

The High Desert Observer



December 2015



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The Astronomical Society of Las Cruces (ASLC) is dedicated to expanding public awareness and understanding of the wonders of the universe. ASLC holds frequent observing sessions and star parties and provides opportunities to work on Society and public educational projects. Members receive the *High Desert Observer*, our monthly newsletter, plus membership to the Astronomical League, including their quarterly publication, *Reflector*, in digital or paper format.

Individual Dues are \$30.00 per year
Family Dues are \$36.00 per year
Student (full-time) Dues are \$24.00

Annual dues are payable in January. Prorated dues are available for new members. Dues are payable to ASLC with an application form or note to: Treasurer ASLC, PO Box 921, Las Cruces, NM 88004. Contact our Treasurer, Patricia Conley (treasurer@aslc-nm.org) for further information.

ASLC members receive electronic delivery of the HDO and are entitled to a \$5.00 (per year) Sky and Telescope magazine discount.

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December Meeting --

The December meeting has been replaced with a Holiday Dinner/Party, starting at 7:00 p.m on December 12 at Rich Richins house. For more info contact Daniel Giron or any other officer.

ASLC Board of Directors, 2015

Board@aslc-nm.org

President: Daniel Giron; President@aslc-nm.org

Vice President: Steve Barkes; VP@aslc-nm.org

Treasurer: Patricia Conley; Treasurer@aslc-nm.org

Secretary: John McCullough; Secretary@aslc-nm.org

Director-at-Large: Tracy Stuart; Director1@aslc-nm.org

Director-at-Large: Ron J. Kramer; Director2@aslc-nm.org

Immediate Past President: rrichins73@comcast.net

Committee Chairs

ALCor: Patricia Conley; tconley00@hotmail.com

Apparel: Howard Brewington; comet_brewington@msn.com

Calendar: Chuck Sterling; csterlin@zianet.com

Education: Rich Richins; Education@aslc-nm.org

Grants: Sidney Webb; sidwebb@gmail.com

Librarian: *****OPEN*****

Loaner Telescope: Frank Fiore; ffchilehead@gmail.com

Membership: Judy Kile; judykile3916@gmail.com

Night Sky Network: *****OPEN*****

Observatory:

Leasburg Dam: Rich Richins; rrichins73@comcast.net

Tombaugh: Steve Shaffer; sshaffer@zianet.com

Outreach: Chuck Sterling; csterlin@zianet.com

Web-Site: Steve Barkes; steve.barkes@gmail.com

HDO Editor: Charles Turner; turnerc@stellanova.com

Member Info Changes

All members need to keep the Society informed of changes to their basic information, such as name, address, phone number, or email address. Please contact Treasurer@aslc-nm.org and jkile3916@gmail.com with any updates.

Outreach

Outreach is a very important part of ASLC. We are always looking for more volunteers to help us educate the public. Even if you do not have a portable telescope to bring to the events, please consider attending our public outreach programs to help answer questions, share knowledge and point out constellations in the sky.

Events

ASLC hosts deep-sky viewing and imaging at our dark sky location in Upham. We also have public in-town observing sessions at both the International Delights Cafe (1245 El Paseo) and at Tombaugh Observatory (on the NMSU Campus). All sessions begin at dusk.

At our Leasburg Dam State Park Observatory, we hold monthly star parties. Located just 20 miles north of Las Cruces, our 16" Meade telescope is used to observe under rather dark skies. Please see *Calendar of Events* for specific dates and times.

From the Prez

December 2015

SEASONS GREETINGS



From the Officers and Board of Directors of ASLC

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES, OUR MANY FRIENDS AND OUR ENTIRE EXTENDED ASTRONOMICAL FAMILY.

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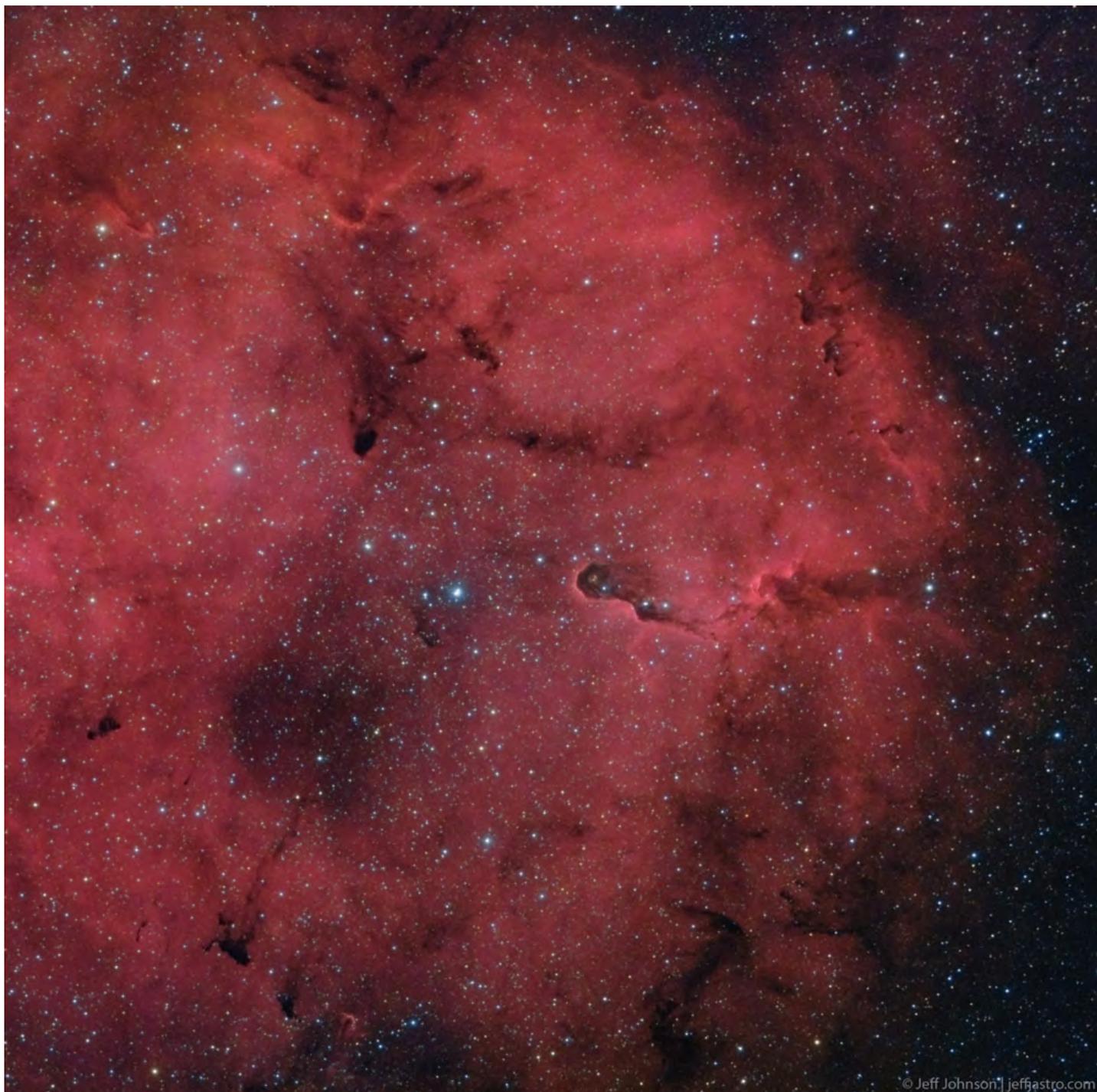
Calendar of Events (Mountain Time - 24 hr. clock)

Dec	03	00:40	Last Quarter Moon
	04	19:00	NMSU: Tombaugh Observatory Open House
	05	17:00	Dark Sky Observing at Leesburg Dam State Park
	11	03:30	New Moon
	12	19:00	Holiday Dinner for ASLC - Location at Rich Richins house
	14	02:00	Geminid Meteor Shower at Leesburg Dam State Park
	18	08:14	First Quarter Moon
	19	17:00	OUTREACH; MoonGaze, International Delights Café
	21	21:48	Winter Solstice: Winter officially begins
	25	00:01	Christmas: All Day
	25	04:11	Full Moon
	29	18:00	OUTREACH, Star Party at Leesburg Dam State Park
Jan	01	22:31	Last Quarter Moon
	09	17:24	Dark Sky Observing at Leesburg Dam State Park
	09	18:31	New Moon
	16	17:30	OUTREACH; MoonGaze, International Delights Café
	16	16:26	First Quarter Moon
	22	19:00	ASLC Monthly Meeting; DACC Main Campus, Room 141
	22	19:00	NMSU: Tombaugh Observatory Open House
	23	18:45	Full Moon
	30	17:43	Dark Sky Observing at Leesburg Dam State Park

Be sure to visit our web site for the latest updates: www.aslc-nm.org

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Photo of the Month



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OBJECT: *Elephant's Trunk Nebula in IC 1396*
Distance: *3,000 light years*
Telescope *Takahashi FS-60C @ f/6.2*
Mount *Takahashi EM200 Temma II*
Camera *QSI 540wsg @ -10C*
Filters *Astrodon Ha (3nm), Astrodon Tru-Balance I-Series LRGB Gen 2*
Guider *SX Lodestar*
Settings *9x20min Ha, 4x5min L (bin1x1); 4x5min ea RGB (bin2x2); AstroArt5, CS4 (slightly*
cropped, 10xdarks/flats/fdarks/bias)
Date/Location *13 October 2015 - Las Cruces, NM*

This image is LHaRGB, including 3 hours of Ha data, where Ha was used in combination with Luminance and Ha:R (80:20) was used for the Red channel.
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