

Cache Valley Clear Skies

The Journal of the Cache Valley Astronomical Society



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www.cvas-utahskies.org

Meeting Announcement

Our monthly meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 7:00pm** in the Bonneville Room at the Logan Library.

Our featured speaker will be club member Ned Miller. The topic of Ned's presentation is, "How to Choose and Use Your First Telescope".

This will be another presentation that will be really helpful if you are just getting started in astronomy. This will help you get more out of your existing scope or know how to select one.

Please note also that Tom Westre has set up our new website: www.cvas-utahskies.org. The QR code above-right should lead you to the new website.

The President's Corner By Dell Vance, CVAS President

Spring has come and I hope you are getting out to enjoy the heavens. Don't let a little bit of snow (little bit of Cache Valley heavy dew) dampen your



efforts. There are some great skies in between the storms.

Last month we had a great meeting covering the basics of observing the stars with the naked eye and with binoculars. Lyle Johnson did a great job and the meeting was well attended. I was so impressed that I went online and purchased a green laser pointer from the web site that he recommended. It should be coming soon.

This month Ned Miller will go over the basics of using telescopes for observing the stars. It should be another great opportunity to invite our friends to come enjoy the event.

Tom Westre went the extra mile last month by putting up a display for the club at Macey's. I am sure that it spiked a lot of interest and the handouts were completely gone. I spoke to one young man (5th Grade) that attended our monthly meeting as a direct result of Tom's efforts. This kind of publicity is great and goes a long way to reach out to astronomers and astronomers-in-the-making. Way to go Tom!

We have some more opportunities to interact with the public.

- On May 6th we hope to be able to set up telescopes at the Cache Valley Fairgrounds for the Scout-O-Rama event. This would allow us to reach many Scouts and Scout Leaders. Be sure to stay informed as we get more information on this opportunity.
- On May 13th Tom Westre and I are planning to go to the Conestoga Ranch in Garden City to show the stars to their clients there. We hope that we can do this on a weekly basis and will need a lot of support from the club to cover these opportunities. We will need at least two members for each Friday Night this summer and the Conestoga Ranch people are willing to pay \$100 for each volunteer each week and a place for them to stay that night. We will test out the system with our initial visit. Please let us know if you have a Friday Night that you would like to sign up for. It will be first come first served on the sign-up dates.

Things are getting exciting for us and we should work together to support the efforts. Hope to see you and your friends at the monthly meeting. This is where the fun begins in Astronomy. Great Stars and Great Friends.

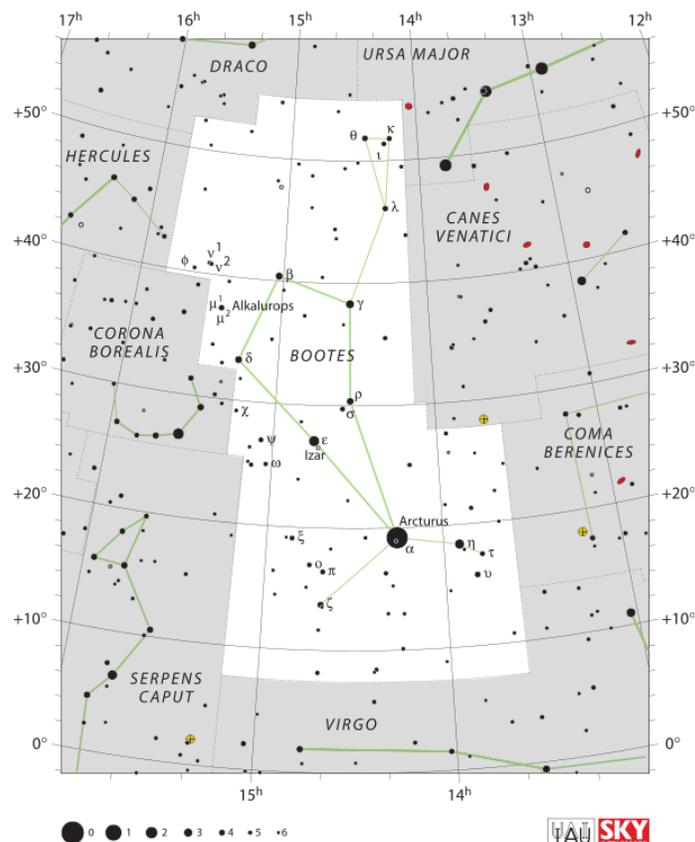
Clear Skies!

Spotlight on Bootes, the Herdsman

By Dale Hooper

Bootes is, of course, the home to Arcturus the fourth brightest star in the night sky. It is also the home to many pretty galaxies. Bootes and Virgo are good indicators that spring has finally arrived. I am listing some galaxies which rate three stars and all of the objects which rate four or more stars in *The Night Sky Observer's Guide* (Bootes is in Volume 2). All of the galaxies listed should be observable with an 8" to 10" scope. There are many additional galaxies in this constellation which also rate three stars.

As usual, the table is organized according to increasing Right Ascension values.



IAU and Sky & Tel - Roger Sinnott & Rick Fienberg

Object	R.A.	Dec.
NGC 5248 (Galaxy mag 10.3)	13h37.5m	+08°53'

NGC 5466 (Globular cluster)	14h05.5m	+28°32'
IC 983 (Galaxy mag 11.7)	14h10.5m	+17°44'
NGC 5533 (Galaxy mag 11.8)	14h16.1m	+35°21'
NGC 5557 (Galaxy mag 11.0)	14h18.4m	+36°30'
NGC 5660 (Galaxy mag 11.9)	14h29.8m	+49°37'
NGC 5653 (Galaxy mag 12.2)	14h30.2m	+31°13'
NGC 5665 (Galaxy mag 12.0)	14h32.4m	+08°05'
IC 1029 (Galaxy mag 11.3)	14h32.5m	+49°54'
NGC 5676 (Galaxy mag 11.2)	14h32.8m	+49°28'
NGC 5687 (Galaxy mag 11.8)	14h34.9m	+54°29'
NGC 5689 (Galaxy mag 11.9)	14h35.5m	+48°45'
NGC 5739 (Galaxy mag 12.1)	14h42.5m	+41°50'
37 Boötis (Quadruple star)	14h51.4m	+19°06'
51 Boötis (Triple star)	15h24.5m	+37°23'

CVAS Minutes – March 2016

The meeting was held in the Bonneville Room of the Logan Library.

We had a good crowd of more than 25 people in attendance. Tom Westre discussed the opportunity that the club has to help with the Conestoga Ranch in Garden City. Jacob Olsen discussed the Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival which will be held June 1st through 4th.

Lyle Johnson was the featured speaker and presented information to us about, “Observing with the Unaided Eyes and Observing with Binoculars”.

Lyle began with a brief tour of the universe and the various types of objects that we can observe. He mentioned that he has always been a “budget” astronomer and has always looked for good deals on equipment. Lyle explained that there are three ways to explore the night sky: unaided eyes, binoculars and telescopes.

With unaided eyes, you are always ready to observe, you have a wide angle view and you can scan the entire sky.

Binoculars are inexpensive, easy to use, provide wide angles and are portable.

Telescopes provide close up detailed views, can view fainter objects and can allow you to see many more objects.



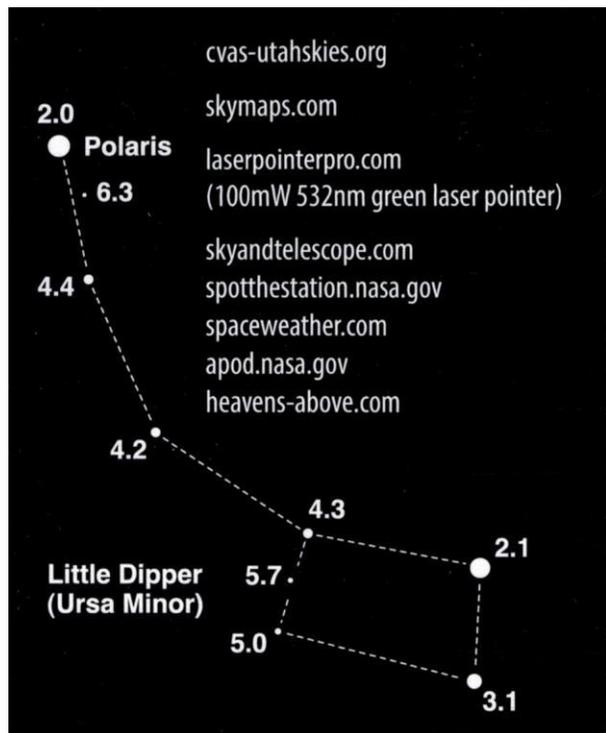
Lyle explaining the types of observable objects (Photo courtesy Layne Pedersen) Lyle spoke about the various objects that you can see with each of the methods. He also explained that on the back of the skymaps star chart (which is sent out with the newsletter each month) it lists objects which can be observed by each of the three methods. He also showed how to use the skymaps star chart for finding objects in the night sky.



Lyle explaining how to use a planisphere (Photo courtesy Layne Pedersen)

Lyle also explained that a planisphere is a good thing to acquire and showed how it can be used any time of the year. He next explained what dark adaptation is and gave out a handout of the little dipper which can be used to determine the sky

quality (shown below). This also includes several helpful websites.



Tool from Lyle to Determine Sky Quality and Helpful Astronomy Websites

Lyle also handed out plans for a simple over the shoulder mount to support binoculars. Lyle closed by showing some of the helpful basics for getting started in astronomy such as red flashlights and green lasers.

Upcoming Star Parties

Currently there are no organized club star parties planned for April.

Upcoming Events

- 1 Apr April Fools' Day
- 2 Apr First photo of the Sun (1845)
- 3 Apr Luna 10, first craft to orbit the Moon (1966)
- 6 Apr Venus 0.7° south of the Moon
- 7 Apr New Moon
- 8 Apr Vesta 0.02° south of the Moon
- 10 Apr Aldebaran 0.3° south of the Moon (occultation during daylight)

- 12 Apr Yuri Gagarin, First man to orbit Earth (1961)
First space shuttle launch (Columbia) (1981)
- 13 Apr First quarter Moon
- 14 Apr Christiaan Huygens born (1629) 18
Apr Jupiter 2.0° north of Moon
Mercury at greatest eastern elongation (20°)
- 20 Apr Mars is 7.2° west of Saturn
- 22 Apr Full Moon
Lyrid Meteors peak
- 25 Apr Saturn 3° south of Moon
Hubble Space Telescope deployed (1990)
- 26 Apr Mars is 4.9° degrees north of Antares (rival of Mars)
- 29 Apr Last quarter Moon