

Celestial

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Observer

September 2019



Credit: Dr. Lee Coombs, M42

Next Meeting: Guest Speaker Prof. Lee Coombs will be speaking Thursday, September 26th at 7 PM, United Methodist Church Wesley Building

Next Star Gazing: Saturday, Sept 28th at sunset at the Santa Margarita Lake. See inside for directions and a map!

Upcoming Meeting

Wesley Room, 1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo

6:30pm Doors Open | 6:45 Refreshments & Solar Telescope Viewing | 7:00 Meeting Starts

An illustrated talk by Lee Coombs titled “Animals of the Deep Sky” will be presented at the September meeting. Lee will discuss the use of common names associated with deep sky objects with special emphasis on those



names associated with the animal kingdom. Common names are sometimes associated with the constellation in which the objects are found and others by their similarity with recognizable objects. Common names are used almost universally at star parties.

An observer, when asked what they are observing, instead of saying “IC 5146,” states they are looking at the Cocoon Nebula or the “Veil Nebula” instead of NGC 6960. The use of common names is universal and used both by the amateur as well as the professional astronomer. I Googled “Common Names for Deep Sky Objects” and found six, single-spaced pages listing the many common ones! Come with your imagination and join Lee in ferreting out some of these animals of the deep sky.

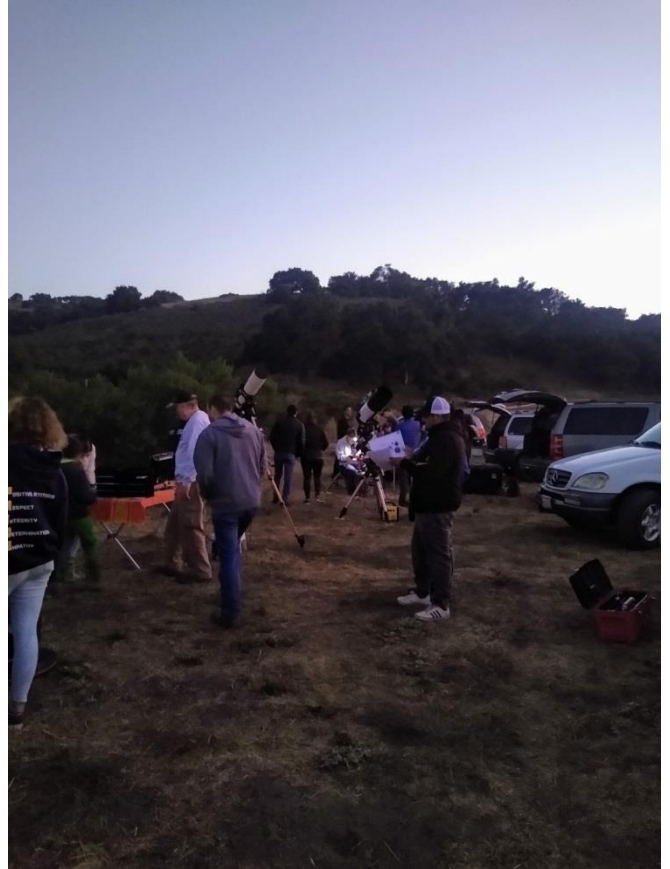
The second part of Lee's program will be the description of how he processes his astrophotos using Photoshop. Lee prefers the KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) approach in processing the images he takes with a DSLR camera. Those who may be interested in doing some astrophotography in the future, or may be doing some now, should benefit from some of the short cuts Lee uses to obtain his images. Unlike using high end CCD cameras requiring the taking of many dark frames, bias frames, flat fields, etc. followed by many hours of post processing, using a DSLR greatly reduces these requirements. Lee hopes that those astrophotographers in attendance will share their methods as well.



Astronomy Outreach Event

By Steve Williams

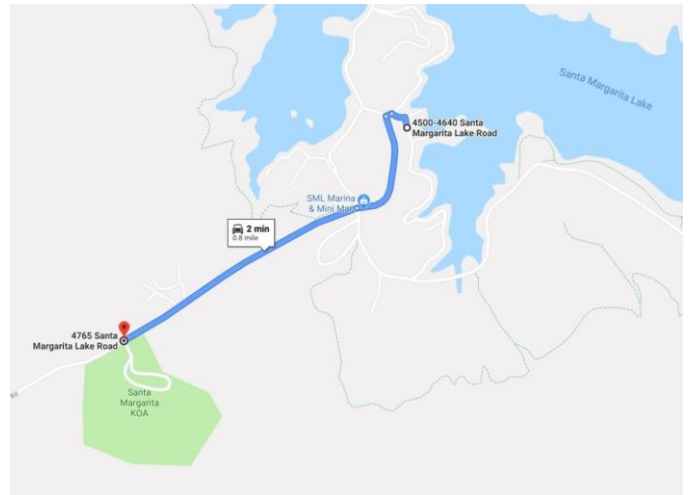
Thanks Susan, park volunteers, and all of the astronomy clubs who contributed to make Friday night the best stargazing event yet at Los Flores Ranch Park. As I understand, there was an attendance of 263 guests; and we all were blessed with clear skies! Imagine how many would have showed up if the surrounding area wasn't socked in with clouds (e.g. my own daughter was one of them)!! I was able to snap a few photos before the lines began.



Next Star Gazing

September 28, 2019 at sunset (6:40 PM) at the Santa Margarita Lake

Join us for star gazing at Santa Margarita Lake! The entrance to the Lake is about ½ mile east of the KOA campground. Here's a map that shows how to get there from the KOA. There is no parking or entrance fee, and there are restrooms located nearby.



No dust or mud, flat asphalt surface, restrooms, large area, plenty of parking, and best of all, no lights! Make sure you proceed to the Lake, and don't stop at the KOA. In the past, we've star gazed at the KOA, however we've found a new home now out by the Lake that our astronomers really enjoy!

If you have specific questions regarding directions to the location, please contact Scott by email: scmcmillan@charter.net

If you have a telescope you'd like help with setting up, please arrive before sunset so our friendly astronomers can assist you with it.

CCAS Officers

Feel free to connect with us!



Vice President: Tom Frey

Communications: Aurora Lipper

Outreach Coordinator: Scott McMillan & Glenn Smeltzer

Treasurer: Lee Coombs

Celestial Advisor: Kent Wallace

Webmaster: Joe Richards & Aurora Lipper

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

