



Lake County Astronomical Society

Welcome to LCAS!

Established in 1982, the **Lake County Astronomical Society (LCAS)** is an organization chartered to promote interest in astronomy. We welcome people of all ages who are interested in astronomy. While many members are accomplished observers and astrophotographers, others are new to the hobby. Many members have their own telescopes, some of which they've built themselves. Others don't own a telescope but enjoy observing the night sky with binoculars or their unaided eyes.

We host public membership meetings, generally on the third Friday of each month. During these meetings we have guest presenters who provide updates on various astronomical topics or events. These meetings are open to the public and are held at the Visitors Center at Volo Bog State Natural Area, Ingleside, IL

Outreach is a large part of the mission of LCAS. We have been conducting astronomy outreach events at local libraries for more than 40 years. In 2008, we developed closer relationships with several area libraries for a program called “**Astronomy Under the City Lights**” (AUTCL). These outreach events have given thousands of “kids” (both young and old) their first view of the Moon and planets. They also provide an opportunity for our members to give back to their communities. Additionally, LCAS supports “**Astronomy Day**” events each year, in coordination with local libraries. In partnering with a library, we can reach patrons and members of the community who are interested in the science of astronomy and spark that interest in younger generations.

We have many other activities that support our members desire to increase their knowledge and experience in the field of astronomy. For example, we host an informal ad hoc meeting called Telescopes and Coffee Cups (TACC) several times a year. Members get together to enjoy coffee and snacks while discussing astronomical topics, equipment, optics, etc. The goal of this program is to provide the membership with opportunities to suggest and explore topics of interest, that will expand their knowledge and skillset. We also sponsor member-only observing events at local Conservation District properties in Northern Illinois.

Again, welcome to LCAS and the exciting world of astronomy.

J. Layne Bussell

Layne Bussell, LCAS President

Membership Packet

Summary of LCAS Activities and Benefits

The following pages provide an overview of the club and its activities. Click on the [Section Titles](#) to view additional information, as applicable.

General Information

Note that LCAS respects your privacy and we will not share the contact information you provide with anyone outside of the club. Additionally, [LCAS' Publication Policy](#) ensures that copyrighted material is not used without permission

[LCAS Officers](#)

The list of club officers represents those members who have been elected by the membership to direct club activities, programs, and publicity. This list also includes the Membership Chair who will answer any questions that you may have about your membership status and club activities.

[LCAS Membership Dues](#)

Annual LCAS membership dues cover a calendar year. Membership dues cover all family members living at the same address.

[LCAS Constitution and By-laws](#)

The constitution and by-laws of Lake County Astronomical Society provides the framework for the organization and functioning of the club. These documents are available on the LCAS Website at: www.lcas-astronomy.org (<https://www.lcas-astronomy.org/members/bylaws.php>)

and the LCAS Groups.io site at:

<https://lcas.groups.io/g/main/files/Bylaws%20and%20Policies/LCAS%20Constitution%20and%20By-Laws%20Updated%20Sep%2018%202020.pdf>

Educational Opportunities

[LCAS Meetings](#)

LCAS meetings are held on the third Friday of each month in the Volo Bog Visitor Center, Ingleside, IL and the public is welcome. There are two exceptions: The August meeting is the annual club picnic, and the December meeting is the annual club holiday party. Both events are for members only. The public

meetings include a public program presentation and the LCAS business meeting. Weather permitting, following each meeting LCAS members may set up their telescopes for night sky observing activities.

[Telescopes And Coffee Cups \(TACC\)](#)

Telescopes and Coffee Cups is an informal meeting where members get together to enjoy coffee and snacks while discussing astronomical topics, equipment, optics, etc. These members-only meetings are held on designated Saturdays at the Volo Bog Visitor Center.

Outreach Events / Volunteer Opportunities

[Astronomy Day](#)

Astronomy Day is an annual event intended to provide a means of interaction between the general public and various astronomy enthusiasts, groups and professionals. Astronomy Day provides people who have never looked through a telescope with an opportunity to see first-hand what has so many amateur and professional astronomers all excited. Astronomy clubs and many other groups, host special events and activities to acquaint the population with local astronomical resources and facilities. Many of these events are located at non-astronomical sites, including local libraries. LCAS participates in Astronomy Day activities with presentations from local club members and astronomy experts. Various children's programs and activities are also provided at these events. *Contact the LCAS Program Chair for details.*

[Astronomy Under the City Lights \(AUTCL\)](#)

LCAS has been conducting astronomy outreach events at local libraries for more than 40 years. In 2008, we developed closer relationships with several area libraries for a program called "Astronomy Under the City Lights". The outreach events we've delivered with the AUTCL program have given thousands of "kids" (both young and old) their first view of the Moon and planets.

These events are free and suitable for all ages. These events normally run monthly from March through November and are dependent on acceptable sky and weather conditions to allow viewing. *Contact the LCAS Program Chair to volunteer. You do not need to bring equipment to participate.*

Member Benefits

[Dark Sky Observing Sites](#)

A major benefit for LCAS members is access to designated observing sites managed by the McHenry County Conservation District. Permits are required to access these sites at designated times and members are notified when observing dates are scheduled. See the LCAS Observing schedule and observing etiquette at the following LCAS Groups.io site:

<https://lcas.groups.io/g/main/files/Observing/Observing%20Dates%202023>

Members can also arrange and schedule unofficial trips to various other dark sky sites in the area.

Sites used for astronomical observation activities are selected because they're dark, and quiet. Many members travel to these sites to get away from the noise and light pollution of more populated areas. Attending a star party in these locations places a responsibility on all attendees to ensure the safety and respect the rights of the other attendees and the owners of the observing site. Please read and learn the [LCAS Observing Etiquette](#) guidelines that have been adopted to help ensure the preservation of this privilege.

LCAS Night Times

Night Times is the club's newsletter that is published periodically. *Night Times* includes articles about astronomical events of interest to the members as well as current events hosted by the club. Current and archived issues are available in the Member's area of the club's web site at www.lcas-astronomy.org and our LCAS Groups.io site at <https://lcas.groups.io/g/main/files/NightTimes>.

Digital Communications

LCAS has several ways that members can learn about the club, general astronomical information, keep updated about club activities, share information or pass on ideas or questions to the group between meetings. These ways include our web site (www.lcas-astronomy.org), LCAS Groups.io sites, and the LCAS Facebook page.

Equipment Rental

The club owns telescopes and binoculars that are available for monthly rental by members only. *Contact the Equipment Custodian for program details.*

LCAS Library

LCAS owns a collection of books, videos, etc. that are stored in the library at the Volo Bog Visitor Center. Members may borrow these materials by checking them out. *Please see the Club Librarian for further information and assistance.*

Magazine Subscriptions

LCAS members can receive discounted subscriptions to *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* magazines and related materials through the club. *Contact the Club Treasurer for additional information and discount rates.*

Membership Package Details

The following pages contain additional details of LCAS' organization, activities and benefits.

Copyright Laws and LCAS' Publication Policy

Copyright laws are in place to protect intellectual property. This includes things such as written text, photos, sound recordings, paintings, drawings, and other materials. It is very easy to obtain lots of photos, drawings, or other images from the internet that make articles or presentations more interesting and informative. Unfortunately, it is not always so clear whether those images are copyrighted or not. In most situations, copyrighted material may not be used by another person or organization without permission. There may be legal and financial penalties for use of copyrighted materials without permission. Just providing a statement "Copyrighted by . . ." is not sufficient.

In order to help ensure LCAS does not inappropriately use copyright material in anything posted on the club web site or in printed materials that are distributed, it is the responsibility of the person generating the item to ensure that any images or other materials are either not copyrighted or that we have clear permission from the author / owner of the material to use the material.

Please remember, many photos and articles are eventually posted to the club web site. If you have an image or other item you created yourself, it is assumed that the club has your permission to use it. If that is the case, please make clear either in the article or other published information, or in a separate note, that you created the image or other material. If you want to use something that you did not create, please provide clear evidence that the material is free to use or that you obtained permission to use the material. The information proving the right to use the material will be saved in a location accessible to club officers in a manner that it is readily retrievable if necessary. The Webmaster will be responsible for ensuring proper permissions are documented before posting any images.

LCAS Meetings

LCAS meets on the third Friday of each month (except August and December which are members-only picnic and holiday party events, respectively) and includes an astronomical program or presentation and the membership business meeting. The meetings are free and are open to the public. Meetings are held in the Volo Bog Visitor Center, Ingleside, IL.



Meeting programs and presentations are provided by LCAS members, staff from the Alder Planetarium, educators from Northwestern University and University of Chicago, and other experts. Topics covered recently include *Tales and Tails of Star Clusters*; *The James Webb Space Telescope*; *Returning to the Moon with Artemis*; *Wormholes, Spacewarps, and Tunnels to Otherwheres*; and *The Connection Between the Periodic Table and Astronomy*.

Weather permitting, each public LCAS meeting is followed by an observing event (also known as a “star party”), where club members bring their telescopes and let the public and other members look through them. This is an opportunity for club members to share their enjoyment of the night sky with you and to demonstrate their telescopes. If you are considering the purchase of a telescope, this is the perfect time to see what your money can buy, what the different telescope designs look like, and the kinds of views you can achieve with the equipment. The star parties are held in the parking lot of the Volo Bog Nature Center.

Membership Dues

Annual LCAS membership dues cover a calendar year and are assessed beginning in October-November for the upcoming year. Members receive all benefits offered by the club, including a membership badge and lanyard.

Membership dues cover all family members at the same address. Discounted memberships are available for families that live 75 miles or more from the Volo Bog Visitor Center (referred to as a “Parsec Member”). LCAS Dues are \$25 per year. Dues paid by new members joining in the last 3 months of the current year (October, November, or December) will apply to the following year’s dues also.

Dues may be paid via several methods:

- Via PayPal at <http://www.lcas-astronomy.org/maindisplay.php?filename=LCAS-paypal&category=public&tab=join>
- Cash or checks, made payable to "LCAS", may be given to the LCAS Treasurer during LCAS Meetings at the Bog.
- If you are near Volo Bog, you may drop off your check at the Visitors Center. LCAS has a mailbox there – please see their staff at the Information Desk.
- You may also mail your check to the LCAS Treasurer at the following address:
LCAS Treasurer
28478 W. Brandenburg Rd
Ingleside, IL 60015

Telescopes and Coffee Cups (TACC)

Telescopes and Coffee Cups is an informal meeting where members get together to enjoy coffee and snacks while discussing astronomical topics, equipment, optics, etc. The meetings may also include our popular member “show and tell.”

These members-only meetings are held several times a year on designated Saturdays at the Volo Bog Visitor Center. Meeting schedule is available on the LCAS web site.



One of the favorite topics and viewing opportunities is solar viewing (weather permitting) with the Club’s solar telescope “Connie”. Other TACC topics have included: Telescope Basics, Fundamentals of Optics, What’s in your Eyepiece Case?, Dew!!, Planetarium Software, and Sky Charts – RA and DEC.

Astronomy Day

Astronomy Day is an annual event intended to provide a means of interaction between the general public and various astronomy enthusiasts, groups and professionals.

LCAS participates in Astronomy Day activities. Previous events have been held in the Technology Building at the College of Lake County and the Ela Library in Lake Zurich. They have been a great success, with hundreds of people showing up to learn about all aspects of astronomy. LCAS activities during Astronomy Day have included:

Day Time Events and Activities

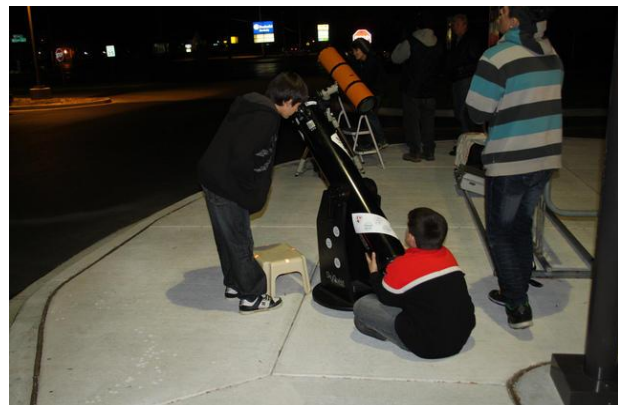
- **Solar Observing** - using special telescopes and equipment (outdoors)
- **Tour a Scale Model of the Solar System** (outdoors)
- **Telescope Clinic** – people can bring telescopes for help with setup and use. Questions welcome!
- **Hands on Telescopes** – kids learn how to use our 'Kid Powered Telescope'
- **Comet Making** - Dr. Comet makes a comet along with some of our guests!
- **Kids Table** - crafts for very young astronomers
- **Star Talks** - short presentations on astronomy related topics
- **Exhibits** - astrophotography, telescopes, light pollution, planetarium software, moon globe, moon maps, star maps, etc. Free handouts on the sky and about the hobby of astronomy are available.
- **Door Prize Drawings!**



Astronomy Under the City Lights (AUTCL)

Astronomy is typically associated with expensive equipment and dark skies far away from the general public. However, at certain times and days of the year, the moon and many planets are readily visible and available for dramatic telescopic viewing, even under the lights of the city. LCAS has been conducting astronomy outreach events at local libraries for more than 40 years. In 2008, we developed closer relationships with several area libraries for a program called "Astronomy Under the City Lights". The outreach events we've delivered with the AUTCL program have given thousands of "kids" (both young and old) their first view of the Moon and planets.

These events are free and suitable for all ages. No advanced registration by attendees is required. These events are normally held monthly from March through November and are dependent on dry weather and acceptable sky conditions to allow viewing. These events are subject to cancellation due to weather. Contact the LCAS Program Chair to volunteer. You do not need to bring equipment in order to participate.



Member Benefits

Dark Sky Observing Sites

A major benefit for LCAS members is access to designated observing sites managed by the McHenry County Conservation District. Permits are required to access these sites and members are notified when observing dates are scheduled. Observing sites include Pleasant Valley Conservation District in Woodstock, Coral Woods Conservation District in Marengo, Marengo Ridge Conservation District in Marengo and Winding Creek Conservation District in Hebron. The LCAS Groups.io site (see link below) maintains the current schedule and details regarding the planned observing dates and permits: (<https://lcas.groups.io/g/main/files/Observing/Observing%20Dates%202023>)

Green River Conservation Area

The Green River Conservation Area is located south of Dixon (Illinois) off Route 26, about 115 miles from Volo Bog. There are no ground lights on the site and the Milky Way is bright and visible down to the southern horizon. LCAS members normally observe from Lot #2. There is a “road” (actually two worn tire tracks) going into the lot (really just an open field). Pull up to a grassy knoll on the north side of this road. The site provides excellent horizons in all directions. There are no sanitary facilities at this location. No camping is allowed in the lot from which we observe, but we’ve never had a problem. We’re not camping – we’re observing! Phone for the site: (815) 379-2324.

Digital Communications

LCAS has several ways that members can learn about the club and general astronomical information and keep updated about the club activities, share information or pass on ideas or questions to the group between meetings.

LCAS respects your privacy and we will not share the contact information you provide with anyone outside of the club.

LCAS Web Site

LCAS has a public web site at www.lcas-astronomy.org.



The site contains a *Calendar* of future events including upcoming meetings, useful *Articles*, a *Gallery* of club and member pictures and astrophotographs, *Join* and *For the Public* tabs with information for prospective members on how to join the club, and a *Beginner's Corner* with information for beginning astronomers who may not know where to start.

The *Members* tab is a secured members-only area. New members must register for this area – click on the *Members* tab and follow the instructions there. Here members can sign up for Alerts for astronomical events, items of special interest and changes to scheduled event times or places. Classifieds allow members to swap equipment.

LCAS Groups.io

The club has a discussion group at <https://lcas.groups.io/g/main/topics>. It represents a great way to communicate with other club members and to coordinate club activities. It offers a place you can go to discuss subjects of interest and exchange ideas with other club members any time you'd like. Basically, it serves as an extension of the monthly meetings!

What is a Groups.io? It's where people with a shared interest meet online, get to know each other and stay informed. Groups.io gives a member access to shared message archives, file storage areas, photos and photo albums, group event calendars, member polls and shared links.

After confirmation of payment of dues, the Membership Chair will send the new member an "Invite" to join the Groups.io site.

- Home
- LCAS Member**
- Subscription
- Messages
- Hashtags
- New Topic
- New Poll
- Chats
- Subgroups
- Directory
- Calendar
- Photos
- Files
- Databases
- Wiki



main@lcas.groups.io
Lake County Astronomical Society
Group Information
2 Members
Topics
Started on 11/01/19

- Group Settings
- All subscribers can post to the group.
 - Posts to this group require approval from the moderators.
 - Posts from new users require approval from the moderators.
 - Messages are set to reply to group.
 - Subscriptions to this group do not require approval from the moderators.
 - Not listed in the Groups.io directory.
 - Archives are visible to subscribers only.
 - Wiki is visible to subscribers only.
 - Members can edit their messages.
 - Members can set their subscriptions to no email.

Top Hashtags [\[See All\]](#)

LCAS on Facebook

Do you “Facebook”? If so, then check out the LCAS Facebook page at bit.ly/LCASonFB



Magazines and Other Subscriptions

LCAS members can receive discounted subscriptions to *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* magazines through the club.

Astronomy calendars are offered at a discount to club members starting around the November meeting.

Sky Publishing (the publisher of *Sky & Telescope* magazine) offers members discounts on books and software if ordered through the club.

Contact the *Club Treasurer* for additional information, discount rates, and to place orders.

Equipment Rental

Some of the equipment (telescopes, binoculars, etc.) owned by the club is available for monthly rental by members only. Rental fees are determined by the club's equipment custodian. In some cases, the member may need to demonstrate competence before renting the equipment. See the club's equipment custodian for additional information and rental rates.

Appendix I – LCAS Officers and Program Leads 2023

President

Layne Bussell
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president@lcas-astronomy.org

Membership Chair and Club Librarian*

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Vice President

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* Represents an appointed Program Lead position