

Image by member:

Loyd Overcash

Taken from our home in Ft. Davis, my 2
observatory domes under the Milky
Way.



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March Novice Meeting

“How to Set Up Your Telescope”

7:00pm CST Thursday, March 2, 2023 on Zoom



Every telescope must be set up and adjusted properly before it can be used productively. For those starting out in astronomy or who are unfamiliar with a particular type of scope, this can be challenging to say the least. When the telescope fails to do what one expects, disappointment and frustration can set in.

Never fear intrepid StarGazer! Your fellow HAS members are here to help!

Join Joe Khalaf and Tim Pellerin as they walk you through the process of setting up your telescope and getting it ready to serve you dutifully for an excellent night of observing. They will show you their approach to getting set up, answer your questions and even share with you the secrets you need to know to avoid those dreaded Operator Errors.

Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO).

- Michael Rapp - **Variable star visual observing** with AAVSO.
- Brian Cudnik - **Sunspot Counts** and variable star observing with AAVSO.
- Don Selle – **Cameras for All-Sky Meteor Surveillance** (CAMS) – Texas network.
- Walt Cooney - **Operating a remote research telescope** – The Madrona Peak Observatory'

Each of the panel members will give a brief description of the work that they are doing, and also will answer questions from those attending the meeting.

Join us for what promises to be an interesting and informative discussion!

Messier Mini-Marathon!

Saturday, March 11, 2023 at the Dark Site

7:43 AM 3/11/2023 Multiple Saturday evening forecasts show mostly clear!

Event: Messier Mini-Marathon. Log sheets available. Dob Shed Café open. Telescope operator on C14 for viewing Messier objects, planets, Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF).

Weather: Good sources to check Saturday morning for conditions Saturday night are weather.com, cleardarksky.com, and astrospheric.com. Sunset 6:31pm; moonrise 10:39pm. Multiple Saturday evening forecasts show mostly clear!

Rules: Light windows are 10pm and 12midnight. Light etiquette rules apply.

The Dob Shed Café will be open. Feel free to bring a favorite to share. I've been told I'm bringing a Texas sheet cake.

(Hmm, how will I keep the milk cold? Guess I'm bringing ice, too)

The HAS observatory will also be open. Rene will be your telescope operator (TO) running through half the Messier list on the C-14. Stop by to check your observations...or check mine;) I'll also slew to requests; just bring RA & Dec coordinates. Hey, want to try the comet again? We saw it in much worse conditions last month.

Constellation tour at twilight. Joe will be conducting a tour of the skies. Don't miss it if you're new to the night sky. Twilight is a great time for planets and satellites. Log them for your HAS TX45 list.



Why you might want to visit the dark site on partly cloudy nights

- You're new to the club, want to check things out, and it's good weather for overnight camping
- You want to practice setting up your equipment in preparation for clearer skies

- You can look through the observatory C14—the bigger the aperture, the more you can see
- You want a piece of Texas Sheet cake and a glass of milk

See you soon at the dark site!

Rene Gedaly

Field Trip & Observing Chair

fto@astronomyhouston.org

Hello, Deep Sky Enthusiasts!

Let's attempt half the Messier list from 7pm - midnight Saturday, March 11 at the HAS dark site. Light windows are 10pm and midnight. Please review your light etiquette rules...

The Dob Shed Café will be open. Bring a favorite to share. I've been told I'm bringing a Texas sheet cake. (Hmm, how will I keep the milk cold? Guess I'm bringing ice, too)

The HAS observatory will also be open. I'll be your telescope operator (TO) running through half the Messier list on the C-14. Stop by to check your observations...or check mine;) I'll also slew to requests; just bring RA & Dec coordinates. Hey, want to try the comet again? We saw it in much worse conditions last month.

Twilight is a great time for planets and satellites. Log them for your HAS TX45 list. Someone (Joe) will no doubt keep us informed of celestial happenings.

Fingers crossed for good weather. We won't cancel unless it's just too cloudy.

Rene Gedaly

Field Trip & Observing Chair

fto@astronomyhouston.org

Food For Thought

Presented by Jim King

Produced By The Fertile and Talented Mind of Juliane McAdam, IDA Contributor

A P o e m : H o n o r t h e N i g h t

It is said that in the time of Galileo, the Milky way shone brightly

Enough to cast a shadow.

Now, who can even see the broad band of our galaxy in the night sky?

We hide it with bright city lights, go inside our houses and flip switches.

We no longer honor the night sky.

Ancient cultures measured time in the moon's phases,
The days of each cycle counted out; they knew when the moon would wax and wane.

But who today is aware whether the moon is crescent, full, or gibbous?

We no longer honor the night sky. The ancients saw pictures in the night sky,
Each culture telling the stories of its creation, its heroes and its gods, in the stars.

Who today can see these celestial forms or knows their stories?

We no longer honor the night sky.

On a retreat with preteen students, far enough from city lights to see the cosmos,
On a night when bright Venus casts a shadow, we asked them to turn off their flashlights,
Let their eyes adjust, trust their steps to the starlight.

We honored the night sky.



Contact the Houston Astronomical Society

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HAS members receive this newsletter monthly. Others interested in HAS must subscribe directly.

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