

[Test] HAS Guidestar February 2021

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Sat, Jan 30, 2021 at 9:33 PM

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GUIDESTAR February 2021

Fostering the Science and Art of Astronomy
Through Programs that Serve our Membership
and the Community

LDN1584 Cederblad51

HAS Member Image of the Month

HaLRGB - 28.3 total hours exposure
Imaged over 6 nights in Nov and Dec 2020

Image by HAS Member

Jeff Lepp



President's Letter

by
Joe Khalaf

Obseving Valentine's Day

When I think of February, I think of Valentine's Day two weeks into the month. Actually, if I'm being completely honest, I probably end up dreading Valentine's Day more than anything other "holiday" there is. On February 14th, I run around town trying to pick up roses, chocolates, perfume, jewelry, or anything else that's readily available in the shortest amount of time possible, because, as usual, I wait until the last minute to buy these gifts. Also, because I have a young daughter, I've got to pick up a gift for her, too. And not to be left out, my 11-year-old son will likely want chocolates, as well. I think the holiday card companies knew they needed to inject some anxiety in a period where there was very little in the later winter months.

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February Novice Presentation Via Zoom

Eclipses Conjunctions and Occutations

Debbie Moran will explain what these patterns are and how they are formed, and get you ready for the first big conjunction of the year which will be a conjunction of Venus and Jupiter on February 11th.

February 4th 2020 at 7:00PM

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HAS Main Speaker Presentation

Via Zoom

Introduction to Astronomical League Observing Programs

by: Dr. Aaron Clevenson

Astronomical League National Observing Program Director

Membership in the Astronomical League (AL) is a benefit of membership in HAS.

The AL currently offers 74 different observing and special recognition programs that span all experience and skill levels from those brand new to astronomy to advanced amateur astronomers. These observing programs are open to all HAS members.

Please join in as Aaron gives us an overview of the AL Observing Programs and how they can enhance your enjoyment and understanding of astronomy.

February 5th 2021 at 7:00PM

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H.A.S. New Member Survey - 2020

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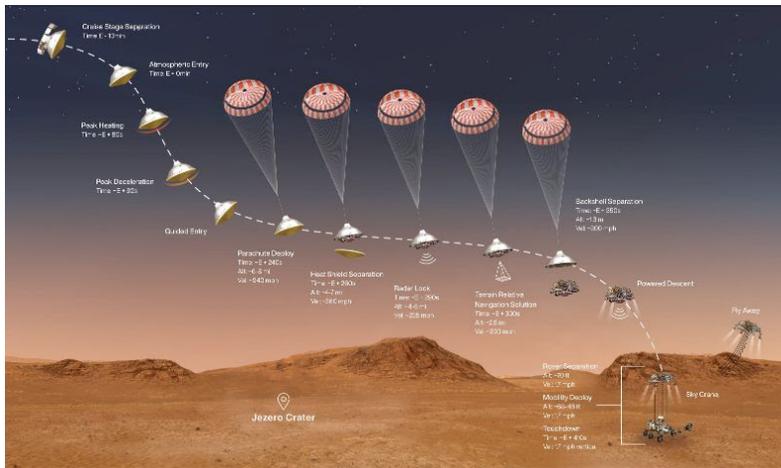
Time To Renew Your Membership

By Mike Edstrom, Treasurer

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!

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Landing On Mars - a Tricky Feat

by David Prosper

Night Sky Network

The Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter will land in Mars's Jezero crater on February 18, 2021, NASA's latest mission to explore the red planet. Landing on Mars is an incredibly difficult feat that has challenged engineers for decades: while missions like Curiosity have succeeded, its surface is littered with the wreckage of many failures as well. Why is landing on Mars so difficult?

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WSIG 2021 Kickoff

February 14, 2021 at 7:00PM



Thought Valentine's Day would be a good day to kick off our first WSIG meeting of 2021. We'll meet via Zoom at 7pm, meeting notice to come.

In the meantime, think about what you'd like to get out of our "club within a club" (thanks, Sarah Silva!). You can share ideas now via the HAS_WSIG email list or wait until we get together. I may break Keto to show off my Red Velvet Cake.

Not a member of the *Women's Special Interest Group*? Contact Rene at reneg@astronomyhouston.org to get added to the list.



Observing

Field of View

by Don Selle

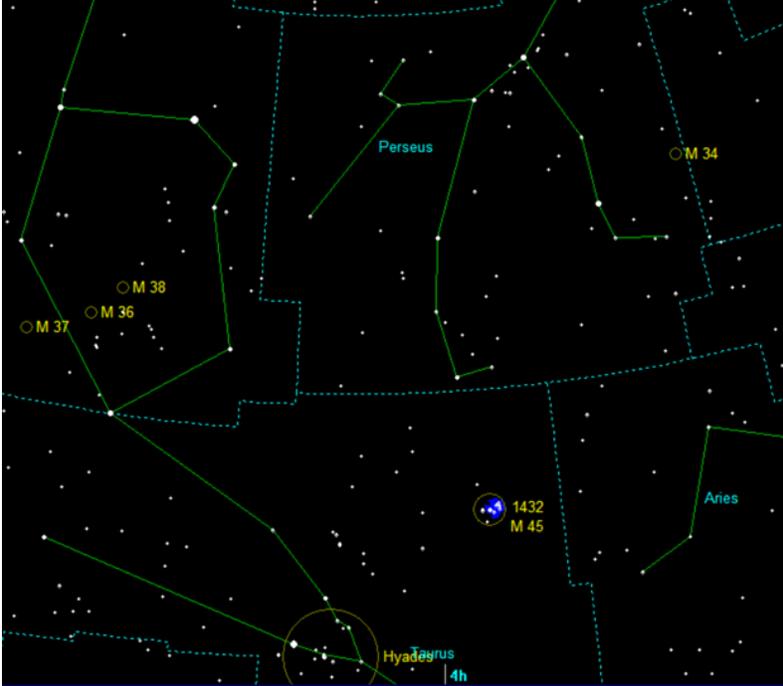
Guidestar Editor

If you are new to amateur astronomy, you may have noticed that as a group, amateur astronomers use the words observe or observation more than most people. If you are now saying "yeah I had noticed that" you are very observant yourself, and if you hadn't noticed, don't worry, amateur astronomy will help make you a better observer.

But what does it mean to observe or be observant? Dictionary.com can help here. To observe is

- * to see, watch, perceive, or notice
- * to regard with attention, especially so as to see or learn something
- * to watch, view, or note for a scientific, official, or other special purpose.

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Messier Objects February 2021

by Jim King

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NGC 3242

Eye in the Sky

by Walt Cooney

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Dolidze 17

An Object in the AL Asterism Observing Program

by Steve Goldberg

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APSig Revs Up!

By: Don Selle

If you take pictures of the night sky, even if it is only occasionally, you might want to join the HAS Astrophotography Special interest group or APSig for short. The APSig is an email listserv and currently boasts over 60 members. The experience of APSig members span the gamut of experience, from those who are just starting out, to some of our most accomplished astrophotographers.

Have a question about the pros and cons about equipment? Need some help with autoguiding, or processing your latest image capture? The APSig is the place to ask it.

Show off your latest image. APSig members are always supportive and will share their experience with you.

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