



Cache Valley Clear Skies
The Journal of the Cache Valley Astronomical Society



**CVAS Executive
Committee**

Pres – Bruce Horrocks
bruceh@gembuildings.com

Vice Pres- James Somers

Treasurer- Janice Bradshaw
lojbrads@yahoo.com

Secretary – Wendell Waters (435) 213-9230
wendellw57@comcast.net

Loaner Scope Coordinator/NSN Coordinator –
Garrett Smith – GarrettGillSmith@gmail.com

Past President – Dell Vance (435) 938-8328
avteam.dell@gmail.com

Public Relations – Lyle Johnson -
lyledj@aol.com

Vol. 7 Number 1

September 2019

www.cvas-utahskies.org

Meeting Announcement

Our meeting this month is on October 23. It will be held in the Bonneville Room of the Logan City Library at 7 PM. We will be having a presentation on the most important star: Our Sun. See you there!

Upcoming Star Parties and CVAS Events

- Oct 4 – Star Party Cache County Library (Providence, Braegger Park)
- Oct 7 – Thomas Edison Charter (North)
- Oct 7 – STEM Fair Mt. Side Elementary
- Oct 21 – Greenville Elementary
- Nov 4 – STEM Fair River Heights Elementary
- Nov 11 – STEM Fair Summit Elementary
- Nov 29 – STEM Fair White Pine Elementary

Special Announcements

There were two proposals put before the club members at our meeting on September 25th. It was proposed that the club purchase a projector to be used at our monthly meetings in the Library. This proposal was accepted. It was also proposed that the club sell the 10” Dobsonian Loaner scope. This proposal was also accepted. We would like to offer this to our club members the first. If anyone is interested, please contact Bruce Horrocks. If no one from the club is interested in buying the scope, we plan to put it up for sale online.

The President’s Corner By Bruce Horrocks – CVAS President

As some of you know and now all of you should know at our first meeting of this year, I was elected to be the president of the CVAS. I thank those of you who voted for me and hope that we can make this a great year for the group. I first want to thank all those who have served and helped in the past. Dell Vance has led this group the past four year and he should be commended for all the great work he and the other members of the executive committee have done. There are now telescopes in most of the county libraries and I feel that the outreach efforts of our group are being recognized by many schools and other organizations in the valley. So, here is a big thanks to Dell, Tom, and Brad for all your help and we will still count on you for your support in the club.

As far as the new executive committee for this coming year here are the new members:

Bruce Horrocks – President,

James Somers – Vice President,

Wendell Waters – Secretary,

Janice Bradshaw – Treasurer.

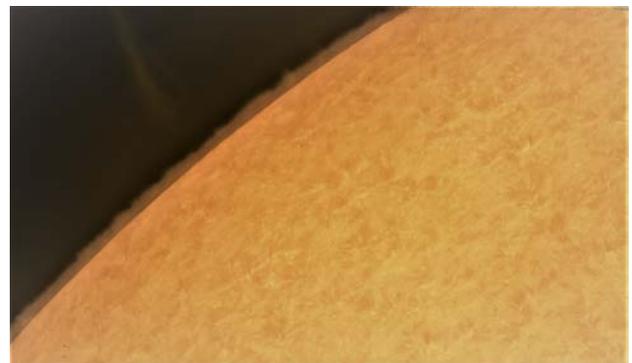
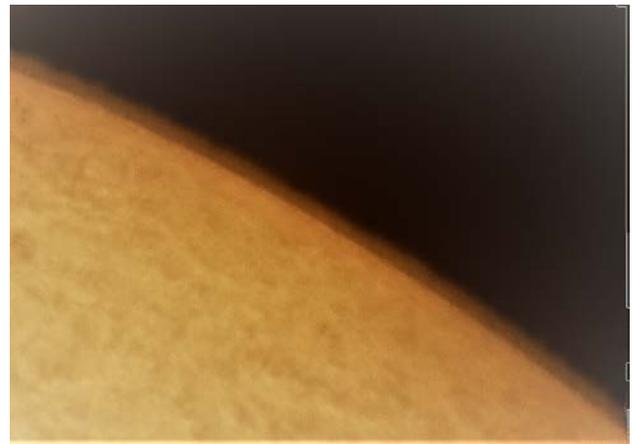
There are going to be a few minor changes that we hope will enhance our club meetings this coming year. Remember that all meetings this year will be held in the Logan Library. First, we are going to have some refreshments prior to the start of the meeting. So, when you come in the room, please help yourself to whatever we will be serving that night. Second, we realize that there are many different topics we can discuss each night, so we are going to have a short discussion prior to our main meeting subject. We hope that if you have a question or need help with your telescope that we can give a few minutes of instruction. If there are no questions, then we will select a topic for this brief discussion. Tom Westre is going to start us out this month with a short discussion on polar alignment with his Pole Master. We hope that you will enjoy this adjustment our meeting agenda.

I am sure every new president of any club has goals and objectives they would like to accomplish. I look at the club members and I see a large amount of knowledge that can be shared with others that are just getting started in this hobby. The main objective that I have for this club is growth. I would like to see more members in our club as I am sure there are many other amateur astronomers in our valley that could contribute to our group. I would also like to see our club members grow in knowledge and skills. There are so many changes in software, imaging cameras, and telescope accessories that I hope we can each expand our comfort levels and reach new levels in astronomy.

Thanks again to each of you for your support and we look forward to a great year. I recently read a book called Rocket Men by Robert Kurson. I can highly recommend this book to you to read if you enjoyed the Apollo space program from the 1960's. This book shares so much insight on the men, the machines, and every detail about what it was like to go farther into space than man had ever gone before. I am sure you will enjoy it. – Clear Skies

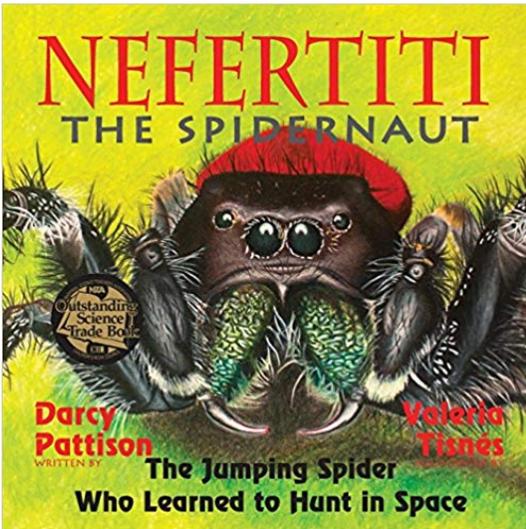
CVAS Member Photos

By Bruce Horrocks



Kidstronomy Corner

By Bonnie Schenk-Darrington



Pattison, Darcy, and Valeria Tisnés. 2016. *Nefertiti the Spidernaut: The Jumping Spider Who Learned to Hunt in Space*. Little Rock, AR: Mims House.

6 – 12 years (Grades levels K – 6)

33 pages.

\$8.99 on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



(5 out of 5 planets)

October is the month for all things creepy and crawly, and while this book is not a ghostly Halloween tale, this true story about a spider that learned to hunt while living in microgravity on the International Space Station is a great book for this time of year because of its star character, Nefertiti, the spidernaut.

I am *not* a fan of spiders, but I couldn't resist the premise of this book. It sounds like fiction, but it's not! This is a true story about a real space experiment that sought to discover how a Johnson jumping spider, which hunts by leaping on its prey rather than by spinning a web, might adapt to hunting in microgravity.

The illustrations include colorful, detailed close-ups of Nefertiti, naturally, but also wide-shot illustrations showing the various space vehicles and humans involved in the experiment. Nefertiti's humans observe her and root for her, but the author keeps you in suspense to the very end of the book: Will Nefertiti survive her stay in space? And when she gets back to earth, will she be able to readapt?

Lest you think, because of its spider protagonist, that this is strictly a boy-oriented book, please note that both the scientist and the astronaut (Stefanie Countryman and Sunita Williams, respectively) who performed the experiment, are women. The main story itself is engaging for younger children, but there are two pages in the back that explain more about the experiment and the special habitat Nefertiti lived in during her sojourn in space. So, if older children and budding engineers need more details, they are there. And if you would like to see Nefertiti in action, these pages also direct you to Sunita Williams's blog and videos about the experiment.

I do want to say a word about the cover—either you love it, or you hate it. My middle daughter and I (both amateur artists) thought it was beautiful and colorful. I sort of liked looking into Nefertiti's eyes—somehow, the talented illustrator, Valeria Tisnés, has made Nefertiti look both intelligent and vulnerable.

Or at least that's what *I* thought. My older daughter and little boy thought this book cover was the grossest thing *ever*. My daughter's reaction didn't surprise me but my son's did! This is the same little boy who has openly voiced the wish that he could get bitten by a radioactive spider and become Spider-Man. But the only thing he wished for when he saw this book cover was that he could step on Nefertiti and squish her to smithereens. However, he did eventually read the book with me—and enjoyed it, too! And my older daughter swiped it from my desk and read it, also, even as the cover made her gag a little.

My 9-year-old son read the book with little trouble. He struggled with the names (e.g., Nefertiti, Countryman, and Sunita) and words like *international* and *abdomen*. But I helped him with the longer words and we had a largely trouble-free read. The colorful and detailed illustrations (once he got past the cover) also kept him engaged. I read the back pages about the experiment on my own, however. By the end of the book, he had stretched his skill to the limit and was ready for a break. I'm not the only person who thinks this book is a must-have for any children's astronomy library. The National Science Teachers Association gave it the Outstanding Science Trade Book award in 2017. 5 out of 5 planets!

Upcoming Events and Anniversaries

- Oct 01 - [Herve Faye's](#) 205th Birthday (1814)
- Oct 02 - [Jack Parsons'](#) 105th Birthday (1914)
- Oct 04 – Public Night USU observatory 8 – 10 pm
- Oct 05 - [Moon Occults Saturn](#)
- Oct 05 - [Richard Gordon's](#) 90th Birthday (1929)
- Oct 08 - [Mars Summer Solstice](#)
- Oct 08 - [Asteroid 5891 Gehrig](#) Closest Approach To Earth (1.175 AU)
- Oct 09 - [Draconids Meteor Shower](#) Peaks
- Oct 09 - 415th Anniversary (1604), Discovery of [Supernova 1604 \(Kepler's Nova\)](#)
- Oct 12 - 40th Anniversary (1979), "[The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#)" Book 1st Published (1954), [Flash Gordon Airs on TV](#)
- Oct 15 - [Tom Bopp's](#) 70th Birthday (1949)
- Oct 15 - [Asaph Hall's](#) 190th Birthday (1829)
- Oct 18 - [Dwarf Planet 136199 Eris At Opposition](#) (95.047 AU)
- Oct 20 - [Mercury](#) At Its Greatest Eastern [Elongation](#) (25 Degrees)
- Oct 21 - [Orionids Meteor Shower](#) Peak
- Oct 25 - [Heinrich Schwabe's](#) 230th Birthday (1789)
- Oct 27 - [Uranus At Opposition](#)
- Oct 30 - [Mercury](#) Passes 2.7 Degrees From [Venus](#)

CVAS Loaner Telescope

FOR SALE !!

If anyone would like to purchase the loaner scope please contact Bruce Horrocks. CVAS provides a 10 inch Dobsonian telescope to club members. Contact Garrett Smith to make arrangements to use this telescope. Garrett can be contacted by email at GarrettGillSmith@gmail.com.



CVAS on Utah Public Radio

Listen to CVAS on Utah Public Radio each Tuesday at 4:48 pm. Blaine Dickey and Tom Westre are writing weekly astronomy related scripts and recording the program at their station. We are pleased that the folks at UPR have invited us to present a weekly topic on astronomy. You can listen in Logan on 91.5 KUSU-FM, or 89.5 KUSR Logan, with translators 92.1 Brigham City, 89.3 Bear Lake. There are other translators from Soda Springs to St George. You can also listen anywhere on their live stream or download UPR's free app on your smartphone. Check this out at www.upr.org.

Library Loaner Telescope Program Status

Library	Telescope Donated By	Telescope Placed	Available for Checkout	Library Status
Logan Library	CVAS	6/10/2018	10/15/2018	Loaning out with Holds pending
Logan Library #2	ICON Health & Fitness 	6/18/2019	7/15/2019	Loaning out
Hyrum Library	CVAS	12/11/2018	2/1/2019	Loaning out
Smithfield Library	Occipital, Inc	12/14/2018	4/10/2019	Loaning out
North Logan Library	Utah NASA Space Grant Consortium 	3/4/2019	4/5/2019	Loaning out
Cache County Library (Providence)	INOVAR & CVAS Members	3/1/2019	5/22/2019	Holds on telescope
Lewiston Library	Schreiber Food's 	Last Week of June (Tentative)		Telescope was placed and they are in the process of setting it up.
Richmond Library				
Preston Library	Idaho NASA Space Grant Consortium			Telescope placed. They plan to start loan out with Preston Jr. High Star Party
Mendon Library	Campbell Scientific 	4/8/2019	5/30/2019	Loaning out
Newton Library				Ready for check out

CACHE VALLEY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member # _____

NAME: _____
 First Middle Initial Last

Address: _____
 Street City State Zip Code

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone : _____ Occupation : _____

Email Address: _____

How did you learn about CVAS?

_____ Website _____ Star Party _____ CVAS Member _____ Other _____

Membership: \$20 a year

Tell us about yourself: Do you have a special interest in astronomy? Do you have special skills? Are you willing to volunteer on CVAS projects or attend public outreach star parties? Astro equipment owned.

By signing this application, I acknowledge I have access to the CVAS website, cvas-utahskies.org, and the CVAS Constitution. I agree to abide by the constitution.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring this form to the meeting or Mail Application to:

Brad Kropp, CVAS Treasurer
1573 E 1425 N
1. Logan, UT 84341

For any questions contact our Treasurer, Janice Bradshaw at lojbrads@yahoo.com
or our Secretary Wendell Waters at wendellw57@comcast.net