



Carpe Noctem



The News of Central Texas Astronomical Society

September - October 2017

VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 5

President: Aubrey Brickhouse

Editor: Kent Swarts

August 2017 Eclipse

Several club members shot fantastic photos of the August eclipse. They follow.

Dan Doyle





Steve Brown



President's Letter

September-October 2017

CTAS has been busy this summer with Star B Ques, Star Parties and special events for Boy Scouts, etc. We did have one issue that hampered us some as the Club Imaging camera failed to cool properly and has been repaired but is still not operating properly. This focuses us on the need to quickly finish up the current fund raiser for upgrade of the Telescope Computer and software so we can move on to another project of funding a replacement camera. The one we have is getting close to 14 years of service. We appreciate any contributions that you can make to the club as we close out the current 2017 year. Please get them in so that they will qualify for deductions on income taxes for 2017. We are about half way to our goal of \$20,000 for the upgrade.

Recently Doug Peters resigned from his job of CTAS Coordinator of Public Star Parties due to personal reasons. He will remain with the club. We really appreciate him taking care of this vital ministry for the past 7 years. Brandon Lawler will assume that job in October and he is already a valuable member of the Bell County Star Party team. We know he will do a great job. Please volunteer to help him carry out the Bell County Star Party as this is one of our best recruitment places for new members.

Everyone in CTAS can be proud of Dick Campbell and Dave Eisfeldt for making the November Sky and Telescope with an article on how they are being credited with finding a small moon around the main-belt asteroid 113 Amalthea. Only about 145 of this type of main-belt asteroids have been found with one or more moons. This is quite an accomplishment and both of them have gotten lots of local publicity for themselves and for CTAS from Waco television stations.

Our October Membership meeting will be on October 10th in Temple at the Golden Corral Restaurant at 6:30pm. Meal price is \$12.00. We have many members who traveled to see the August 21st Eclipse and we will hear and see what they accomplished in the "once in a life time" event.

I have appointed Willie Strickland as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and he and

his committee will recommend the officers for 2018 at the Oct. 10th meeting. If you are interested in serving or volunteering please contact him soon.

Finally, please consider coming and setting up your telescope on the field this fall to enjoy the great skies we have at the Meyer facility. They are not quite up to the skies of the OkieTex Star Party that Jeff McClure, Dave Eisfeldt and myself just returned from but they are the best in Central Texas.

Look forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting.

Aubrey Brickhouse

President CTAS

**10 Years ago in CTAS: VOLUME XIV,
NUMBER 6 2007 CARPE NOCTEM**

September Letter from the President (Dean Chandler). The last few months have been busy. Let's catch our breath for just a minute to reflect on where we have come and what is in store for the next few months. Thanks to the efforts of many, we've built a road, dedicated the observatory and its site, had some great events, and we even have a little money in the bank. Your Board of Directors has approved a dues increase, effective January – the first in at least ten years! All of you who have contributed time, money, and advice over the past year should pat yourselves on the back. Another thing to be proud of is our newsletter, Carpe Noctem, which continues to come out regularly, thanks to the efforts of Kent Swarts.

**20 Years ago in CTAS: VOLUME IV, NUMBER
10 1997 CARPE NOCTEM (MCAC)**

The Club received late breaking news from the ALPO regarding the mottling in Jupiter's NPR (North Polar Region). Wynn Wacker, the coordinator for the Jupiter section of the ALPO, confirmed that our own Johnny Barton submitted the first visual of that event among the many who observers of that event.

Several MCAC members got a glimpse of twenty first century science tucked inside an airport hangar on Sept. 30th. Thanks to Dick Campbell, MCAC members were invited to a presentation of the SOFIA project. Inside was a Boeing 747 with the SOFIA telescope installed that is capable of carrying the telescope above 41,000 ft. to image IR data from selected objects.

CTAS Astrtronomy Day at Ralph Wilson Youth Club, Temple, Texas

The RWYC, as the organization is called, hosted an astronomy day for the younger kids. Gale Peek, Dick Campbell and Kent Swarts each did a part. Kent gave a presentation on the Life Cycle of a Star. Gale added highlights and information in a way that brought the stars to life. She was instrumental in their understanding the life cycle.



Dick set up and manned a telescope for the kids to look at the sun. We had about 30 children in attendance.

Donna Lammert of RWYC hosted the event.



The Temple newspaper ran an article about the event the next day. (See next page.)

Thank you, Gale and Dick for your amazing work.



Kent Swarts, right, of the Central Texas Astronomical Society recently presented a program on "The Birth and Death of a Star" to about 30 youngsters at the Ralph Wilson Youth Club in Temple. Dick Campbell, the group's vice president, also brought a telescope with a filter that allowed the children to safely view the sun. Pictured, from left, are: Brett Wilson, youth club staff member; Swarts; Ke'odderick Mayo, youth club member; Talley Beard, youth club member; Donna Lammert, youth club staff member; and Campbell.

Submitted by Gall Peak

HOW TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR OUR CENTRAL TEXAS

China Spring Intermediate School

May 2, 2017

by Dave Eisfeldt

CTAS held a star party on the evening of May 2, 2017 at the baseball field next to China Spring Intermediate School. The star party was at the request of China Spring school teacher Vicky Hall. About 200 students and adults attended the event. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

CTAS was represented by members Johnny Barton, Dave Eisfeldt, Dan Doyle, Michael Gonzales, Paul Derrick, Mike Green, and Garrett Mathesen. It was a pleasure to see Paul Derrick visiting from Denver Colorado. Members brought their own scopes. Since the airport was across the street and the time of the event was one day past a first quarter moon our view was limited to the moon and Jupiter. Also, clouds obstructed the view at times. This did not deter some good viewing. At times the equatorial belts were clearly seen when occasional clouds tempered the brightness of the planet. The telescopes used were a refractor, a Newtonian, and three eight-inch Schmidt-Cassegrains. The students were able to see Jupiter and the Moon thru a variety of different telescopes.



North American Nebula Photo

Jeffery McClure.



Lagoon Nebula Photo by Aubrey Brickhouse.



Meyer Telescope Camera Down

Hi gang, as you are aware we shipped the CTAS PI camera for repair of the vacuum on the imaging chip this summer and it was returned and worked fine at first. Recently Dick Campbell discovered that it was no longer cooling so on Tuesday Dean Chandler and Brad Walter went out to investigate. They used the power supply from the UT camera to check our camera and indeed the UT power supply cooled the UT old camera but not our camera. So he talked to PI and confirmed that the CTAS camera's Peltier cooler has failed. Since it has an integrated chip and cooler there is no repair

unless there is something else causing it. There is a slight chance that there could be a board failure due to corrosion. So Dean is working that angle with them as there was disappointment in their failure to address this corrosion issue when we returned it. At this point, that is a slim hope and more than likely we have to address the issue with getting a new camera. The current camera will take pictures but will not cool.

In the meantime, I will be back next week and will install the QSI camera on the telescope. If you run it in 2x2 binning it will be close to the same sensitivity as our current camera. However, it will only cool to about 30 degrees below ambient temperature.

That is all we have so far.

Upcoming Webinars

The next ClubExpress webinar is on the Blogs module.

12:00 noon Eastern; 11:00 AM Central; 10:00 AM Mountain; 9:00 AM Pacific.

Here is the webinar schedule

October 4 – Overview for new and prospective customers

October 11 – Additional Member Data Questions

October 25 – Document Libraries

November 1 – Overview for new and prospective customers

November 8 – Member Management

November 22 – Surveys

Please RSVP with your name, club name, and seminar

to: rsvp@clubexpress.com

Observatory Open House	Oct 14
Hubbard & Belton Star Party	Oct 14
Member Star Party	Oct 21

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