CACHE VALLEY
# CLEAR SKIES

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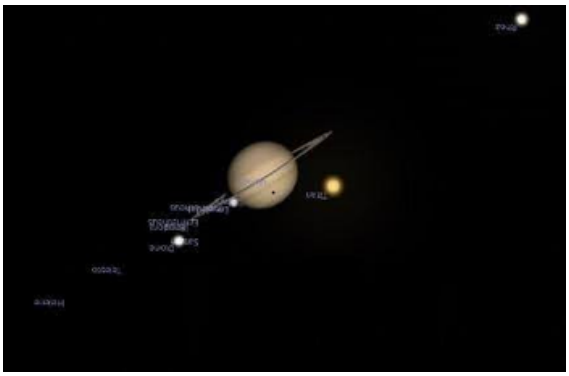
## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Dale Hooper**

We have finished another club fiscal year and we are about to embark on another one. As club president I have truly appreciated everyone who has stepped up and participated in any way. With this being the start of a new fiscal year it brings the opportunity for new people to step into leadership roles whether elected or voluntary.

By the time you read this, I will be on the other side of the world in Papua New Guinea – so I am definitely not running for president again. According to our groups.io list we have over seventy club members so I hope a lot of you will take the opportunity to come to the September meeting and find ways that you can help out. This really is your club and it will be as fun and rewarding as club members make it.

I truly hope that a lot of you were able to make it to our club member only star party on August 15th. These types of events are always a lot of fun and really do help make each of us better astronomers. If not, I hope that you will be able to join us for this type of event in the future.



I was finally able to observe a Titan shadow transit visually on August 3rd. My eastern horizon is horrible because of my neighbor's humongous willow tree – aka the trash tree. I couldn't use my observatory telescope because the tree had Saturn obscured from 1am on from that location. So I set up my 14 inch Dobsonian telescope and had a break from the tree from about 1:15am to 2:40am.

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**Dale Hooper in his bakyard Observatory**

## Executive Committee

- President: Dale Hooper dchooper5@gmail.com
- Vice President: Randy Jost rjost3@comcast.net
- Secretary: Dell Vance
- Newsletter: Dean Louviere deanlouviere@gmail.com
- Membership Coordinator: Dell Vance: avteam.dell@gmail.com
- Public Relations: Bonnie Schenk-Darrington bschenkdarr@gmail.com
- Webmaster: Josh Kirk me@joshkirk.com
- NASA Night Sky Network Coordinator: Dell Vance avteam.dell@gmail.com

I've observed several shadow transits by Galilean moons before, but this was much more challenging since Saturn is so much further away. I used my Planet Slayer 10mm orthoscopic lens with the Dob to get a magnification of 165x. At that magnification the shadow was still just a fairly small dot. I wasn't able to do any imaging but the simulated picture is pretty representative of what I saw. The image through a Newtonian telescope is inverted (upside down) and with left and right also reversed.

Based on my experience, I would recommend at least 200x for anyone that is going to try for the remaining shadow transits. For many scopes this will require a decent Barlow lens. The table below which is based on the one from the June President's Corner shows that there are three opportunities remaining to see a Titan shadow transit. After that you will need to wait about 15 years to see another.

I hope that this next year is a very successful year for each of you as well as the club. I'm hoping to get a few views of the September 7th Total Lunar Eclipse which is observable from Papua New Guinea but it is pretty tropical and rainy there so the weather provides no guarantees.

Until we see each other again here are hopes for – CLEAR SKIES!

| Upcoming Titan Shadow Transits (MDT) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Date** | **Start** | **Mid-Transit** | **End** |
| Sep 4th | 11:25pm (9/3) | 1:09am | 2:50am |
| Sep 20th | 11:09pm (9/19) | 12:20am | 1:34am |

Share your photos and stories with us —we'd love to feature them!
Send them to:
deanlouviere@gmail.com
or beccalouviere@yahoo.com

## Club Meetings

September 19th 7pm
Room 107 of the Engineering Lab Building on the USU Campus

- 3rd Friday of the month

## Star Parties

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunrise Elementary | Sept. 22 |
| Newton Library | Sept. 26 |

## Science Unwrapped

Sept. 19
Oct. 3
Nov. 14

## STEM Nights

| | |
|---|---|
| Mountainside Elementary | Sept. 29 |
| Lincoln Elementary | Oct. 16 |
| Summit Elementary | Oct. 20 |
| Nibley Elementary | Oct. 29 |

## SWAP Meet

Date: Saturday, 9/6 at 3:00pm
Location: Stansbury Park Observing Complex

## Star Parties at home by: Blaine Dickey

There are advantages to having star parties at home. One does not have to pack everything up into one's vehicle. After arriving at the star party location, one has to unpack everything and set it up. After the star party you pack it up again and load back into your car. Upon arriving home, usually at a late hour, you must unload it again and put everything away. It's a lot of effort!

Recently I held a star party in my back yard. One of our club members asked a family he knew to come to my home and enjoy a star party with me. I would like to explain how I set things up for this group gathering.

Of course it is always necessary to have a list of objects to observe for the night of the star party. This is best prepared well in advance and written on a single sheet of paper attached to a clipboard. For my equipment set up I placed my SeeStar S50 outside onto a painted wooden mount that I have cemented into the ground. (shown below).

On the back of my roll off observatory I place a white screen. Then further back I place a projector onto a small platform that sits on the cross brace of my observatory. Next to that I place an Apple tablet that has the SeeStar app in it. Then I connect the apple tablet to the projector using a lightning adapter and a HDMI cable. Finally when it is dark enough I turn on my SeeStar and connect it to my tablet through the Seestar app. I am now ready to image. Using my list of observing objects, I choose an object which the SeeStar then slews to and begins to take near live images of the object. Most of the objects are visible after just 1 minute of stacking 10 second exposures. Using the magic wand in the app and Wah-la!, you can see a decent color deep sky image, projected onto the large white screen that can be brightened and magnified in real time. As the image is being taken I explain some important basic details about the object that is building on the screen. An example of viewing the moon with this setup is shown below.

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**Cont'd from pg 3.**



Before the star party begins I open up my roll off roof observatory. Inside is a Meade 12 inch GPS Schmidt Cassegrain telescope. Once I turn it on and it gets a GPS fix, it is ready for observing. This telescope gives amazing views of the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars through a wide angle eyepiece. It can also be used to look at double stars, and bright star clusters, while we are waiting for it to get dark.

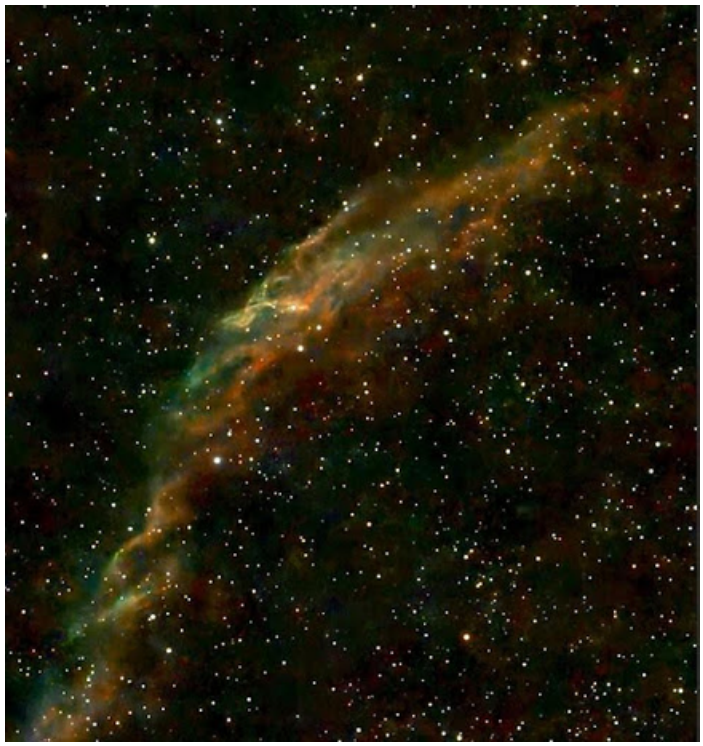

Once its dark enough and the group has looked through my large telescope at several objects then the group goes behind the observatory and sits down while we show them some deep sky objects as mentioned before.

When the time comes for everyone to go home, it is really easy to pack up my equipment, roll the roof back onto my observatory and go back inside. This type of star party can also be held even in the middle of winter. The SeeStar has a built in dew heater so the telescope will work just fine. It's quite easy to mirror the SeeStar app inside my home onto a large modern TV. That way everyone can stay warm and still enjoy the wonders of the universe and I can control the SeeStar from my couch just as easily as being outside next to it.

I think the best star parties in the future will be a combination of visual and near live color imaging using smart scopes like the SeeStar S50. That way the group gets a pretty good idea of what our universe has to offer in full color. This method also works well in a light polluted sky and even with a full moon.

Here are two images that were taken at our club star party at Newton Dam on August 22 with my SeeStar. These images are what star party participants will be able to see projected onto my large projector screen at the back of my observatory.

The top image is Messier 22 and the bottom image is a portion of the Western Veil Nebula, NGC 6960.



# 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.

_____

_____

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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:_____

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Bring this form to the meeting or contact **Dell Vance, Membership Coordinator** at avteam.dell@gmail.com.