Fostering the Science and Art of Astronomy
Through Programs that Serve our Membership
and the Community
NGC 2204 - Flame Nebula, IC434 Nebula and B 33 - Horsehead Nebula
Image by HAS Member Simon Tan
President's Letter
by
Joe Khalaf

Looking for Silver Linings

Like most of you reading this, I, too am looking forward to putting 2020 in my rearview mirror and hoping that 2021 brings about a much better outlook than we’ve had for the last 9 months or so. We continue to see a profound impact from COVID-19 on millions of people – physically, economically, and mentally – and the devastating losses of life continuing to mount as we see another resurgence in various parts of our country. Here at the Houston Astronomical Society, we have known several members who have come down with COVID-19 but fortunately, I am not aware of anyone who has lost their life in our club.

December Novice Presentation
Via Zoom

Novice to Novice

Tonight we will hear stories of the triumphs and pitfalls of getting started in astronomy. Craig Lamison will lead off with his advice. Novices, please bring your questions and cautionary tales. Experienced astronomers, please bring your expertise! Let’s help each other and HAVE SOME FUN

December 3, 2020, 7:00PM

Read More
HAS Main Speaker Presentation
Via Zoom

"Holiday Cheer
&
HAS Astrophotographers Tell All

Our Astrophotographers:
Bart Moore – HAS ATRC 12 Astrograph
Chris Morrisette- Getting Started in AP
David Haviland – Lunar and Planetary
Jeff Lepp – Widefield Imaging
Val Ricks – A Selection of Styles
Don Taylor – Widefield Imaging

December 4, 2020, 7:00PM
HAS Memberships run from 1 January to 31 December

Time to RENEW YOUR HAS MEMBERSHIP so you can take your 2021 Dark Site Training January 1st and get the new gate code before it changes on March 6th! HAS memberships run from 1 January to December 31. Fortunately, renewing your membership is fast and easy!

Field of View

by Don Selle
Guidestar Editor

The year 2020 will be remembered for many things, most of them unpleasant, but against the odds it has actually been a good year for amateur astronomy in general and HAS in particular. Despite the shadow of the pandemic and for a myriad of reasons, public interest in astronomy surged as did membership in HAS.
Visual Challenge Object
December 2020

NGC 891
The Silver Sliver Galaxy

by Stephen Jones

Read More

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Shallow Sky Object - Dec 2020

Mirzam—A Beta (β) Cepheid Star

by Bill Pellerin

Read More
Asterism “37”, NGC 2169, Collinder 83

by Steve Goldberg

Since ole Charlie Messier is not around to herald the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, I thought I would try to fill in the breach with some observing tips and thoughts.

Note of interest: There are those who believe a similar conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn 2,000 – odd years ago, might have been the source of the “Star of Bethlehem” event heralding the birth of Jesus.
Astrophotography Corner- December 2020

By: Don Selle

It's December and as the weather cools and the toddies get hotter, all good astronomers thoughts turn to – NEW EQUIPMENT!! Which brings us to our subject for this month's AP Corner.

Over the last month, there have been a number of our members seeking input on intended equipment purchases to upgrade their systems, and maybe expanding their options to get into astrophotography. For instance, Jim King asked the HAS list server whether or not he would see enough visual improvement to upgrade to a Celestron Edge HD SCT (on an Alt Az mount), which would also possibly open the door to astrophotography later on.