



**Monthly Notices  
of the  
Everglades  
Astronomical Society**  
Naples, FL  
March 2, 2025



**Officers: President:** Paul Leopold **Treasurer:** Kathy James  
**Home Page:** <https://evergladesastronomicalsociety.org/Home.php>

### President's Message

Greetings EAS Members,

As I write this message, the one thing both Mike Usher and I noticed at the Winter Star party was the lack of big Dobsonian telescopes. In their place, set up along the shoreline, were dozens of smaller fast refractors 80-110mm of focal length. These telescopes were equipped with CMOS astro cameras, controllers, auto-focusers and auto guiders. We are witnessing another paradigm shift in amateur astronomy. Star parties at dark sky sites are now populated with smaller easily transportable rigs that allow imaging deep sky objects previously viewed only through behemoth reflectors. I must admit that after 50 years of being a visual observer, I gave my son my old 6" reflector. He bought a go-to mount and it snowballed from there. An 80mm apochromatic refractor, a new DSLR, controller and auto guider soon followed. He got hooked and now he knows more about imaging than I do.

I'm thinking of "taking the plunge" into imaging myself. I think it will present new challenges in my exploration of the universe. It is appropriate that our March meeting will feature EAS member Monica Stark who will speak on astro-imaging. I look forward to her presentation. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM and be in the Collier County office meeting room on Orange Blossom.

We will also present a slate of eight Board of Directors candidates that will be voted on during the March meeting. They are Paul Leopold, Mike Usher, Rich Sherman, Kathy James, Louis Tancredi, Bob

Gurnitz, Robert Francis and Denise Sabatini. The Board will consist of five people who receive the most votes from the membership. The election will be held at the start of the March meeting.

We will briefly review the ballot and voting process during the meeting.

Best regards,  
Paul Leopold

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### A Note on the Monthly Newsletter

Remember, this is your newsletter! Please submit your notes, articles and images for inclusion each month. The submission deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the preceding month. For the next monthly newsletter, please share your articles and images (outreach, club photos & astrophotography) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month.

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### UPCOMING EAS MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month and usually start at 7pm.

**March 11, 2025: Time 7:00 – 8:00 pm**  
North Collier Government Center  
2335 Orange Blossom Dr., Naples, FL

Note: **We will vote on the Board of Directors at this meeting, and have EAS merchandise again available (t-shirts, etc.) for purchase. We ask all**

**members to do their very best to attend the March meeting in person OR via Zoom so that we can have our annual elections.**

Guest Speaker: EAS member Monica Starks is a serial entrepreneur with experience in media, startups, travel, environmental consulting, and construction industries. She is the station manager of Jazzy 107.5 and the host of Coastal Confessions which airs each Sunday in southwest Florida. Monica is also the owner of iShoot Photography Travel agency in Bonita Springs. She is an avid astrophotographer and will discuss astrophotography during our March meetings.

**April 8, 2025: Time 7:00 – 8:00 pm**  
North Collier Government Center  
2335 Orange Blossom Dr., Naples, FL

Guest Speaker (Tentative): Trevor Braun, President of the Cuyahoga (OH) Astronomical Association, will speak on eyepieces.

\*\*\*\*All meetings are accessible via ZOOM:  
Meeting ID: 349 568 7507  
Passcode: telescope

Please do NOT share this info with non-club members.

**SPECIAL EVENT:**

Our club member Bob Gurnitz invites EAS members to attend a meeting of the MIT Club of Southwest Florida for Dr. Peter Fisher's presentation, "*Do Black Holes Explode?*" Professor Fisher is a physics professor at MIT and he recently published a book entitled "What is Dark Matter?"

When: Friday, March 21, 2025; 11:30 AM socialize; 12 noon lunch; 1 PM presentation

Where: Eagle Creek Golf & Country Club, 601 Eagle Creek Drive, Naples, Florida 34113

Register by March 14 at:  
<https://alumcommunity.mit.edu/topics/23432/page/home>.

Non-MIT alumni welcome.

**Big Cypress and Other Viewing**

We have the following sungazing/stargazing outreach dates with the public. Please bring your telescope and enjoy sharing the skies with our community. (Sungazing is typically 2pm-4pm):

*March 4 - Parkside Elementary, MOON VIEWING*  
*March 29 - Collier Seminole, SOLAR ONLY*

Let's not forget we have a TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE the night of 3/13-3/14. If you have a suggestion on a group viewing or outreach, please share your idea at the March meeting.

Stay up-to-date with weather and viewing opportunities on the GroupMe app.

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**Astronauts Will Launch from Cape Canaveral  
By Rich Sherman**

On March 12th the crew of four astronauts—including one Cosmonaut and a Japanese astronaut—will begin their journey to the International Space Station. Lift-off at Cape Canaveral is scheduled for 748pm eastern time. If anyone is interested in going, please share your plans at the March meeting and/or on the GroupMe app.

To see a list of upcoming launches—and there are many of them thanks to Space X—visit: <https://spaceflightnow.com/launch-schedule/>.

**Seestar Software Upgrades  
By Rich Sherman**

ZWO recently introduced some excellent upgrades to its Seestar software. First, up to eight devices can connect to a Seestar now, making it much easier to share your view with family and friends, or at outreach events. The first connection—which should naturally be the owner's connection—is the one that controls the device.

Second, your Seestar now has a new "mosaic mode," thereby allowing you to capture wide field images with the Seestar S50's f/5 250mm focal length. Take

a look at Bob Gurnitz's fantastic mosaic images later in this newsletter.



*Screenshot of Seestar S50 capturing mosaic image  
(Rich Sherman)*

Lastly, the embedded ZWO software now includes image processing and a solid “denoise” algorithm allowing you to do post-production onboard without the need for separate software packages.

Of course, it is also important to remember you can save all the individual frames during an image session in RAW format. You can then process them in high-end software programs like PixInsight. For me, the ability to capture, stack, and process individual RAW frames makes this device an excellent travel companion.

### **Book Review By Richard Sherman**

*“Our Moon”  
by Rebecca Boyle  
Published 2024  
Grade: B  
Hardback \$20.40 on Amazon*

*236 pages*

I am a Moon lover, but then again, who isn't? It feels like a lifelong companion. While in the Navy, there were many nights when I was at sea and far from home, and I would look up and see the Moon. I felt comforted by the sight of an “old friend.” It gave me assurance that time would pass and I would be home soon.

During a recent meeting of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, I learned that Random House had published a book entitled “Our Moon.” I immediately purchased it.

The book's author, Rebecca Boyle, has written a well-researched and detailed book on all things “lunar”—from the many ways it has influenced and protected the Earth so that (intelligent) life could evolve, to its impact on art and religion. I found the first few chapters compelling—it offered the right mix of science and history. However, at 336 pages, the book was a bit too “comprehensive” for me. In short, I got bored with the depth of discussion and rehashed debates on the Moon's influence on cultures and religions from hundreds or even thousands of years ago. That said, I am sure there are many who would love these well-researched insights.

In the end, I am glad I bought the book and recommend others do the same. The reason being: the first few chapters are just that good.

In closing, Ms. Boyle does book presentations—as she did the Princeton astronomy group—and if there is sufficient interest here at EAS, I would be happy to contact her.

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### **ASTRO NEWS & NOTES**

- NEAF, the Northeast Astronomy Forum 4/5/2025 to 4/6/2025 at Suffern, NY. More info at <https://neafexpo.com>.
- International Dark Sky Week 4/21/2025 to 4/28/2025, more info at <https://idsw.darksky.org>

- Texas Star Party (90 mins. SW of Dallas): 4/20/2025 to 4/27/2025, more info at <https://texasstarparty.org/>
- Cherry Springs Star party at Cherry Strings State Park, PA from 6/19/2025 to 6/25/2025. Details at <https://sites.google.com/astrohbg.org/Cherry-Springs-Star-Party>
- Grand Canyon Star Party (Grand Canyon N.P.): 6/21/2025 to 6/28/2025, more info at <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/grand-canyon-star-party.htm>
- Oregon Star Party, Indian Trail Springs OR from 6/24/2025 to 6/29/2025. More details at <https://oregonstarparty.com>.
- ASTROCON and Bryce Canyon Astro Festival at Bryce Canyon National Park (UT), from 6/25/2025 to 6/28/2025, more info at [www.Astrocon2025.org](http://www.Astrocon2025.org).
- Green Bank Star Quest (West VA), from 6/25/2025 to 6/28/2025, more info at <https://greenbankstarquest.org/>

- Stellafane (Vermont): first week in August, more details at <https://stellafane.org/convention/>

### Articles of Interest

CNN: Astronomers spot flares of light near the black hole at the center of our galaxy:  
[https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/19/science/milky-way-black-hole-flickers-webb/index.html?utm\\_source=cnn\\_Evening+Newsletter+-+Wednesday%2C+February+19%2C+2025&utm\\_medium=email&bt\\_ee=FQ8z7Q%2B9vp%2Fuz0j1PP3WQ%2BeZWwYwE%2Bmc97pxwJwtAlTdtBx%2FVcVGCwtaEb0wqvBU&bt\\_ts=1740006280614](https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/19/science/milky-way-black-hole-flickers-webb/index.html?utm_source=cnn_Evening+Newsletter+-+Wednesday%2C+February+19%2C+2025&utm_medium=email&bt_ee=FQ8z7Q%2B9vp%2Fuz0j1PP3WQ%2BeZWwYwE%2Bmc97pxwJwtAlTdtBx%2FVcVGCwtaEb0wqvBU&bt_ts=1740006280614)

Canada's remote (but accessible) dark-sky sanctuary:  
<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20250218-jasper-canadas-remote-but-accessible-dark-sky-sanctuary>

NASA Working to Reestablish Communications With Lunar Trailblazer:  
<https://blogs.nasa.gov/trailblazer/>

## ASTRO IMAGES FROM EAS MEMBERS:

For inclusion in future newsletters, please send your images to Rich at [RJSherman@hotmail.com](mailto:RJSherman@hotmail.com). Please include at a minimum:

- the name and/or catalog number of the object (e.g., “M33” or “Triangulum Galaxy”)
- the location where you took the image
- the date of the image
- the telescope you used to take the image

Additional information such as the camera, the number of frames, the filter you used, the number of exposures, and the length of each exposure are also very welcome.



N49, supernova remnant in the Large Magellanic Cloud, by Ted Wolfe

Atacama Desert, Chile

10-hour image taken with 12.5" PlaneWave astrograph

ZWO ASI 6200 camera.



IC443 (Jellyfish Nebula), by Armando Merlo  
Okeechobee, FL, Jan 4th 2025  
100 x 60 second exposures  
C11HD telescope with Hyperstar F/2  
ZWO ASI2600MC camera



NGC7293(Helix Nebula), by Armando Merlo  
Okeechobee, FL  
60 images at 60 seconds each  
C11HD telescope  
0.7 reducer Canon Ra camera at ISO 12,800

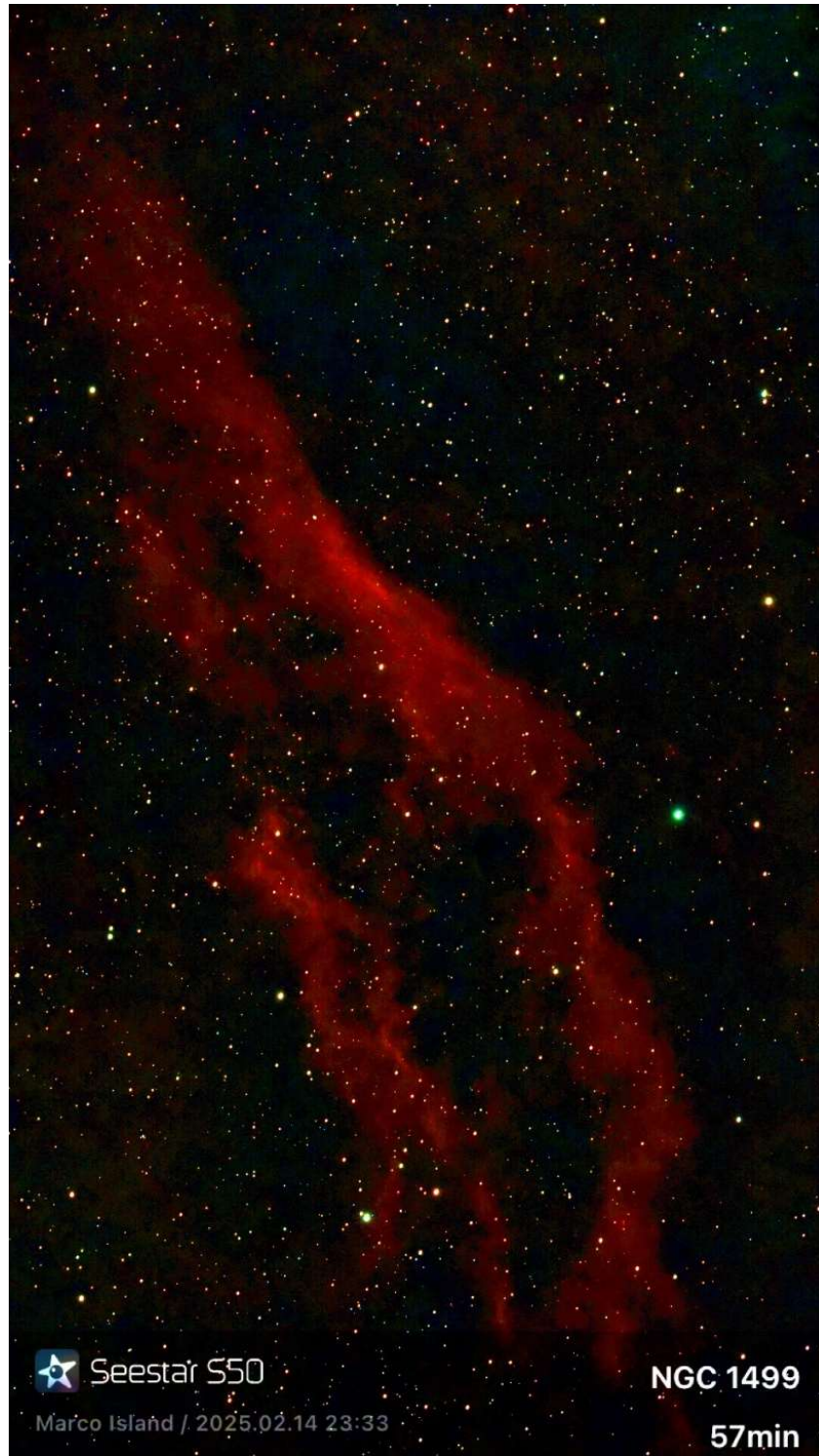


M42 mosaic, by Bob Gurnitz  
Marco Island, FL, February 15, 2025  
Seestar S50





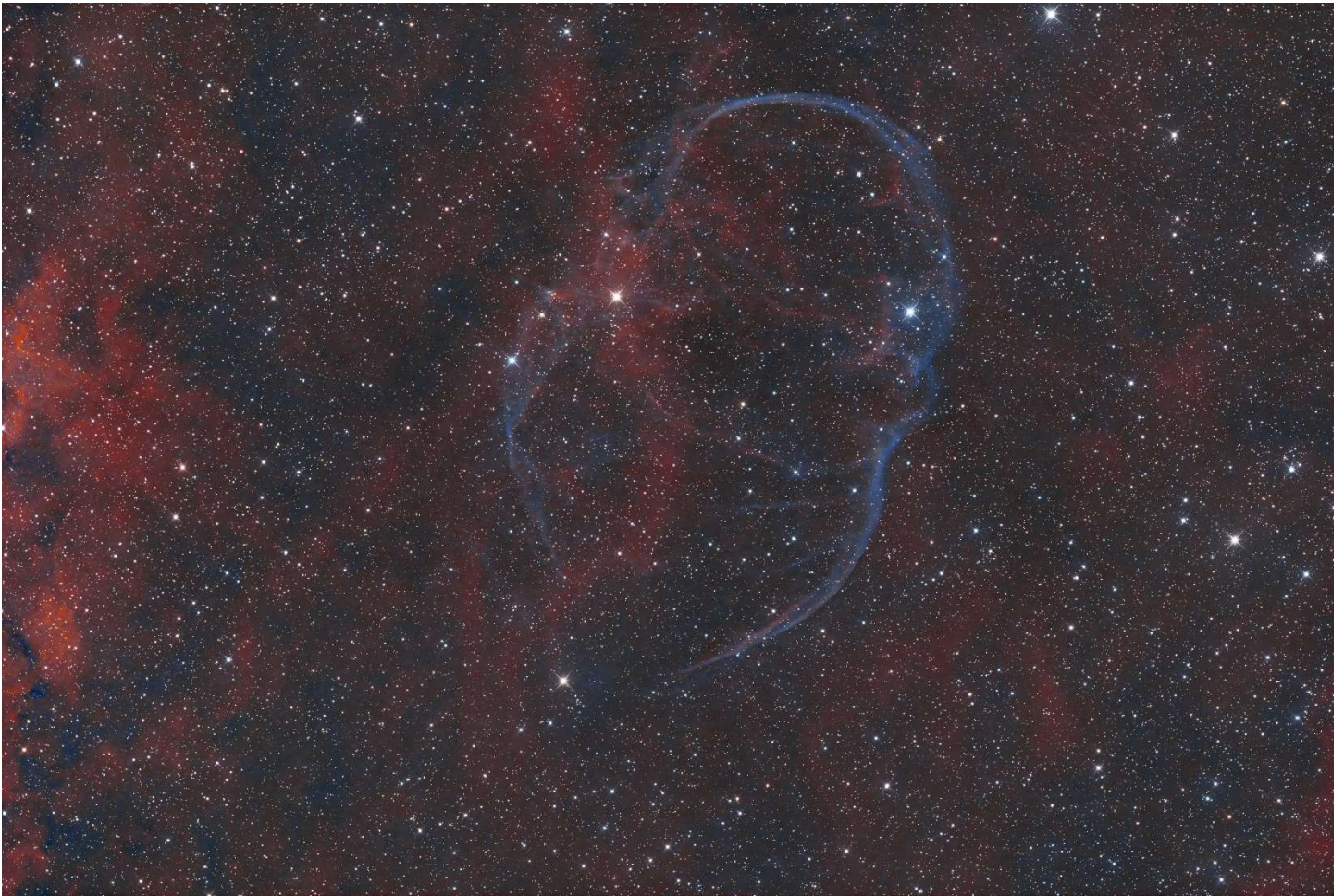
Leo Triplet, by Bob Gurnitz  
Marco Island, FL, February 15, 2025  
Seestar S50



NGC 1499 mosaic, the California Nebula, by Bob Gurnitz  
Marco Island, FL, February 15, 2025  
Seestar S50



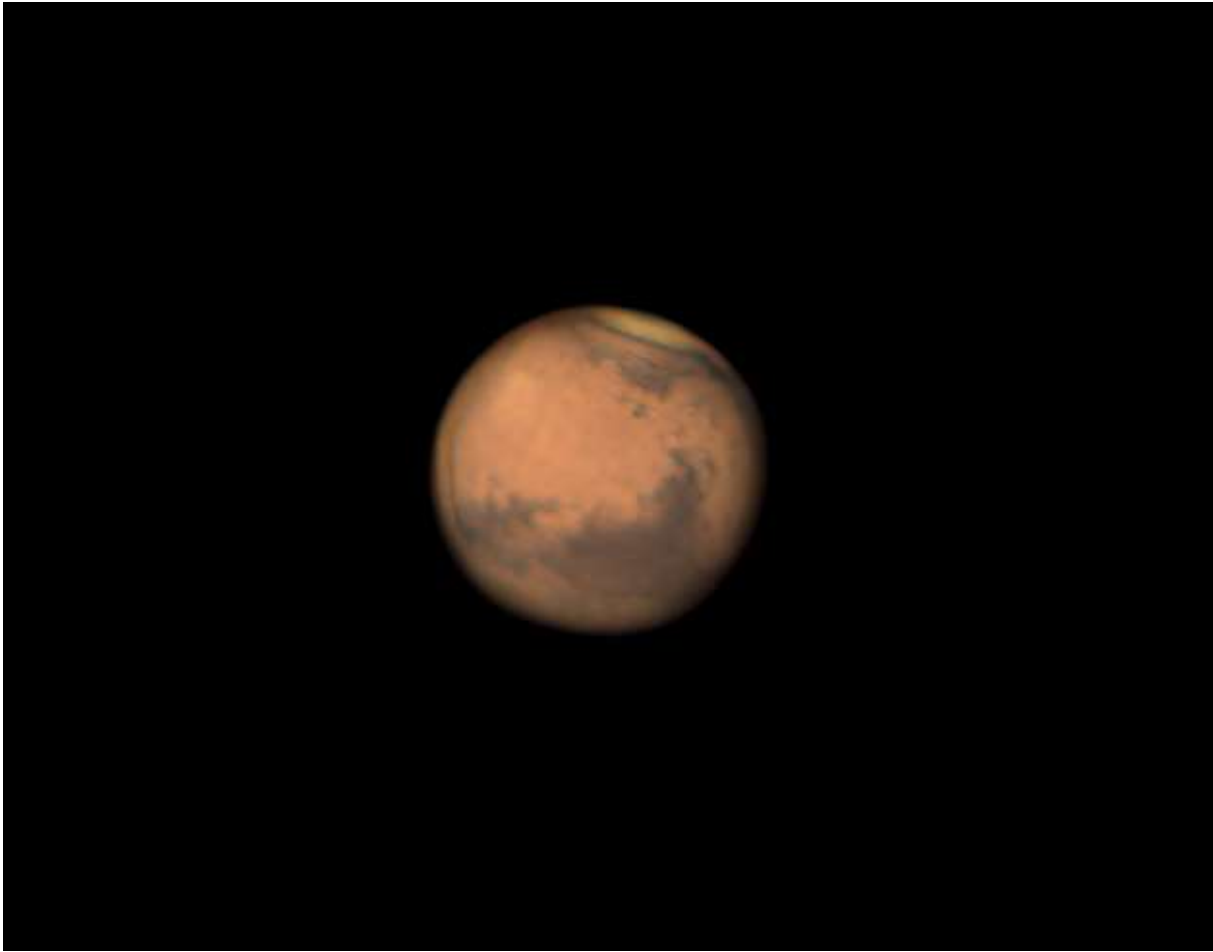
M45 mosaic of the Pleiades, by Bob Gurnitz  
Marco Island, FL, January 25, 2025  
Seestar S50



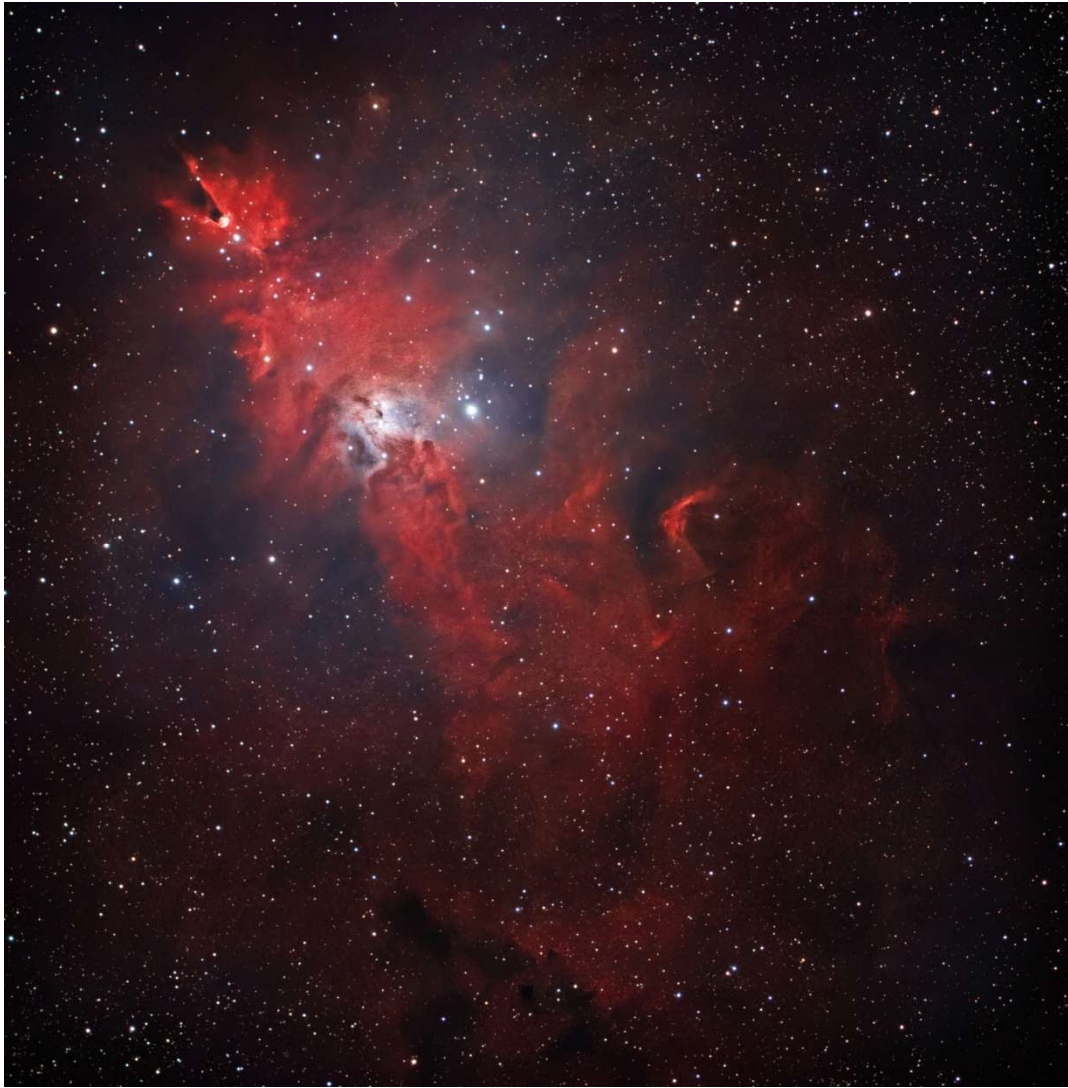
SNR G206.9+2.3, a supernova remnant in Monoceros, by Eric Uthus  
Florida Keys, January 28-29, 2025  
14 hours of 5-minute exposures (13 hours Ha+OIII, 1 hour OSC for stars)  
F/4 Newtonian telescope



Rosette Nebula, by Eric Uthus  
Florida Keys, January 30, 2025  
2.5 hours OSC and 2.5 hours Ha/OIII exposures  
6-inch Newtonian telescope



Mars, by Chuck Pavlick  
Celestron 9.25 Edge with 2.5x Powermate  
ZWO ASI224 camera, best 30% of 4,000 frames  
ASICAP, Autostakkert, Registax and Affinity Photo software



Christmas Tree Cluster, by Chuck Pavlick  
Tigard, Oregon  
ZWO ASI533mc camera and Optolong LP filter  
4.5 hours of 60 second exposures  
Takahashi FSQ106 telescope with 0.73 reducer  
ASIIimg, ASIdeepstack, PixInsight, Affinity Photo, Topaz DeNoise software



Orion Nebula, by Chuck Pavlick  
Tigard, Oregon

ZWO ASI533mc and Optolong LP filter

2.5 hours of 60 second exposures and 60 x 10 second exposures for Trapezium

Takahashi FSQ106 telescope with 0.73 reducer

ASIIimg, ASIdeepstack, PixInsight, Affinity Photo, Topaz DeNoise software





M42, the Orion Nebula, by Jon Pigman  
Collier-Seminole State Park, January 25, 2025  
Stellarview 80mm ED telescope  
60 minutes of exposures  
Lightroom



The Flame Nebula, by Jon Pigman  
Naples, FL, February 17, 2025  
Stellarview 80mm ED telescope  
60 minutes of exposures  
SharpCap and Lightroom software



M81 and M82, by Jon Pigman  
Big Cypress, FL, January 30, 2025  
Stellarview 80mm ED telescope  
105 minutes of exposures  
Lightroom