



Forsyth Astronomical Society

Look Up and Enjoy the Night Sky

Who We Are

The Forsyth Astronomical Society (FAS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the pursuit of all aspects of amateur astronomy





Monthly Meeting

2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:30pm, at Kaleideum
(120 W 3rd St. at Town Run Lane) in Winston-Salem, NC.

Come early for conversation and donuts!

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are open to the public. See our website (fas37.org) for meeting information including the topic for the month.

Outreach

Public Observations & Events

Public observations and events are held on a regular basis at various locations throughout Forsyth and neighboring counties in North Carolina.



Member Only Observations

FAS holds club member-only observations at our private site near Pilot Mountain and club member outings to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Membership

Annual club dues are \$35 for an individual, \$40 for a family, and \$5 for a student. You do not have to be a member to attend club meetings and public events.

fas37.org
fas@fas37.org





Public Events



Meetings



Resources



Club Information

The Night Sky

Stargazing can be a great hobby, but it helps if you know something about astronomy and the basics of stargazing.

Take some time to become familiar with the stars, constellations, and asterisms visible at different times of the year - Leo in the spring, Scorpius in the summer, Pegasus in the fall, and Orion in the winter.

The best time to observe the Moon is during its first or third quarter when you can see features along the terminator between the light and dark sides. The worst time is during a full moon – it is just too bright, and it washes out much of the night sky.

The planets generally move west to east against the background of stars. You'll need a sky map such as Stellarium Web or a smartphone/tablet app such as Sky Guide or SkySafari to locate them. Jupiter and Saturn offer the best view. You can spot the phases of Venus and Mercury. Mars is visible, but is usually a small dot with little detail.

There are many deep sky objects worth looking for. Some, such as star clusters, can be seen with small telescopes. Others, such as galaxies, are best observed through larger telescopes. The most well-known are called Messier objects. Don't expect glorious color! We're not NASA. Most will appear black and white. If you want color, you'll have to move up to astrophotography.



Telescopes

If you have an interest in astronomy, you might want to purchase a telescope. There are many options, with many different features, and many different price ranges. In the end, choose a telescope that will be used, not one that will sit in a closet or your basement.

- DO purchase a telescope with quality optics from a reputable dealer (NOT from the local department store.)
- It is NOT all about magnification. It is about APERTURE. The wider the lens or mirror, the more light a telescope captures and the more you can see. Magnification depends on the telescope and the eyepieces you use. Too much magnification can actually make it harder to see things. You will end up finding the “sweet spot” between magnification and clarity.
- A DOBSONIAN might be your best choice for a beginning telescope.
- Before you buy a telescope, come out to one of our outreach programs, talk with some of our members, and see various options for yourself.

The world of telescopes is changing. Recently, several companies have introduced SMART TELESCOPES for astrophotography. These allow even novice astronomers to jump into the world of imaging. This might be an option for you.

