Moon on July 29, 2018 Image by CCAS Member Dave Majors.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 27th, 7PM at United Methodist Church, Wesley Building. PLEASE NOTE: There will be no August meeting.

Next Star Gazing: Saturday, August 14th at sunset at the Santa Margarita KOA. See inside for directions and a map.
Upcoming Meeting

Thursday, September 27th in the Wesley Room
1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo
6:45 Doors Open | 7:00 Meeting Starts

(Please note: there is no August meeting)

Topic: Variable Stars

Image Credit: NASA, Spitzer Space Telescope, WISE
Explanation: Stars this volatile are quite rare. Captured in the midst of dust clouds and visible to the right and above center is massive G79.29+0.46, one of less than 100 luminous blue variable stars (LBVs) currently known in our Galaxy. LBVs expel shells of gas and may lose even the mass of Jupiter over 100 years. The star, itself bright and blue, is shrouded in dust and so not seen in visible light.

The dying star appears green and surrounded by red shells, though, in this mapped-color infrared picture combining images from NASA's Spitzer Space Observatory and NASA's Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer. G79.29+0.46 is located in the star-forming Cygnus X region of our Galaxy. Why G79.29+0.46 is so volatile, how long it will remain in the LBV phase, and when it will explode in a supernova is not known.
Next Star GazIng

August 14, 2018 at sunset (7:30 PM) 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. Check our website for all the details!

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The Best Meteor Shower of the Year

By Jane Houston Jones and Jessica Stoller-Conrad

If you’re a fan of meteor showers, August is going to be an exciting month! The Perseid meteor shower is the best of the year, and in 2018, the peak viewing time for the shower is on a dark, moonless night—perfect for spotting meteors.

The best time to look for meteors during this year’s Perseid shower is at the peak, from 4 p.m. EDT on Aug. 12 until 4 a.m. EDT on the Aug. 13. Because the new Moon falls on the peak night, the days before and after the peak will also provide very dark skies for viewing meteors. On the days surrounding the peak, the best time to view the showers is from a few hours after twilight until dawn.

Meteors come from leftover comet particles and bits from broken asteroids. When comets come around the Sun, they leave a dusty trail behind them. Every year Earth passes through these debris trails, which allows the bits to collide with our atmosphere and disintegrate to create fiery and colorful streaks in the sky—called meteors.

The comet that creates the Perseid meteor shower—a comet called Swift-Tuttle—has a very wide trail of cometary dust. It’s so wide that it takes Earth more than three weeks to plow all the way through. Because of this wide trail, the Perseids have a longer peak viewing window than many other meteor showers throughout the year.

In fact, this year you should be able to see some meteors from July 17 to Aug. 24. The rates of meteors will increase during the weeks before Aug. 12 and decrease
after Aug. 13. Observers should be able to see between 60 and 70 meteors per hour at the shower’s peak.

The Perseids appear to radiate from the constellation Perseus, which is where we get the name for this shower. Perseus is visible in the northern sky soon after sunset this time of year. Observers in mid-northern latitudes will have the best views.

However, you don’t have to look directly at the constellation Perseus to see meteors. You can look anywhere you want to; 90 degrees left or right of Perseus, or even directly overhead, are all good choices.

While you’re watching the sky for meteors this month, you’ll also see a parade of the planets Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn—and the Milky Way also continues to grace the evening sky. In next month’s article, we’ll take a late summer stroll through the Milky Way. No telescope or binoculars required!

Caption: The Perseid meteor showers appear to radiate from the constellation Perseus. Perseus is visible in the northern sky soon after sunset this time of year. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech
**CCAS Officers**

Feel free to connect with us!

President: Joseph Carro  
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Treasurer: Lee Coombs  
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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.*

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Our website at:
Call the Committee at (805) 466-2788 or visit
guests about memberships or other events.

Space and astronomy

and photography

You can choose E-mail (recommended) or hard copy delivery for your membership fee.

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Name(s)

Information: (PARTS CLEAR)

Monthly meetings are held in September, October, November, and December. Visit our website for more information.

Benefits of Membership

Why Join CASA?

Monthly Meeting & Lecture

Lectures & Star Parties

Outreach Program

Monthly programs are held on the third Thursday of the month (except for:

Star-Gazing Events

Site-

We offer a limited number of outreach programs. To schedule an outreach program, please contact us at:

CASA's programs, performances, and lectures are free to the public.

Access to Members Only, are the website, online member forum, and print newsletter.

Volunteer opportunities are available to members.

Social events such as our annual Star-Gazing Event.

Free admission to national and international observatories.

Annual membership dues are $35 for individuals, $50 for families, $50 for students, and $25 for senior citizens.

Membership is open to all individuals who are interested in astronomy.

Membership Application:

How to Join