



New Member Welcome

Updated December 2023

Welcome to the community of amateur astronomers in Brevard County. Being a Brevard Astronomical Society (BAS) member provides an opportunity to learn about astronomy, observing, and equipment from other members during our meetings and star gazing events, and also sharing your experiences and knowledge with the membership no matter your skill level. You can be a part of this special group of amateur astronomers exploring, educating, and sharing our views with each other and our community.

Meetings

Regular monthly meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We meet in-person alternate months at the Italian American Club in Melbourne and the American Space Museum in Titusville. See the calendar on our website for location, time and other details.

Communications

We maintain a website at brevardastro.org that provides a variety of information useful to members about astronomy and observing. We also use a mailing list basmembers@brevardastro.net to distribute email messages to all members. Your email address you provided when you joined was added to this list. You can reach everyone by sending to that address and it serves as a forum for exchange of information between members. We also manage a Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/brevardastro that anyone can join. The Facebook group is open, so anyone can view the content with a web browser, and is part of our outreach to the local community interested in astronomy and space science.

Star Parties

We host members only star parties on occasion - depending primarily on the weather and phase of the moon. These events are announced via the email list (above) and on the calendar on the website.

We also support the community by providing star parties on request. These are also announced using the email list and are opportunities for members to bring their equipment and share sky views with these groups. Information on how to request a star party and the requested etiquette are on the website (above).

Equipment Loan

Members who wish to learn about telescopes by using them and 'try before buying' can request a loan from the small inventory of telescopes owned by the Brevard Astronomical Society. Please see or contact one of the officers (see the website) at basinfo@brevardastro.net for details on what equipment might be available, the procedure and the loan agreement involved.



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Member Benefits

Your membership also includes membership in the Astronomical League (<https://www.astroleague.org/>). The Astronomical League is composed of over two hundred and

forty local amateur astronomical societies from all across the United States. These organizations, along with Members-at-Large, Patrons, and Supporting members form one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world. As a member of the Astronomical League you will receive a print edition of their quarterly magazine The Reflector and access to their Celestial Savings Program that provides discounts from participating vendors and a 10% discount and free shipping for purchases from the Astronomical League Book Service.

Members are also eligible for a discounted subscription to Sky and Telescope magazine either print, digital or both. Please contact the customer service number for assistance in getting the discount rate.

Projects and Activities

The members may decide from time-to-time to organize and work on various projects or activities in small groups or involving the entire organization. If you have an idea for a project or activity, please feel empowered to reach out to other members to join you. Enhancing the experience of being a member is actually the responsibility of all members to create the environment and community for amateur astronomy for our organization.

The BAS Organization

The Brevard Astronomical Society is registered with the State of Florida as a not-for-profit corporation (in Florida, we are not registered with the Federal IRS). We are open to the general public in order to foster interest and appreciation of astronomy through all appropriate means such as public star-observing sessions, presentations, and exhibits.

The stated objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be:

- To establish an astronomical society for the general public to foster interest and appreciation of astronomy through lectures, seminars, study groups, public star observing sessions, exhibits, and any and all other appropriate means.
- To serve as an educational resource for the public by providing information and expertise on the science of astronomy.

BAS annually elects a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Please see the website for current officers. If you would like a copy of the by-laws or discuss any aspect of the governance of the organization, please contact any of the officers.

Typically, there will be a Business topics on the agenda of each monthly meeting where the discussion of the annual budget and other governance actions will be discussed.



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Enjoy Our Community

The motto on our logo is from Plato "Astronomy compels the soul to look upwards and leads us from this world to another" So, Come Explore our Universe.