

* CAS *

Charlottesville Astronomical Society



December 2021



Welcome Guests Welcome Zoom Guests New Members

Vedang Mulay
Kirby Hutto
Rebecca Deaton
Casey Reed
Joe Foster
Corinne Gardner
Dave Sappington
Pramodh Adi



Club Business

- **CAS 2021 memberships**
- **Individual 38**
- **Family 36**
- **Student/military 3**
- **Senior 37**
- **Educators 0**
-
- **Total 114**



Club Business

- **CAS Bank Account Balance :** **\$113,346.38**
- **Future Astronomers Share:** **\$6,368.18**
- **Uncleared Checks:** **0**
- **Petty cash:** **\$110.00**
- **Total CAS cash assets :** **\$13,456.38**

CAS is a 501c3 Non-profit

*****DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1*****

Pay online at:

<https://www.cvilleastro.com/online-member-application/>



Your Officers for 2022

CAS President Steve Layman

I am a retired band director who has taught at James Madison University, Piedmont Virginia Community College, University of Virginia and Western Albemarle HS. I have served as music director for the Charlottesville Municipal Band since 2008. I am the project manager for the UVA Astronomy Department's CLUSTER program (Chandra Loans UVA's Telescopes to Educators). As a club member I have served as President, Vice-President and Outreach Director and serve as the coordinator for the CAS Future Astronomers, Heidi's Night at McCormick Observatory and events at Ivy Creek Natural Area. I also model N scale trains and enjoy hiking in Central Virginia.

Steve plans all regular and executive council meetings and works with teachers and schools in the area to plan astronomy related events.

slayman2528@comcst.net



Your Officers for 2022

CAS Vice-President and Observing Director Merian Burkett

I was born and raised in south Louisiana. Have been in Virginia since 1997. I raise alpacas and make things with their fiber including spinning my own yarn. I am a novice at astronomy, but love learning about our night skies.

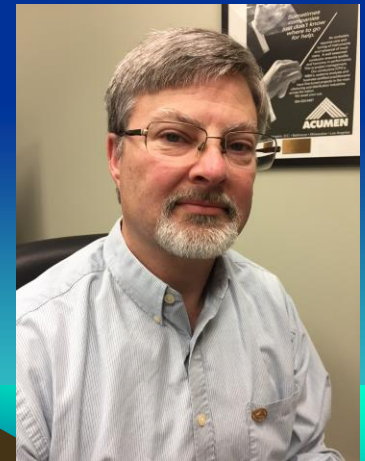
Merian works to schedule observing events and sends out observing tips and reminders

merian@lagniappe-farm.com



Your Officers for 2022

- **CAS Secretary Mark Owenby**
- **A native Virginian and alumni of the University, I now live in Somerset (near James Madison's Montpelier). I work from home most of the time for a Richmond-based software consulting firm. My wife Merian and I are excited to learn as much as we can about observing, and CAS is a great opportunity to learn from a number of great mentors. We have been involved with the summer observing sessions up at Big Meadows with Rich and can host sessions at our farm as well for those on the western side of C'Ville.**
- **Mark keeps a record of what happens at meetings and**
- **takes care of official correspondence.**
- **mark@lagniappe-farm.com**



Your Officers for 2022

CAS Treasurer Michael Hegedus

- CAS member since 2012; treasurer since 2013.
- Retired from Navy as aeronautical engineer
- Interests:
 - play piano, violin, guitar
 - astronomy - interested in cosmology, stellar functions, CAS
 - management
 - Machine shop - operate variety of computer-controlled devices
- Widowed
- Michael can help with reduced subscription prices to Astronomy, S&T, and dues ngc6705@comcast.net



New Members – Get to Know Ed

CAS Mentor and Equipment Manager Ed Preston

I retired from a career in mechanical engineering in 2007. In 2008 my wife and I moved from Galveston County TX to Charlottesville. We live under a half-dark sky, but within easy reach of local commerce. I have been seriously interested in amateur astronomy since I saw M5 through a home built 17.7" Dob about 1986. My primary interest is in helping other amateur astronomers advance in the hobby. I also pursue still and video astro-imaging. Recently clouds have gotten in my way a lot, so, like making lemonade from lemons, I am branching out toward skyscapes and time-lapse video of clouds.

Ed is the person to contact about using one of the club loaner scopes ed.pr3ston@embarqmail.com

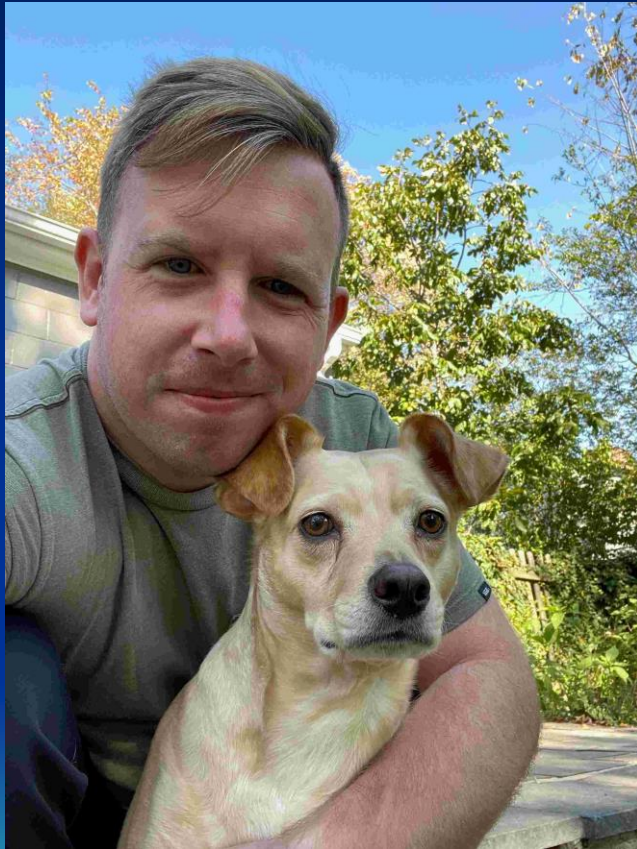


Member of the Month

- Has always enjoyed stargazing
- Moved to Charlottesville a couple of years ago
- Works as a Government Contractor
- Two Dogs
- Joined CAS in September



Joseph Hayes



Astronomical Events for December

- 12.3 Venus Maximum Brightness
- 12.4 New Moon
- 12.10 Jupiter – 2 shadows and Great Red Spot
Possible CAS Holiday Party McCormick Observatory 7 – 10 pm
- 12.11 First Quarter Moon
Possible CAS Holiday Party
- 12.14 Geminid Meteor Shower Peak
- 12.19 Full “Oak” Moon – always shines in Gemini
- 12.21 Winter Solstice – Shortest daylight / Sun lowest in the sky
- 12.22 Ursids Meteor Shower
- 12.27 Third Quarter Moon

<https://www.space.com/33974-best-night-sky-events.html>

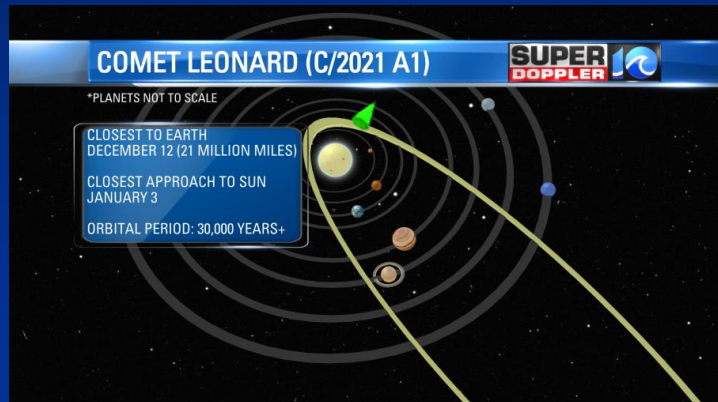
- **Look for Observing Information in emails from Merian Burkett**




December Sky 8:00 pm



Comet Leonard



CAS Holiday Party



Best Weather night December 10 or 11
At
McCormick Observatory
7 – 10 pm
Masks required inside the Observatory

Holiday Books for Astronomers

Suggestions for

Beginners

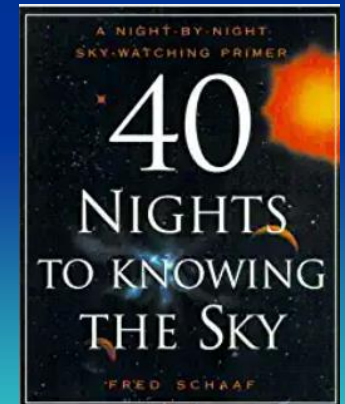
and

Intermediate



40 NIGHTS TO KNOWING THE NIGHT SKY – FRED SCHAFF

- 1998 – may be a newer editions but 1998 is just fine
- Henry Holt and Co Pub
- GREAT basics for visual observation, 3 sections – Heavens in Motion, Variety and In Depth
- Good glossary
- Schaff has written for Sky and Telescope for more than 40 years



The Night Sky Month by Month

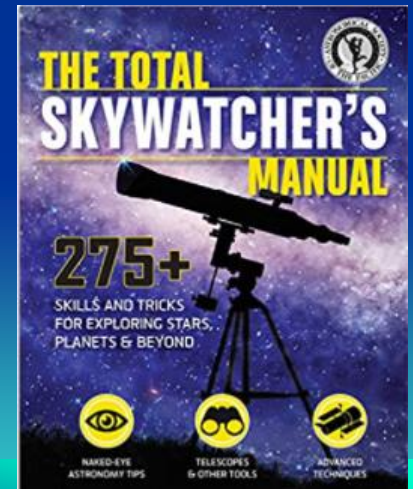
– Jean Louise Heudier

- Yearly
- Firefly Books – any year will be great for basic information
- Lots of pictures and maps
- Heudier has many astronomy books to his credit



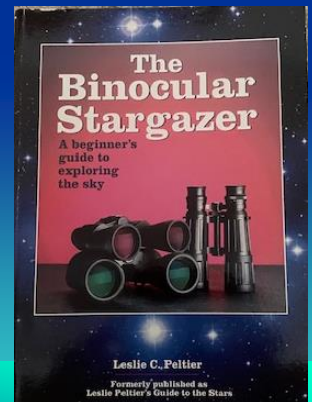
The Total Skywatcher's Manual – Shore, Prosper, and White

- 2015
- Astronomical Society of the Pacific
- Great images, glossary, index and resources
- MUST Have



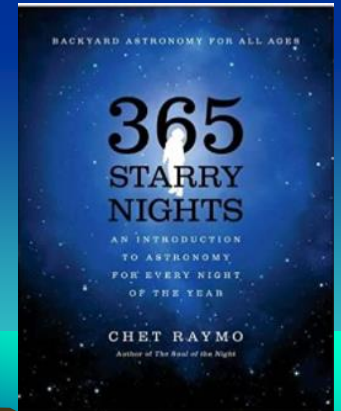
The Binocular stargazer – Leslie Peltier

- 1995
- Kalmbach Publishing (Publishers of Astronomy Magazine)
- Detailed observations of an amateur
- Good Appendices w/ space for personal observations



365 Starry Nights – Chet Raymo

- 1982
- There are newer editions, but the original is fine
- EVERY Night under the night sky in ANY year
- Hand Illustrated – no pictures
- Small glossary
- Author was Astronomy and Physics professor at Stonehill College in Massachusetts

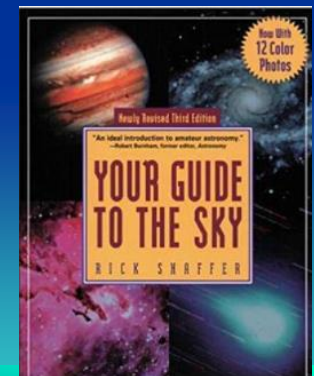


Your Guide to the Night Sky – Rick Shaffer

- 1994 – I believe there are later editions
- Lowell House, Publisher
- Dry textbook approach – no images, all hand drawn
- The best part of the book is the all-sky map and zoom map for each object

which teach star hopping

- Author is a NASA Planetary Scientist



Turn Left at Orion – Consolmango and Davis

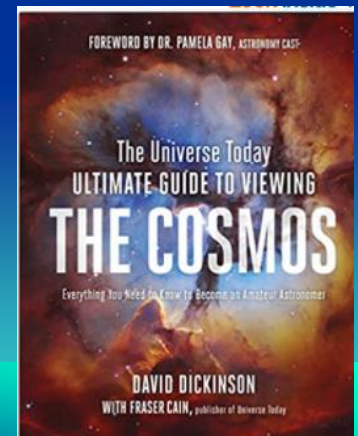
- First published 1989
- Cambridge University Press
- Ideal for small telescopes (4" / 80 mm) – 100 of the best night sky objects
- Hand drawings and sketches (except for images of the moon)
- Authors are professional astronomers



The Universe Today Ultimate Guide to Viewing the Cosmos

David Dickinson, Fraser Cain

- 2018
- Page Street Publishing
- Amazing images and graphics LOTS of charts and activities
- Chapter summaries with [wwweb](#) links
- Top of the heap!
- The author lives in Norfolk



Celestial Sampler – Sue French

- 2005
- Sky and Telescope Publisher
- GREAT maps and pictures
- Especially for SMALL telescopes
- Wrote monthly column for nearly 20 years



Astronomical League Observer's Handbook and Calendar

- Handbook \$24.00



- Calendar \$18.00



- https://store.astroleague.org/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=12

What's Up In December?

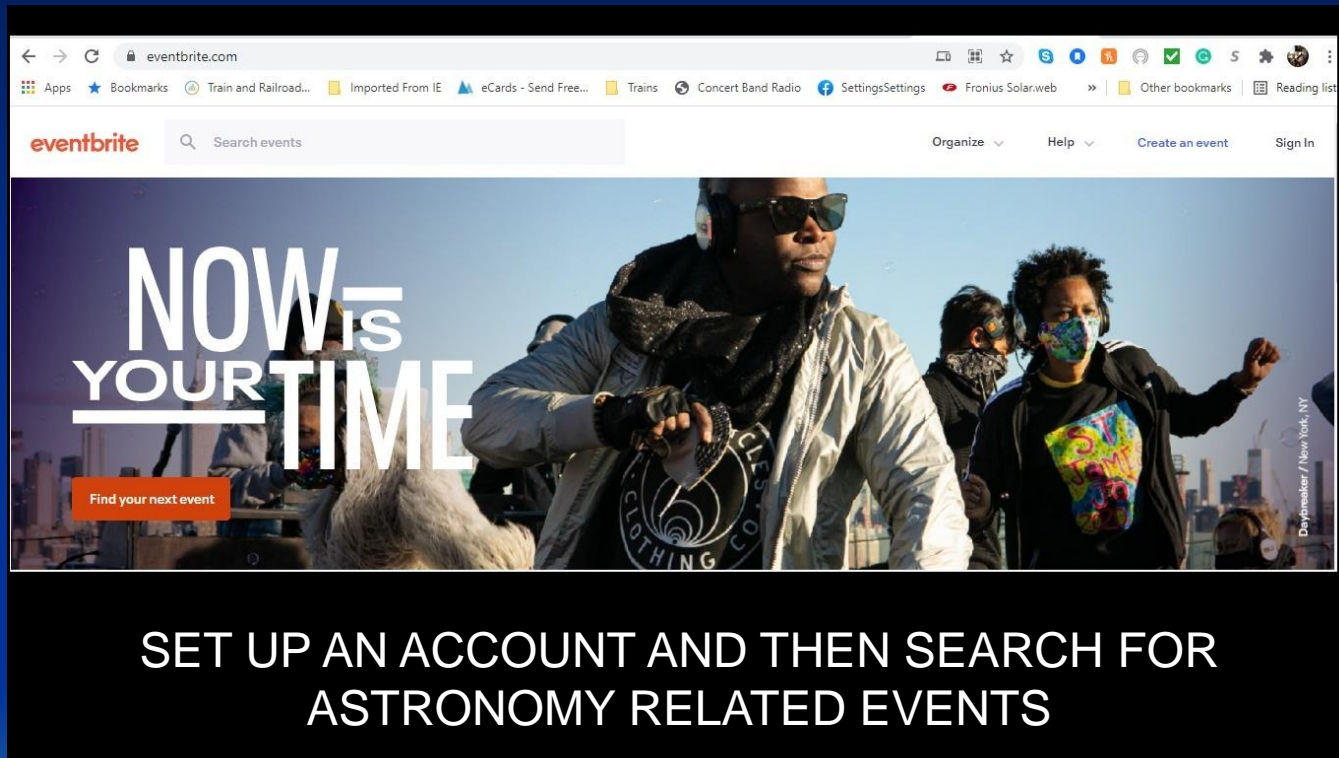
<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/skywatching/home/>

Check tomorrow or Friday



Website of the Month

EVENTBRITE



Upcoming Speakers

- **December**
- Shooting Stars – Jeff Ridder, CAS
- **January**
- George Ellery Hale. The Man, His Machines, and His Disease – Stacey Mills, CAS
- **February**
- Spectroscopy and Hypersonic Engine Design – Chloe Dedic, UVA Areospace Engineering
- **March**
- Apollo 16 – Ed Murphy, UVA Astronomy
- 10 Minute Topic – Intro to Dark Energy – Dave Giltinan, CAS

*****Looking for suggestions for 2021*****

**MEETINGS WILL BE IN PERSON AT MC CORMICK
OBSERVATORY WITH NO ZOOM OPTION BEGINNING
JANUARY 5**

NEW CAS Observing Policy

CAS Council voted last week to re-open the club to in-person observing and outreach as of November 1. we will begin to schedule group and public observing sessions when and where the opportunity presents itself. When UVA re-starts Open House at McCormick, we will offer Group Nights on the 2nd and 4th Fridays and Heidi's Nights on 5th Fridays. It is suggested that those observing through telescopes be masked but it is NOT required.



Tonight's Speaker



Jeff Ridder, CAS

Shooting Stars

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

McCormick Observatory

This will NOT be a zoom meeting
UNLESS UVA changes its
protocols before the meeting.



Door Prize Drawing

