Central Coast Astronomy Virtual Star Party
January 28th, 2022 at 7pm Pacific

Welcome to a new year of stargazing with us! This handout will have information that goes along with our interactive virtual stargazing tour with Aurora, Brian & Kent. We’re going to focus on objects you can see with binoculars or a small telescope, so after our session, you can simply walk outside, know where to look, and really understand what you’re looking at.

Before our session starts:

Step 1: Download your free map of the night sky: www.SkyMaps.com

Step 2: Click this link to join in: www.CentralCoastAstronomy.org/stargaze

Main Focus for the Session:

1. Cassiopeia (ancient Greek constellation)
   a. NGC 459 (open cluster, mag 6.4, >200 stars, 7,900 ly dist, “Owl Cluster”)
   b. M103 (open cluster, mag 7.4, 70+ stars, 7,200 ly dist)
   c. NGC 281 (emission nebula, mag 8.0, 9,600 ly dist, “Pacman Nebula”)
   d. NGC 7789 (open cluster, mag 7.8, >580 stars, “Caroline’s Rose”)
   e. M52 (open cluster, mag 6.9, >130 stars, 4,600 ly dist)
   f. NGC 7635 (emission nebula, mag 10.0, 7,100 ly dist, “Bubble Nebula”)

2. Andromeda (ancient Greek constellation)
   a. M31 (spiral galaxy, mag 3.4, 2.5 million ly dist)
   b. M32 (elliptical dwarf galaxy, mag 8.1, 2.5 million ly dist)
   c. M110 (spheroidal dwarf galaxy, mag 8.1, 2.57 million ly dist)
   d. NGC 7662 (planetary nebula, mag 8.3, 3,200 ly dist, “Blue Snowball Nebula”)
   e. NGC 891 (edge-on spiral galaxy, mag 9.9, 31 million ly dist, “The Outer Limits Galaxy”)

Questions during the show?
Send an email to questions@CentralCoastAstronomy.org

“ly dist” refers to “light years distant”
Equipment Recommendations:

After a star gazing session, the first thing people want to do is buy a telescope. BUT telescopes are pretty useless unless you know where to point them! Instead, get yourself a nice pair of binoculars and do several star gazing sessions (with us virtually or in-person with your local astronomy club).

Binoculars for Astronomy:

- Celestron Cometron 7x50 Binoculars ($35) – great for kids!
- Orion’s UltraViews 10x50 ($140)

Once you’re more familiar with the patterns of the night sky, it’s time to start thinking about owning a telescope. *The best telescope for you is the one you are going to use.* Here are our best recommendations for newbies to get started:

Beginner telescopes:


**For adults:** (this is really going to depend what you want to look at and what your typical “seeing conditions” are – we recommend visiting an in-person star-gazing session with your local astronomers before you purchase anything!)

- 8” Newtonian Reflector [https://bit.ly/3f3C0qS](https://bit.ly/3f3C0qS) (easy to use, good all-around scope for deep sky objects, planets, moon)

Get connected with your local astronomy club and get star gazing!