

2010/2011 Season

SCASTRO Welcome Pack



Welcome to the South Cheshire
Astronomical Society

Whether you are a new member, have
recently attended one of our meetings
or visited our website

(www.scastro.org), this Welcome Pack
is designed to give you information
about our society



South Cheshire Astronomical Society is a member of the
Federation of Astronomical Societies

What kind of society are we?

We are a group of enthusiastic amateur astronomers based in and around South Cheshire who have been meeting regularly since the society was formed in the summer of 2006.

The Club is primarily an observing group. However, the British weather is not always co-operative so we have alternative activities for when the skies are cloudy. These include

- Night Sky simulations
- Talks
- Equipment demonstrations
- Videos / DVD's
- "Show and Tell" sessions where members discuss what they have been doing

The Society also undertakes public outreach events for local schools and organisations. The Society is aware of its obligation in attending events where 'vulnerable persons' may be present. Two of the Club Officers are CRB checked.



This year we will be launching several Club projects which our members can undertake either on an individual or group basis.

Details of the projects will be discussed at the October meeting.

Where and when do we meet?

Our season runs from September to September with a minimum of 10 separate monthly events per season. Specific dates are given on page 5.

We meet in the hall adjacent to Ravensmoor Methodist Church on the Thursday closest to New Moon. The map (page 4) shows the location. Those of you with satellite navigation should use the postcode CW5 8PX.

This venue is our “Dark Sky” location just outside Nantwich where the reduced level of light pollution allows the sky to be seen in much greater detail. If the skies are clear then we adjourn to a nearby field for observing. If it is likely to be clear then we recommend bringing some strong footwear (the ground can be uneven) and warm clothes – even in late spring it can get cold surprisingly quickly when under clear skies.

On observing nights we meet up in the Village Hall first for a cup of tea and a chat before walking the short distance to observe. Once in the field Society Officers and other members are available to assist with finding your way around the night sky, identifying constellations and other interesting objects and setting up telescopes and mounts.

If you have problems finding us please contact one of the Club Officers

Notification of meetings is normally via email

Events Calendar 2010/2011

2 nd September	Prof Yvonne Elsworth The Sun and Stars – Seeing with Sound
7 th October	Society Projects Night
4 th November	Scheduled Observing Night
2 nd December	Nigel Ball Pretty Pictures from a Suburban back yard
6 th January	Scheduled Observing Night
3 rd February	William Stewart Welcome to the Dark Side
3 rd March	Scheduled Observing Night
7 th April	Scheduled Observing Night
5 th May	Scheduled Observing Night
2 nd June	Scheduled Observing Night

Should the weather be inclement on a scheduled observing night we will hold our meeting in the Village Hall.

Benefits of Membership

Astronomy is a very broad subject and our members each have their own skills/specialities. We were set up specifically to support and encourage astronomy in the local area so whether you are a complete beginner, a casual visual observer or deep sky imager we have something for you.

Some of the recent activities included

- Learning the way around the night sky: how to identify the main constellations using the naked eye
- Observing night sky highlights through binoculars/small telescope
- Setting up a telescope
- Taking pictures of the night sky with an ordinary camera
- Public outreach (local schools, U3A¹)
- Rocket day
- Visit to members' observatories
- Star-B-Q to observe the Perseid meteor shower

Resources available to Members

The society has a good range of books as well as an extensive stock of back issues of various astronomy magazines available to members.

The society also owns an 8 inch Dobsonian telescope complete with various eyepieces that is available on club evenings and which may also be loaned out to members.

Free access to the Society's Yahoo! Group.

This forum allows registered members to

- Post their recent observations
- Request help assist/from other members
- Upload files which may be of interest to others
- Announce forthcoming events

Membership Fees

£15 per annum includes free admission to all meetings and access to the society equipment. New members can attend 2 meetings free of charge and then either opt to pay the annual subscription fee or pay £2 per subsequent meeting/event attended.

¹ University of the third age, a self-help organisation for people no longer in full-time employment providing educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment

Useful Contacts

Club Officers



William Stewart
scaastro.stewart@googlemail.com
07775 681248



Nigel Ball
nigelb@adroit-europe.com
07771 570086



Malcolm Betts

Useful Links

Club website

www.scaastro.org

Club Forum

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/scaastro>

Stellarium is a free open source planetarium for your computer. It shows a realistic sky in 3D, just like what you see with the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope.

<http://www.stellarium.org/>

Current Sky Maps <http://www.skymaps.com/>

Predictions for satellites, comets, minor planets

<http://www.heavens-above.com/>

Information on meteors, aurorae, solar flares

<http://www.spaceweather.com/>

Weather Forecast

Five day forecast for the Crewe Area

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/nw/crewe_forecast_weather.html

Live satellite pictures showing cloud cover:

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/satpics/latest_uk_ir.html

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/wm/wm_latest_irsat.html

Cloud prediction for the next 24 hours

<http://www.theweatheroutlook.com/twodata/datmdlgraph.aspx>

*This Welcome Pack was put
together by Officers of the
South Cheshire Astronomical
Society*

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