

Central Coast Astronomy Virtual Star Party

March 25th, 2022 at 8pm 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.

Tonight Brian is going to share live views with you while Aurora and Kent talk about what you are looking at. Most of these require a telescope to view, so we're going to share live images with you and explain as we go, so you can 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:

- a. M42 (Great Orion Nebula)
- b. B33 (Horsehead Nebula)
- c. NGC 2024 (Flame Nebula)
- d. NGC 2237 (Rosette Nebula)
- e. M97 (Owl Nebula)

Questions during the show?

Send an email to questions@CentralCoastAstronomy.org

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)

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 kids: 8" Dobsonian Telescope: [Orion Skyquest XT8 Classic Dobsonian](#)

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 [SkyView Pro](#) (easy to use, good all-around scope for deep sky objects, planets, moon)

8" Schmidt-Cassegrain [Meade LX90 ACF](#) (more compact, good all-around scope for planets, galaxies, nebulae, astrophotography)

90mm Refractor [AstroView](#) (harder to use, best for planets and moon observing)



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

