

Star Guide Training Sessions on Astronomy:

When someone from the general public is attending a star party, their typical questions are:

- 1) what am I looking at?
- 2) how far away is it?
- 3) how does this telescope work?

We want you to be confident in your general understanding of the astronomical universe so that you can provide answers to these questions. Those of us who have done star parties before realize that there is great satisfaction in sharing your knowledge with others. It feels wonderful to show someone a beautiful object, like Saturn or the Moon, have them say, "Wow!" To assist you for the specifics of a particular celestial object, we will provide access for that information at the SJO either by the Internet and/or software running on the computer.

To better prepare for our astronomy training session, we are asking you to view the following selected parts of a video series on YouTube.com called "*Crash Course Astronomy*." We are suggesting that you make it a goal to cover three of the sessions per week. These videos should give you more knowledge than the typical question asked, which will make you feel confident in taking questions. While the presenter is passionate and fun, he delivers facts at a very rapid pace, so it's suggested that you view a part (most are 12 minutes long) without stopping, then repeat it pausing when something needs more thought, and even backing up to repeat until the fact or concept is fully grasped. By completing the following parts, we will be able to have more of a review in our on-site training session (date to be arranged) rather than starting from scratch. Note: there are actually 45 parts in this video series, if you wish to view more than the list below, that would be wonderful.

Finally, we want each of you (or as a couple) to send us an email after each set of three parts with your reactions and comments about the information presented to <mailto:darksky@wetmtndarkskies.org>. Just a single sentence or a question about the content is sufficient.

Video Training Series: *Crash Course Astronomy* on YouTube (*selected parts*):

Week #1:

- *Naked Eye Observations*, #2:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-Wtlev6suc>
- *Cycles in the Sky*, #3:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01QWC-rZcfE>
- *Moon Phases*, #4:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQ5vty8f9Xc>

Week #2:

- *Telescopes*, #6:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYhy7eaazlk>
- *Introduction to the Solar System*, #9:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKM0P3XIMNA>

- *The Moon*, #12:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCzchPx3yF8>

Week #3:

- *Distances*, #25:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWMh61yutjU>
- *Nebulae*, #36:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8UI7F43_Yk
- *Galaxies*, #38
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I82ADyJC7wE>

Since Saturn will be in view in the evenings throughout the spring and summer, we recommend this part also:

- *Saturn*, #18
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8GNde5nCSg>

The **on-site training session** from 2015 is available for review:
Star Guide training video: <http://tinyurl.com/starguidetraining>