.

Time was then devoted to determining club officers for this next year. There were no additional nominations so the existing officers were re-elected by acclamation. The club officers for this next year are again:

Tom Westre – President
Dell Vance – Vice President
Ned Miller – Treasurer
Dale Hooper – Secretary

A discussion was held concerning club finances. Ned stated that we don't yet have 501 c3 status so he will cash the checks for now and we hope to get things set up soon. There was also a discussion about the time and dates for future meetings. We will stay with the third Wednesday at 7:30pm for now. We next had a discussion about discussion topics for the year. Topics such as Blaine Dickey's video astronomy, basics of astronomy and telescope purchasing, and topics for younger people were discussed. We also talked about getting Jeff Hazboun the astronomy instructor from the physics dept., OAS speakers and Hollis Johnson as future speakers.

The remainder of the time was turned over to Tom Westre for a discussion of his summer observing projects.

In spite of heart bypass surgery, Tom was able to do a lot of great astrophotography. He discussed the importance of getting good focus and using the camera's "Live View" mode. Most of Tom's photos

are 25 to 30 second exposures. He was able to image M42, globular clusters, double stars, galaxies, open clusters and solar system objects. Everyone enjoyed seeing Tom's latest efforts.

Upcoming Star Parties

3 Oct Star Party at Mt Logan Park

Upcoming Events

Thru-6 Oct The zodiacal light is visible 120 to 80 minutes before sunrise.

8 Oct Total Lunar Eclipse
03:18 am Partial Eclipse Begins
04:27 am Totality Begins
04:55 am Maximum Eclipse
05:22 am Totality Ends
06:32 am Partial Eclipse Ends

19 Oct Comet C/2013 A1 Siding Spring passes very close to Mars - literally

23 Oct Partial Solar Eclipse
03:00 pm Start (approximate)
04:24 pm Max eclipse (approx.)
05:50 pm End (approximate)

About 58% of the sun will be obscured at maximum eclipse
31 Oct Halloween falls on a Friday this year, one day after first quarter moon. Weather permitting, this would be a great opportunity to get your telescope out and show the moon to all the little goblins, witches and ghosts.