

CACHE VALLEY CLEAR SKIES



Volume 12 No. 1

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<https://cvas-utahskies.org>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to a new (fiscal) year for the Cache Valley Astronomical Society. I have a number of things that I would like to mention but I thought I better start with something very important. Unfortunately, it has become very clear that the Logan Library is not going to honor the room reservations that were already agreed to and it has become clear that the library will not really work as a long-term solution. Fortunately, our new Vice President; Randy Jost; has been able to once again secure access to Room 107 in the USU Engineering Lab Building on USU Campus for our meetings. This is the same location where we met last year. Also, we will be moving the meetings to the third Friday of the month. I apologize for this change, all of us hope that we won't need to make any more venue or date/time changes for our meetings this year.

I want to begin by thanking Dell Vance for all the service that he has given as club president for the past two years. Bonnie Schenk-Darrington has also done a phenomenal job as our Secretary/Treasurer. The newsletters she has created are absolutely amazing. I would also like to thank Bruce Horrocks for the great Public Relations work he has done for the club and Tom Westre for the great work he has done with our club website (cvas-utahskies.org).

This year we apparently are in desperate times, because I will be serving as club president. I'm looking forward to a great year as we pursue the-best-hobby-there-is together. There will be many opportunities for each of us to help one another and to learn and grow in this hobby. I'm very excited to serve with Randy Jost who will be our club vice president. I'm also very glad that Dell Vance will continue on our Executive Committee as Past President. We are also very fortunate to have Bonnie Schenk-Darrington serving as our new public relations person, Becca and Dean Louviere as our newsletter editors/creators, Josh Kirk as our website manager and Dell Vance as our membership coordinator and Night Sky Network coordinator.

We still need a club secretary to help keep us organized, so if you have an inkling to serve, please help us out.

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Dale Hooper

Executive Committee

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- Secretary: TBD
- Newsletter: Dean Louviere
deanlouviere@gmail.com
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avteam.dell@gmail.com
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bschenkdarr@gmail.com
- Webmaster: Josh Kirk me@joshkirk.com
- NASA Night Sky Network Coordinator: Dell Vance
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You'll notice that up above I referred to amateur astronomy as the-best-hobby-there-is and I truly believe that! There are so many facets to this hobby that even on the amateur level we probably don't have time to explore all of them in one lifetime. This isn't an exhaustive list, but we can simply go

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outside and observe the heavens, a meteor shower or occasionally a great comet with our unaided eyes. We can go more in-depth with our visual observations with a pair of binoculars or a telescope. We can even make our own telescopes or other instruments as amateur telescope makers. There are many more specialized studies that we can make such as archeoastronomy, astronomical lore of various peoples, the history of the telescope and other astronomical instruments and the origins of star names. We can also have an interest in the study of more specialized objects such as double stars, variable stars, carbon stars, galaxies, galaxy clusters, globular clusters, or planetary nebulae. We can also search for all or many of the objects in specific catalogs such as the Messier, Caldwell or IC or NGC catalogs. You can also spend your time chasing after total solar eclipses. We can take notes or make sketches of our observations.

There are also many aspects of this hobby where we can use more specialized equipment and software such as astrophotography, solar observations, spectroscopy, citizen science using your computer and also radio astronomy. And there are so many others that I have just scratched the surface.

In the picture above you will notice that there is a small grey camera attached to my telescope. It has a long black cable connected to it which is tied to a GPS antenna. This is a camera that is specific to recording occultations of stars by asteroids (called Astrid). I've dabbled in this in the past and it is lots of fun. Professional astronomers can use the disappearance and reappearance timings from multiple observers to determine the sizes and shapes of asteroids and determine if they have "moonlets". I use a program called OccultWatcher to find out when occultations will occur over my observatory. Of course, be careful if you search for information about occultations and OccultWatcher on your work computer – because you may encounter some links that are definitely not related to astronomy. If you've ever witnessed a star or planet wink out as it passes behind the moon (lunar occultations) then you've probably experienced some of the excitement related to this part of the hobby.

No matter what aspects of amateur astronomy you are interested in, there are probably other members of the club that are also interested in them – or that would like to learn more about them. So, I would like to encourage all of us to be willing to share our astronomical interests with each other through presentations (which can be short) at our various club meetings this year. I think it will be lots of fun.

Also, I really hope that we can have some club star parties this

Club Meetings

October 18th – Room 107 of the Engineering Lab Building on the USU Campus at 7pm

- 3rd Friday of the month

Star Parties

- North Park Elementary
 - Oct 2nd – 7:30
- Grace Idaho Junior High
 - Oct. 3rd
 - contact Tom Westre for details
- Smithfield Library
 - Oct. 11th – 7:30
- Mountainside Elementary
 - Oct. 21st – 7:30

STEM Nights

- Birch Creek Elementary Sept. 26th
- Mountainside Elementary Sept. 30th
- North Park Elementary Jan. 9th
- Wellsville Elementary Jan. 22th
- Canyon Elementary Feb. 6th
- Cedar Ridge Elementary
 - March 13th
- Sunrise Elementary March 18th
- Greenville Elementary March 24th

year. It's great to help the schools and libraries, but I think we also need some club star parties. For instance, the prime weekend for the 2025 Messier Marathon is March 28-29, 2025. We had a lot of fun at the last one and I hope that we can have even more club members there this time. So, ask for some warm clothes for Christmas and let's have some fun this year! Clear skies!

Summer Citizens and CVAS

This past spring I had a lady by the name of Sharon Gossett from Arizona contact me through email about seeing if we had any interest in providing a class in astronomy for the nice folks from Arizona that come to Cache Valley for the summer cooler weather. It sounded like a fun opportunity to get to meet some new friends, so we talked about it as an executive committee and decided to provide a series of astronomy classes over a seven week period. Sharon is a lady with a lot of enthusiasm and energy. Together we came up with a list of topics that she thought would be good to cover and submitted our agenda to the Bridgerland Vocational college to have them add it to their list of summer classes. There were a few other people from the Cache Chamber of Commerce that helped as well so it took just a little bit of time and effort to get this all set up.

Our first class happened to fall on the day that most of those who signed up were pulling into Logan. I got there a bit early and was not at all surprised to find Sharon setting in the foyer of new Bridgerland building waiting for me. We had a pleasant introduction and then started on our first class, all 4 of us, and one of them was my wife. I was just a bit disappointed, just 4 people in our class! I had heard from the college that we had quite a few that had signed up for the class and next week was much different and as I walked into the room with 30 people or so in attendance.

Our list of class topics went as follows: 1) Our Place in the Sky-Basic Object to look at, 2) How to find space objects, 3) The Sun and Solar Observations, 4) Telescopes and Mounts and how to use them, 5) Beginning Astrophotography, 6) Cosmology and the Universe, and 7) Night Sky Party. We had a few other club members that came and provided some assistance with these classes, Dell Vance, Dale Hooper, Paul Yamaguchi, and Blaine Dickey. Our final night of class was the star party and while we found a good dark spot in Logan, the clouds were not our best friend that night.

As I mentioned, Sharon is a very energetic young lady. She was not about to let a few clouds rain on our parade so to speak. She wanted to have a final fun activity for our class group, so I agreed to provide the location, and she provided the crab legs. We had the most unique dinner party I have ever attended. We boiled potatoes, corn, sausage, and crab legs, then poured them out on the table and then poured melted butter over all of this.



Sharon presenting her amazing dinner to us all.



Summer citizens enjoying a crab fest dinner as a closing party for the Astronomy class.

You just got to eat whatever was in front of you and it was delicious. We had a wonderful evening and while there wasn't much in the way of stars to look at, it was a great way to end a fun summer with a new group of friends. And just as a bonus, our club was given a \$500 donation from the Bridgerland Vocational College which we are grateful for. Hope we can do this again next year, and maybe even as a club dinner.

– **Bruce Horrocks**

Miscellaneous Things

By Blaine Dickey

Galaxies are some of my favorite things; after all I live in one of them. Some are monstrous in size, some are beautiful, and some are indescribable. Recently I imaged one that was rather faint. NGC 147 fits in that category. It is considered a dwarf spheroidal galaxy that is a satellite galaxy in M31, the Andromeda galaxy.



The acquisition of the image was a slow process taking a full hour. The galaxy slowly appeared as well as a myriad of stars in our Milky Way. NGC 147 is about 2.5 million light years distant and 10,500 miles in diameter. Not too many new stars are being formed in this old galaxy that contains many old stars. It is also a companion galaxy of NGC 185.

On a different note I took an image of Neptune. At first I saw the bluish Neptune, but on looking closer I noticed a small object next to Neptune and realized it was its moon Triton. If you look closely you can see it.



The yellow star to the upper left of Neptune is a double star HD 224037. Neptune is the 8th planet from our sun at magnitude +7.8, therefore, too dim to see with the unaided eye, but easy with binoculars. Neptune was discovered through a mathematical prediction of John Couch Adams. Johann Gottfried Galle received the predicted location in Berlin and discovered it on the first night he looked for it. If you haven't seen Neptune with your own eye or through a binocular or telescope, you may want to give it a try.



Astrophotography Gallery

Recent Images by Club Members



The Helix Nebula

This was an image I took the other night to just make sure everything was working. Using a 150mm Sky-Watcher Esprit refractor with the ZWO 2600MM camera and narrow band filters of Ha and Oiii. I did take some Sii filter images but there was just not much data in those images. The total was 10 images at 300 seconds with the two filter and combined in the HOO pallet. – Bruce Horrocks

Andromeda Galaxy(M31)

This is my best image of a widefield image M31 so far.

This is our closest neighboring galaxy excluding our satellite galaxies. This is also my first full color image using my 135mm lens and my second light on my Cgem Dx. This is about 12 hours of integration of LRGB data.

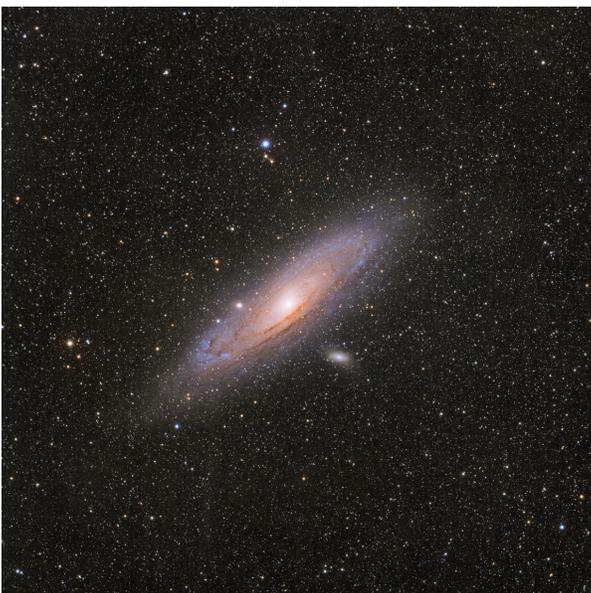
Gear: Rokinon 135 f/2 @ f3

Player-One Saturn-M

Cgem Dx

Astromania LRGB filters

(No guiding) - Dean Louviere



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 lifetime membership

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 contact **Dell Vance, Membership Coordinator** at avteam.dell@gmail.com.