



M81 Image by CCAS Member Robin White. Exposures: 9 x 8 minutes, ISO 1600
Telescope: Meade Lx200 10" F6.3 Camera: Canon EOS T3i Processed: Darks
combined in BlackFrameNR Images Stacked & combined in Nebulosity and
Adobe Photoshop 7.0 Final Process: Adobe Lightroom

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 19th
trip to Griffith Observatory.
Everyone's invited! See inside for
more information.

Next Star Gazing: Saturday, May 12
at sunset at the Santa Margarita
KOA. See inside for directions and a
map.

Upcoming Meeting

Instead of our usual club meeting (which would be on the 4th Thursday this Month), our members decided to take a field trip on Saturday, May 19th to Griffith Observatory, and everyone's invited!



If you'd like to participate, please let me know right away with your full name and anyone else traveling with you for this trip. This trip is open for folks 16 years and up, and please no pets. To cover the cost of the bus that will transport everyone there and back safely, we are asking for a \$25 per person donation for the roundtrip bus fare.

If you're interested in this trip reserve your spot with Aurora
Email: aurora@CentralCoastAstronomy.org Tel: (805) 544-4636

Thanks again for making CCAS so inspiring and awesome!

Next Star Gazing

May 12, 2018 at sunset
(8:00PM) at the Santa
Margarita KOA

Our Sky Star Parties occur once a month, and are free and open to the public, and also weather-permitting.



If you'd like to join us, park at the bottom of the hill and walk up to the telescopes just before sunset. If you're got a large, bulky telescope, please arrive *before* sunset to set up.

after dark (you need headlights to see the road), DO NOT drive toward the telescopes! Park at the bottom of the hill and walk up. We welcome students and supervised children to our events.

Please no smoking or pets, and do not bring white flashlights. You might want to bring your own set of binoculars, hot cocoa, and a warm coat.

If you
arrive



Great Service Opportunity

By Glen Smelzer

Recently I had the opportunity to present some astronomy basics to the Boy Scouts of Troop 60 in Paso Robles. Since the meeting was held mostly in daylight, I demonstrated the three main types of telescopes (refractor, reflector, and Schmidt-Cassegrain) and gave an introduction to astronomy followed by answering questions from the boys. I had been thinking about connecting with the Boy Scouts for several months and was finally able to make that connection.



I have since that evening filled out the paperwork to become a counselor for the Astronomy Merit Badge, and I have discovered there probably isn't a counselor for that badge anywhere in the county. While I am willing to be that counselor beyond Paso Robles, I think it would be fantastic if some other members of the Central Coast Astronomical Society picked up this banner and became merit badge counselors as well. Our club motto is "share the skies," and I can think of no better way to do that than to inspire the minds of young people. Since the Boy Scouts are often camping out under the stars, there is a built-in opportunity to help them expand their knowledge and their minds.

Counselors usually work with one or two boys at a time, guiding them through the merit badge handbook and testing them on their knowledge. Strong safety regulations have been put in place by the Boy Scouts of America to protect both the boys and the counselors given the state of mistrust so pervasive in our country right now. For example, a counselor must meet with at least two people at a time (two boys or one boy and a parent).

I grew up in the Boy Scouts, served in leadership as an adult, and guided my two sons through the program as they were growing up. I have always found scouting to be one of the finest programs available for boys as they weave their way through the complexities of life. The codes taught in scouting help generate fine adult citizens, and I want to be a part of that paradigm. I hope a few of the members might join me in this endeavor, and I stand ready to guide volunteers through the process. Feel free to email me at grannynpa@sbcglobal.net.



Griffith Observatory Trip!

Visit Los Angeles with us during our fun field trip!

Would you be interested in going on a day trip to the Los Angeles Griffith Observatory?

Leaving Saturday, May 19th around 7am from San Luis Obispo. (Return time TBD, but it will be on the same day.) The trip cost will be \$25 per person for to cover the roundtrip bus fare.

This is limited to ages 18 and over (please no pets). If you'd like to bring your scope and assist the LAAS with their star gazing (they begin scope setup at 2pm for public solar viewing), you can find out information about this here:

<http://www.griffithobservatory.org/programs/publictelescopes.html>

If you are interested in attending, please send an email to Aurora at aurora@CentralCoastAstronomy.org reserve your spot.



CCAS Officers

Feel free to connect with us!



President: Joseph Carro

Vice President: Tom Frey

Outreach Coordinator: Dave Majors

Treasurer: Lee Coombs

Communications: Aurora Lipper

Celestial Advisor: Kent Wallace

Webmaster: Joe Richards

CCAS Contact Information

Founded in 1979, the Central Coast Astronomical Society (CCAS) is an association of people who share a common interest in astronomy and related sciences.

Central Coast Astronomical Society

PO Box 1415

San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Website: www.centralcoastastronomy.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CentralCoastAstronomicalSociety

Lectures & Star Parties

MONTHLY MEETING & LECTURE

On the fourth Thursday of the month (Jan-May, Aug-Oct), we often have world-renowned professionals and amateurs in astronomy speak about their projects during our monthly meetings. The talks are informal and questions are invited.

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in San Luis Obispo. For location and directions, visit our website: www.sloastro.org

OUTREACH PROGRAM

We offer a limited number of outreach programs where we bring our star party to you. These custom events include a talk about current topics in space science. After the lectures, we make our telescopes available for your group to observe the wonders of the night sky.

STAR-GAZING EVENTS

Join us for a star-gazing evening by observing the dark skies through club members' telescopes. It begins just before sunset on one Saturday each month. The Star Party is hosted in Santa Margarita. (See website www.sloastro.org for dates, times and locations).

Need help operating your telescope? Bring your telescope one hour early for help on how to work your telescope by our friendly astronomers.



Why Join CCAS?

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Subscription to *Celestial Newsletter*, our monthly bulletin of articles and events
- Interaction with world class speakers as they present cutting edge astronomical research
- Discounts on *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazines
- Social events, such as our annual Star-B-Que
- Club telescopes – use one of the club's loaner scopes, complete with instructional lessons
- Access to 'Members Only' are of the website containing observing tips, scope tricks, and educational articles for all levels
- Field trips – to observatories and other locations of scientific interest, such as Mt. Wilson Observatory in Pasadena, Chabot, Space and Science Center, Fremont Peak, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (registration fee may be requested)
- Extended observing hours on public nights and private observing sessions exclusively for CCAS members
- Assistance from club members, and other "how-tos" to help you best enjoy amateur astronomy and astrophotography

Questions about membership or other events? Call Lee Coombs at (805) 466-2788 or visit our website at:

www.sloastro.org

How to Join

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is annual for each upcoming year, beginning when you first sign up. You can sign up online or mail in this form:

Membership Categories (Check one):

- ☐ \$15 Youth/Student
☐ \$15 Seniors
☐ \$20 Individual/Family

Magazine subscriptions Add specified amount to membership fee for a 1-year subscription.

- ☐ *Sky & Telescope* (+ \$33) only in September
☐ *Astronomy* (+ \$34) only available in September

Information: (PRINT CLEARLY!)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Newsletter Subscription:

You can choose E-Mail (recommended) or hard copy delivery for *Celestial Observer*: (check one)

- ☐ E-Mail (full color)
☐ Hard Copy (black & white)

Please make checks payable to Central Coast Astronomical Society and mail to P.O. Box 1415, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405.

