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## GUIDESTAR May 2021

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

### M63 - The Sunflower Galaxy

Image by HAS Member

Loyd Overcash

M-63, also known as the Sunflower Galaxy is located in Canes Venatici about 37 million light years away. Taken on 4-9-21 from Ft. Davis TX using a 14.5" RC and an SBIG STL-6303e CCD camera.

Exposure was L=60 min. and RGB=42 min. each taken in 3 min. subs.



## May Novice Presentation Via Zoom

# "The Observatories on Mount Haleakala."

*with Bill Spizzirri*

One of the advantages of traveling as an amateur astronomer is that you see and understand astronomy related tourist attractions in a depth and from a perspective that others may not. Bill will share with his signature wit and insight, his travels to and experiences at the observatories on Mt Haleakala, Maui, Hawaii.

**May 6th 2021 at 7:00PM**

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## HAS Main Speaker Presentation

Via Zoom

by: **Don Selle**

### An Introduction to Creating Awesome Nightscape Images

Over the past several years, we've all seen some awesome nightscape photos online, in various publications and even in television advertisements. Seeing these images, many of us are inspired to try to create our own awesome night sky images. With the right equipment, software, a little knowledge and a lot of practice and patience, you too can create your own awesome nightscape images

**May 7th 2021 at 7:00PM**

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## Field of View

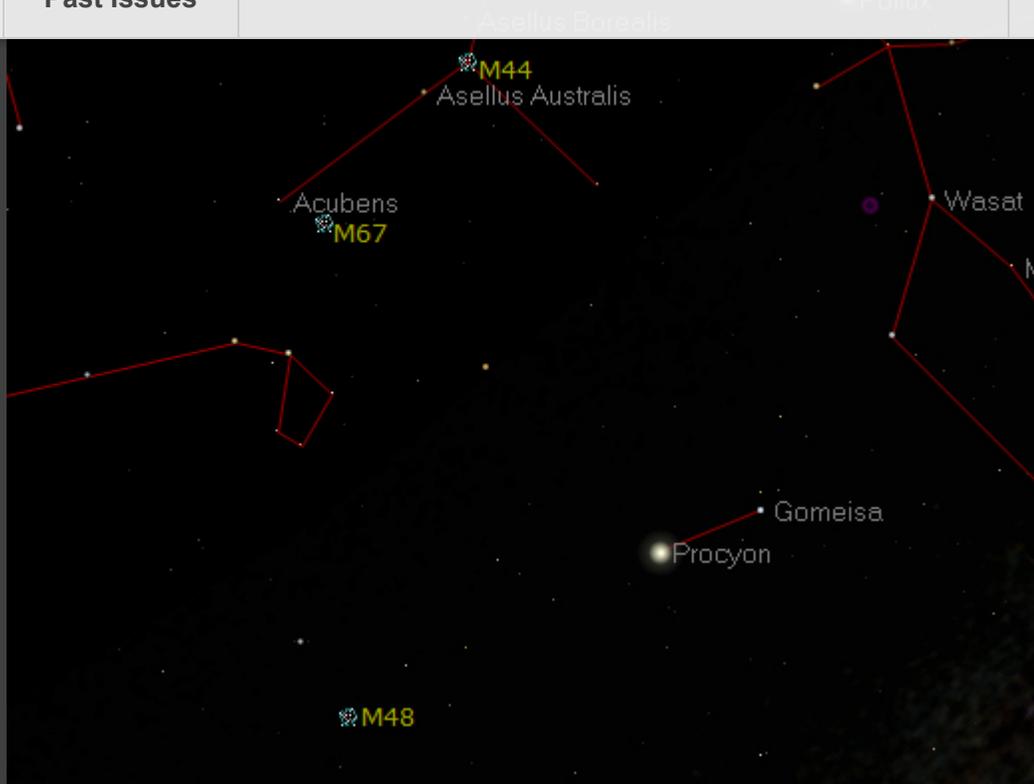
### Volunteer and Pass it Forward

by Don Selle - Guidestar Editor

**“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill**

It was not so long ago that we “seasoned” astronomers were lamenting the greying of our hobby, which for many is more than just a pastime.

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## Messier Column - May 2021

**By Jim King**

The birth of the messier catalogue: Without question, the messier catalogue contains some of the most spectacular deep-sky objects visible in small telescopes, but their inclusion is largely circumstantial. Messier never intended to create a list of the most spectacular objects in the heavens. His was a catalogue of “comet masqueraders” as the late comet discoverer Leslie Peltier called them.

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## Asterism

By **Steve Goldberg**

Found in the constellation Draco is an asterism of stars in the shape of a “W”. It is officially called “Kemble 2”, but is sometimes referenced as a “Mini-Cassiopeia”.

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A Hubble Space Telescope (HST) image of NGC 4449.

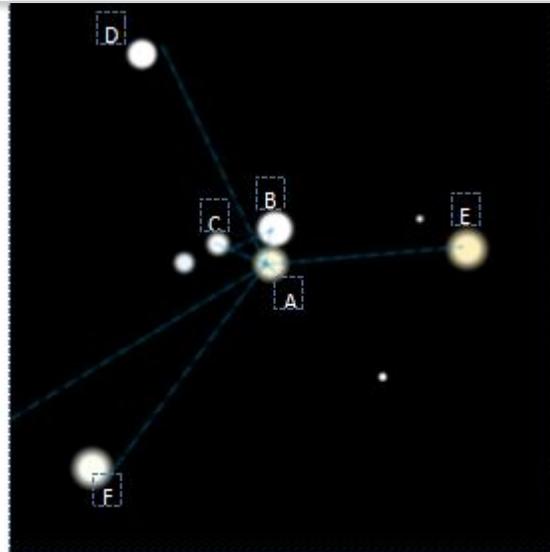
Credit: HST/NASA/ESA.

## Challenge Object - May 2021

by **Stephen Jones**

**NGC 4449 – Irregular Galaxy in Canes Venatici**

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*Detail chart above; finder chart below. Star charts generated by TheSkyX © Software Bisque, Inc. All rights reserved.*

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## Shallow Sky Object of the Month

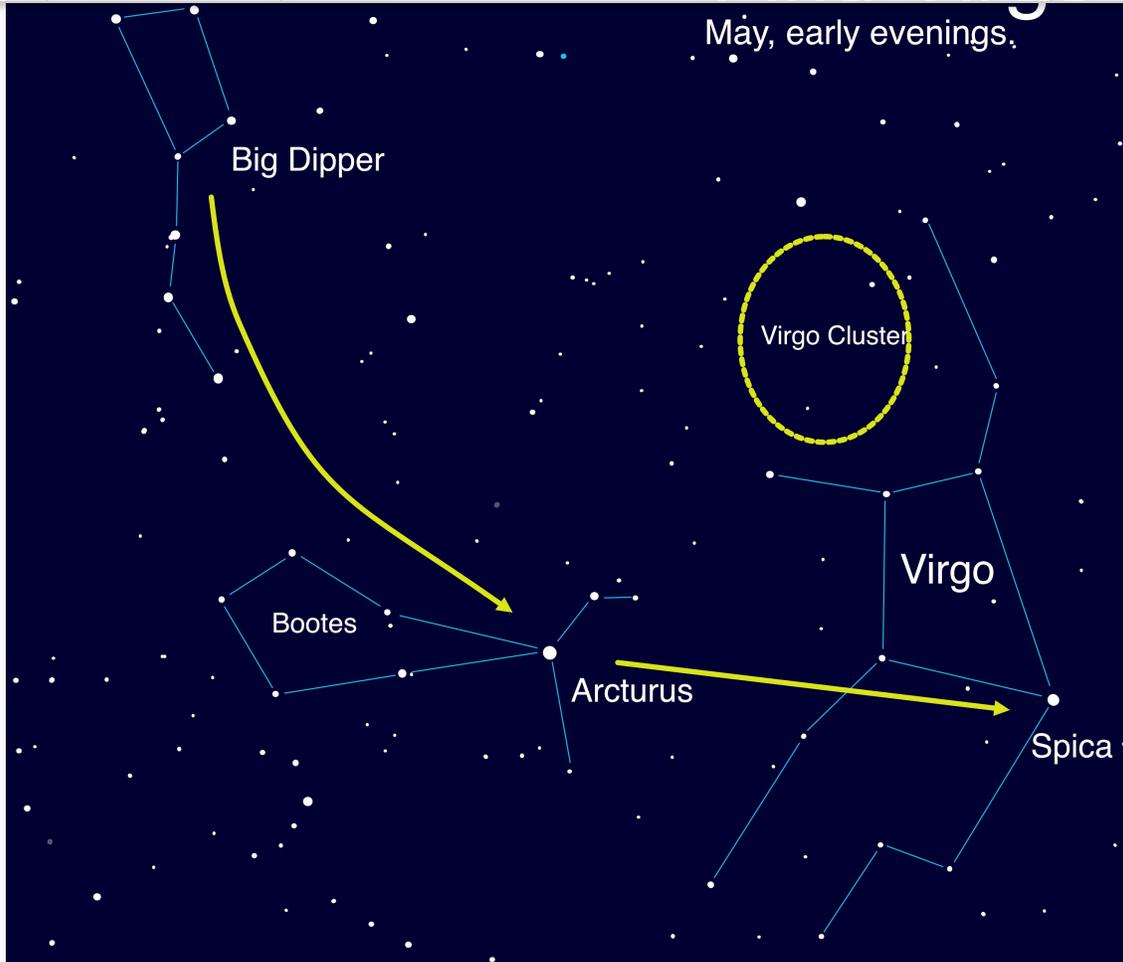
May 2021

### The StarGate Asterism

by Bill Pellerin

The first time I ever heard of the Stargate asterism was when I picked up a copy of John Wagoner's 2013 observing list at the Texas Star Party.

[Read More](#)



## Virgo's Galactic Harvest

by David Prosper

### NASA Night Sky Notes

May is a good month for fans of galaxies, since the constellation Virgo is up after sunset and for most of the night, following Leo across the night sky. Featured in some ancient societies as a goddess of agriculture and fertility, Virgo offers a bounty of galaxies as its celestial harvest for curious stargazers and professional astronomers alike.

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## Measure Your Imaging System

By Don Selle

When you get new equipment - use cloudy or moonlit nights to complete setup tasks so you don't need to spend that time when the imaging is good.

[Read More](#)

## Save The Dates



### UBarU to host 5th Annual Star Party Sept 3-6, 2021

The UBarU Star Party (USP) is being held over Labor day Weekend Sept 3-6. UBarU is an IDA-designated Dark Sky Park and is a four-hour drive from Houston in Mountain Home, Texas. Want to hear firsthand about this newer star party that's so close to home? Contact Rene Gedaly at [reneg@astronomyhouston.org](mailto:reneg@astronomyhouston.org), and be sure to ask about goats in trees.

texasstarparty.org



### With Speakers:

David Levy	Famed Comet Hunter and Author
Stephen J. O'Meara	Author and Astronomy Magazine Contributor
Dr. Karl Gebhardt	Professor of Astronomy University of Texas
Stephen Hummel	Dark Skies Specialist McDonald Observatory

### TUNE IN

June 10 @ 8:00 PM  
With a **LIVE STAR PARTY** from the George Observatory

June 11 @ 6:30 PM

June 12 @ 6:30 PM  
(all times are CDT)

\*speakers, times, and streaming destinations subject to change

Watch it  
**LIVE**  
online



@TexasStarParty  
 @ExploreScientificUSA  
 @DeepSkyDude  
 @HoustonAstronomicalSociety  
 @TheAstroJoe



@ExploreScientificUSA  
 @DeepSkyDude  
 @HoustonAstronomicalSociety  
 @TheAstroJoe

**Nightly trivia contests and door prizes!**



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