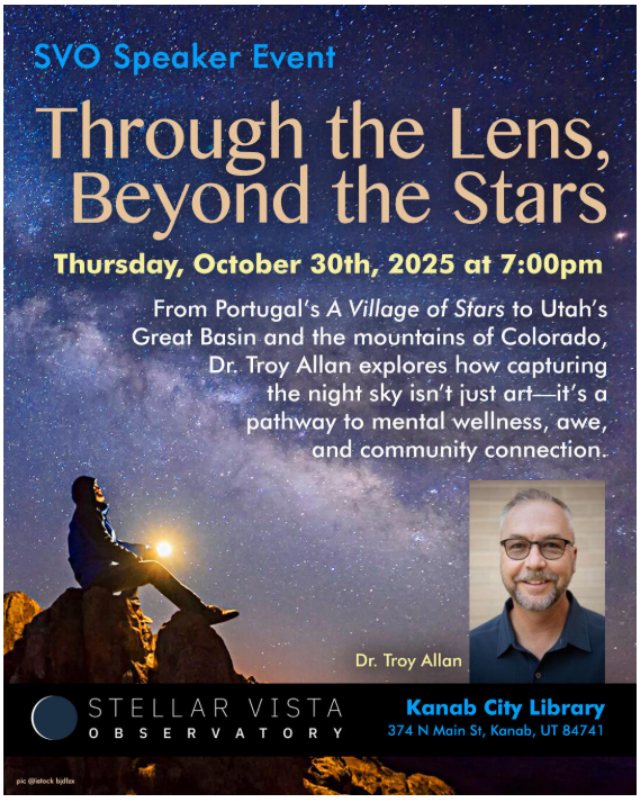
STELLAR VISTA
OBSERVATORY
Exploring Utah's Starry Nights

Special Speaker Event at the Kanab Library on October 30, 2025

On October 30th at 7pm, please join us at the Kanab Library for an inspiring lecture by Dr. Troy Allan about the numerous benefits that stargazing brings into our lives.

Dr. Troy Allan has chased the night sky from Portugal's *A Village of Stars* art residency to Great Basin National Park and the mountains of Colorado—exploring how awe can heal, inspire, and connect communities. A retired U.S. Army Chaplain and current Utah State University Extension professor, he blends science, storytelling, and policy to show why protecting our dark skies matters for mental health and the human spirit. His work bridges the worlds of research, art, and policy—helping communities protect and engage with night skies as a vital public resource.

Whether speaking at astrophotography workshops or leading community discussions on policy, Troy's passion is to help audiences see the stars not just as a spectacle, but as a source of healing, wonder, and shared purpose.



2025 Kanab Electoral Candidate Survey

With the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 4th, SVO contacted all the candidates for Kanab Mayor and City Council to see where they stand on issues near and dear to our heart: supporting astrotourism and local dark sky initiatives. Our survey of candidates' answers is available here: [2025 Kanab Electoral Candidate Survey Results | Stellar Vista Observatory]

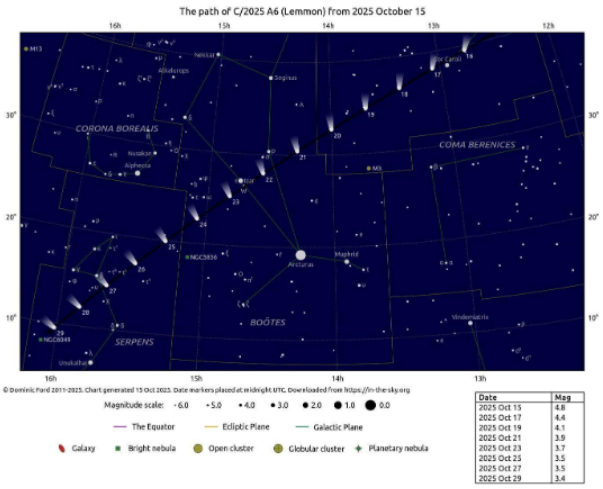
Please note that as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we do not support or oppose any candidate for public office. The responses below are for informational purposes only and were solicited equally from all registered candidates. We would also like to disclose that City Council candidate David Lane is a member of the Stellar Vista Observatory board of directors.

A five-question, nonpartisan questionnaire was sent to all 2025 Kanab City candidates. Responses are presented in the order they were received, and the position the candidate is seeking is noted in parentheses next to their name in the first question (ie 'M' for mayor and 'CC' for city council). Our goal is to help voters make informed choices in the upcoming municipal election.



A Viewing Guide to Comet C/2025 A6 (Lemmon)

Now is the time to view one of the most exciting comets visiting our little corner of the galaxy this year. Comet C/2025 A6 is named after the observatory where it was first discovered: the Mt. Lemmon Observatory (MLO) in the Santa Catalina Mountains northeast of Tucson, Arizona. The MLO uses a 60-inch telescope to survey the night sky and discovered this particular comet on January 3rd of this year. This green-tinted comet is traveling fast, at a speed of 135,000 miles per hour and is easily seen with binoculars or a small telescope. See the star map below to locate it over the next week:



Date	Mag
2025 Oct 15	4.8
2025 Oct 17	4.4
2025 Oct 19	4.1
2025 Oct 21	3.9
2025 Oct 23	3.7
2025 Oct 25	3.5
2025 Oct 27	3.5
2025 Oct 29	3.4

Comet Lemmon will not return until the year 3175, so get outside during the early evening hours between 7:30 pm and 8:30 pm MDT to enjoy it. Here's how to find it. Look for the brightest star in the western sky, Arcturus, (285 degrees NW at an altitude of 12 degrees), then look upward and to the left for a faint fuzzy light in the sky about 20 to 25 degrees above a level horizon. Once you spot it, use your binocs for a better view.

The image below was captured by SVO's night sky interpreter Michael McKeon using a Seestar digital telescope.





Comet Lemmon, courtesy of Michael McKeon.

Star Party and Event Roundup

October was an extremely busy month for SVO, featuring two star parties and an event for the Kane School District Second Graders to boot!

First up was the star party at the **Grand Circle Trailfest on October 1st**. The Trailfest is a 3-day/4-night trail running festival, based at Jacob Hamblin Park in Kanab. Runners get to experience scenery in Bryce Canyon, Zion, & Horseshoe Bend, with a different race each day. SVO set up three telescopes in Jacob Hamblin, starting a little after sunset. Bright lights were on in the park for the first few minutes, making it possible for us to take some photos of the crowds, but went out expeditiously for the telescope viewing. The evening started with a large crowd of more than 50 people but ended fairly early since the runners turned in for an early morning race.



Grand Circle Trailfest Star Party with Rich Csenge, SVO President at the telescope. Photo by Ella Elman.

On October 3, SVO hosted a Star Party at the Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park with approximately 30 people in attendance. Michael McKeon, SVO volunteer, was there with his telescope showing off Saturn and answering questions. Even though he was extremely busy with the attendees, Michael found time to assist a couple learn to use a telescope they had inherited and showed them how to assemble it and set it up. If you have a telescope you need help learning how to use or would like to borrow one, please contact us at info@stellarvistaobservatory.org and we can assist!





Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park Star Party on October 3rd. Photo by Michael McKeon.

October 6th brought the **Kane School District Second Graders Full Moon Party**, attended by approximately 100 young students and their parents. The event was a great success, providing many kids (and their parents!) their first experience seeing the moon and other celestial objects through a telescope. Three SVO volunteers made this educational evening possible: Rich Csenge, SVO President and SVO night sky interpreters Kyle Slaton and Michael McKeon. The event was covered in print editions of The Independent and the October 9th Southern Utah News.



Parents and children line up to see the moon through a telescope at the Kane School District Second Graders Full Moon Party. Photo by Michael McKeon.

Free Public Star Parties

Exciting viewing opportunities abound throughout the fall and winter! Please join us for one of our free star parties!

- **Tuesday, November 11, 2025** (Veteran's Day)- 7:00pm at Jackson Flat Reservoir Boat Launch Parking Area. The Taurid meteor shower peaks tonight! Saturn and the Andromeda Galaxy will also be on display.
- **Saturday, December 13, 2025** - 7:00pm at Jackson Flat Reservoir Boat Launch Parking Area. The peak of the Geminids meteor shower, the Pleiades star cluster, and Orion & Jupiter return to the sky.
- **Friday, January 9, 2026** - 7:00pm at Jackson Flat Reservoir Boat Launch Parking Area. Jupiter at perigee (closest to Earth in its orbit)! Plus, Saturn, the Pleiades, and the Orion Nebula

Our events calendar is available at: [Public Star Parties | Stellar Vista Observatory](#).

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Stellar Vista Observatory
295 N Main St, Kanab, UT 84741, USA