



Event Horizon

ENCOURAGE. EXPLORE. DISCUSS.

September 2025



Premiere

Suncoast Stargazers

<https://suncoaststargazers.com/>

Issue

Who Are The Suncoast Stargazers

To coin a phrase from the late, great Admiral James Stockdale: “who are we and why are we here”? The answer is simple; there was a need that was not being fulfilled.

Back in 2018 and 2019 an active group of amateur astronomers began a “quasi club” largely affiliated with the local Science Center/Planetarium. There were interesting planetarium programs captained by a one-of-a-kind director who was everyone’s local favorite. Momentum was building. Then came the event that no one saw coming – Covid 19.

As someone deeply involved in the industry from a business perspective for over 25 years, it became obvious that suddenly everyone was looking for activities to keep them out in the fresh air BUT away from other people. One of those activities was an interest in stargazing and telescopes. Sales in a very mature company, happy with 3% to 5% annual increases, suddenly doubled their sales. Interest was everywhere but the means to nurture and grow that interest were either curtailed or indeed shut down completely. It was time to make a decision. From here the Suncoast Stargazers were born.

Relationships with stargazing venues such as Robinson Preserve (Bradenton) and The Bay Conservancy (Sarasota) had

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Eclipse Escapade 2027

Join us August 2nd, 2027 for the Total Eclipse

In April 2024, Suncoast Stargazer arranged a trip out to Dallas, TX to enjoy the city and experience this phenomenon. It was a success and we want to be even more adventurous now and venture further afield to Spain in 2027. There will be a 100% total eclipse of the sun that rotates through Gibraltar on August 2, 2027. We have taken one week to explore the southern coast towns of Spain including a couple of days on the Rock, (a UK protectorate), as well as a jaunt to Tangiers for a taste of that culture as well.

These plans are developing and will change as we get closer to the event. I did want to give you a sample however of the plan as it now stands. As with the Dallas trip, you are encouraged to participate but are welcome to go your own way, if you prefer.

Arrival in **Malaga, Spain** and have 2 days to explore the ancient charm of this citadel and lounge by the beach.

Day 4 has us moving on to **Gibraltar** by train. Under British rule since 1704, Gibraltar is a British enclave in the heart of Spain’s Mediterranean coast. The top of

the mountain is accessible via cable car. It is unclear at this time if we will be able to view the phenomena from “The Top of the Rock”. There are interesting things to see and do while here, although our time here is limited. I’m told to keep your personal belongings close to hand because the monkeys residing on the Rock will steal glasses off your face and food out of your hand as well as anything else they can get to!

Tangier The eclipse is set for 9:40 AM on Monday, August 2, 2027. We are suggesting a hydrofoil over to Tangier, Morocco after that for the afternoon and evening. Our plan is to hire a guide for the day and safely explore the city, its bazar and local food. Returning to Gibraltar for Day 6 and back to Malaga for Day 7 and prepping for flights back to the States on Day 8.

Budget: Based on current 2025 prices and for discussion purposes only we estimate the following per person charges \$3810.00

Contact Donna @ donnareidwright@gmail.com to be placed on a Newsletter list for updates and to get further details as they come to fruition.

Donna Wright

“Event Horizon” Is a quarterly publication of Suncoast Stargazers

Welcome to the Debut Issue of Event Horizon

Welcome to the Premiere Issue of the Event Horizon Newsletter published by Suncoast Stargazers!

This is for you, by you and about you. Here is where you can “Encourage, Explore, Discuss” all thing relating to stargazing and astrophotography. Do you have a story about a night out stargazing? Share it here. Do you have some knowledge that you would like to pass on, put it in writing here to encourage others. Not only are we sharing out adventures in stargazing but we can share our beautiful images as well.

We welcome submissions of articles or images. If you want more information about article length and or submitting an article or images, contact our publisher @ SCSGPublisher@gmail.com and we will respond to your email as soon as possible.

Thanks, to you and for you.

Publisher— Event Horizon by Suncoast Stargazers

Five Questions With... Kayla Taylor

Kayla Taylor is working toward her PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She also holds a BS in Astronomy and Astrophysics and an MS in Aviation with a specialization in Space Studies from Embry-Riddle. Her research interests focus on balancing the opportunity and impact of human innovation, scientific inquiry, artificial intelligence, machine learning, transportation, and space exploration. She is an avid technical writer and STEM communicator, and she enjoys working with her colleagues to conduct interdisciplinary research. She has conducted research and published on various STEM-related issues, from [expanding opportunities for women in STEM](#) to [evaluating the effect of light pollution on ground-based astronomy](#). Her work serves to reimagine and support the aerospace and aviation industries.

Q1. *What first inspired your interest in astronomy and the cosmos?*

Kayla: I've had many mentors and experiences throughout my life that inspired my interest in astronomy, but the FIRST time I realized I had an interest in astronomy and astrophysics was in first grade (I was probably around 6 or 7 years old), and I read Mary Pope Osborne's "Midnight on the Moon" from

[Continued on Page 5 Five questions with...](#)

Summer Telescope Hibernation?

As an amateur astronomer living in Florida, observing the night sky is a bittersweet experience. From late October to May, the sweet skies above the sunshine state can be second to none. Assuming you can get to a relatively dark sky, winter weather in Florida can make for a wonderful and memorable visual experience. The experience from June to early October is quite the opposite. During the bitter summer months in Florida is when most telescopes go off to hibernate.

As we endure the wet weather that makes the skies inhospitable to visual astronomy, it seems that we can only dream about the cool and drier skies of winter, but all is not lost. We can do two things to help feed our astronomy needs. The first is to adjust your stargazing plans. While the summer months make breaking out the telescope less than ideal, binoculars can take advantage of the opportunities that the sky reveals in short lived moments between the clouds. The second thing is to spend some time planning the upcoming observing season and setting observational goals that will help enrich the experience.

While I am blessed to own several telescopes of varying apertures (as well as a permanent observatory with a 14" Schmidt-Cassegrain), it is my binoculars that get regular use during the summer months. Oblivious to the weather and our desires, one of the most interesting places to see in the heavens makes its grand appearance in our southern skies. That is the central bulge of our Milky Way galaxy. Overflowing with stars, clusters and nebulae, it practically demands the lower power offered by binoculars. Hidden behind clouds during most of the summer time's night skies, binoculars offer a way to indulge in this celestial beauty when the clouds are kind enough to part and offer a view of this glorious aspect of our place in space. A tripod, or parallelogram mount will make the viewing much easier, but I find the low-tech solution of a blanket in the grass a much more fun and comfortable way to see the skies through binoculars.

Visual astronomy can reward spontaneity, planning can make an evening of observing a much more efficient and enjoyable experience. I have spent countless hours staring into a handset or looking at charts under a red light, trying to determine what to look at next, when some prior planning could have led to more efficient use of the time.

Logbooks and star charts were the way to do this in

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When the Universe gives you Lemons- make LUP-enade

T-Coronae Borealis abbreviated TCrB also known as the “Blaze Star” is a recurrent nova which last brightened in 1946. Professional astronomers predicted it would brighten again by September 2024. As of mid-2025, TCrB has not yet gone nova but when it does happen, its apparent brightness is predicted to be naked eye at magnitude +2.

T-Coronae Borealis is a classical nova involving a white dwarf accreting hydrogen rich material from a companion star usually a red giant. The accreted hydrogen builds up and leads to a thermonuclear explosion that results in the sudden brightness of the star. The white dwarf is not destroyed in the process.

While waiting for the Blaze Star to brighten, another nova occurred that took astronomers by surprise. The new nova was detected in the constellation LUPUS the wolf. Therefore, when the universe gives you lemons- make LUP-enade.

Nova Lupi 2025 officially designated V462 Lupi was first discovered on June 12, 2025, by the All-Sky Automated Survey for Supernovae, a network of 20 worldwide robotic telescopes. When Nova Lupi 2025 was first detected to outburst, it was +8.7 magnitude and has since rapidly brightened to +5.7 magnitude, which is on the verge of naked eye visibility. This star is normally at magnitude +22.3 and therefore brightened by 3.3 million times! Since this is its first recorded eruption, it is unknown how long V462 Lupi will be visible to the naked eye. It could take from a few days to a few months to dim from its previous level. V462 Lupi was determined to be a classical nova just like TCrB.

Observers from a latitude around 40 degrees North will find Nova Lupi 2025 low in the sky at approximately 10 degrees above the southern horizon at around 10:30 p.m. local time. The further south you are the nova will appear higher in the sky. From the Florida Keys V462 Lupi will be 25 degrees above the southern horizon. Therefore, the best way to view the nova is on a clear night with an unobstructed view down to the horizon. The coordinates for V462 Lupi are RA 15h 08m 03.27” and DEC -40° 08’ 35.1”. Simply input these coordinates into your GO TO telescope and the nova will be centered in the field of view.



This was my first observation of a nova. I was surprised how bright the star appeared in my Seestar S50 smart telescope. I will be monitoring and imaging this star throughout the coming months as it begins to fade. I encourage all amateur astronomers to attempt an observation/image of this once in a lifetime event. Consider submitting your observations to the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (AAVSO).

Image of T-Coronae Borealis on June 24, 2025 at 11:33pm local time or June 25, 2025 3h 33m Universal Time near the zenith. The skies were moonless, clear, and hazy at Bortle 6. The easiest way to find TCrB in the Seestar is to input the elliptical galaxy IC4587 at mag +14.3. The Blaze Star will be the nearest bright star to the galaxy at approximately +10 magnitude. Image is the result of 10 second exposures totaling 5 minutes in equatorial mode. Straight out of the Seestar with no post processing. Image was taken by the author from

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Welcome to the Debut Issue of Event Horizon

Continued from Page 3 *When the Universe give you...*

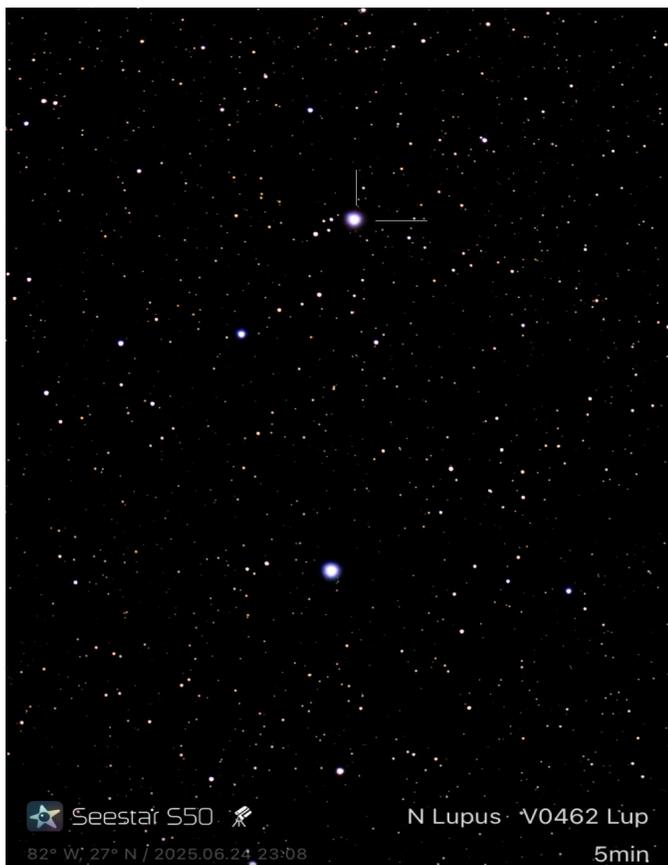


Image of V462 Lupi taken on June 24, 2025 at 11:08pm local time or June 25, 2025 at 3h 08m Universal Time. The skies were moonless, clear and hazy right down to the horizon at Bortle 6. The nova was 22 degrees above the horizon at this time. The bright star at the bottom center of the image is HR Lupi which is at magnitude +5.8. Note that the Nova Lupus is approximately the same magnitude. Image is the result of 10 second exposures totaling 5 minutes in equatorial mode. Straight out of the Seestar with no post processing. The image was taken by the author from Longboat Key (Sarasota), Florida. Note that V0462 Lup in the watermark is officially V462 Lupi.

References:

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- 2) Bright Nova Lights Up Lupus Constellation Sky & Telescope Bob King June 17, 2025 <https://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-news/bright-nova-lights-up-lupus/>

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- 4) A "New Star" Suddenly Got 3 Million Times Brighter - How to See It by Jamie Carter June 24, 2025 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiecartereurope/2025/06/24/a-new-star-suddenly-got-3-million-times-brighter---how-to-see-it/>
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- 6) Nova V462 in Lupus, an Astronomical Event not to be Missed. <https://theskylive.com/articles/2025/06/nova-v462-in-lupus>
- 7) V462 Lupi Wikipedia.org https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V462_Lupi
- 8) AAVSO published observations of magnitudes for Nova V462 Lupi https://apps.aavso.org/webobs/results/?star=000-BQF-448&num_results=200
- 9) Special thanks to Russell Pinizzotto PhD President of the Southern Maine Astronomers for his valuable assistance in identifying the nova against the background stars in my Seestar image. <https://www.southernmaineastronomers.org/>

A friendly reminder

Suncoast Stargazers has NO ANNUAL DUES! So please do your part to help this 501(c)(3) Private Foundation with a tax deductible contribution. Your help no matter how big or small, goes a LONG ways. Might I even say that it goes Lightyear?

You can make your contribution by following this link:

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/tax-deductible-contribution/items>

the *Magic Tree House* series. The book details the adventures of a brother and sister who have a magical treehouse that can take them on adventures throughout space and time. "Midnight on the Moon" had several spin-off nonfiction books that described each planet in the solar system, and I couldn't put them down until I finished ALL of them! I ended up winning a reading competition at my school that year (as a first grader!), and I often attribute that award to those *Magic Tree House* books. I kept a little composition notebook with all of the interesting facts I learned as I read, and I often had to write in tiny handwriting in the margins because I didn't have enough space in my notebook.

Q2: *Who inspired you to follow your dreams?*

Kayla: It's hard for me to attribute my inspiration to a single person, and I wouldn't be able to list them all here, but I will certainly describe a few of my mentors who helped mold me into the scientist I am today! If you asked any of my teachers from primary/secondary school, I'm sure they would all tell you that I LOVED to learn, and I especially loved math and science. My fifth-grade teacher, Julie Murray, was one of the first people who really made me feel like I could be successful as a mathematician or a scientist. I also had a fabulous science teacher in middle school, Nicole Machenheimer; at first, her class felt incredibly difficult, but I become so much more confident in my ability to learn and communicate science after a few years with her. In high school, Jason Mocherman at the Riverview High School Planetarium was a key figure in my pursuit of astronomy. I was his intern during my senior year, and he helped me build the technical foundation that helped me be so successful in college. Last (but certainly not least), I was a planetarium intern at the Bishop Museum under Howard Hochhalter, and he helped me realize my passion for science communication. Howard is one of the best public speakers I have ever encountered, and he helped me gain confidence in my own ability to communicate science with others, especially those who may not have a technical background.

Q3: *What do you think about when you look at the clear starry night sky?*

Kayla: When I look at a clear, starry sky, I often think to myself how *unusual* it is for me to see a clear and starry sky. For so much of my life, I have lived in areas where light pollution has (and continues to be) a significant problem for astronomers. In fact, my senior project as an undergraduate focused on the [light pollution at Embry-Riddle](#) that made it very difficult to conduct research on our 1-meter telescope. As a middle/high-schooler, I attended "sleep-away" summer camp in the mountains of North Carolina, and during that time, I truly felt like I was seeing an unimpeded, clear, starry night sky. Now, as an academic, I often think, "How much longer will the sky look like this before satellite mega-constellations take away this view?"

Q4: *If you could be sent to anyplace in space, where would it be?*

Kayla: If I could be sent anywhere in space (and survive the journey, ha!), I would want to be sent to LGM-1, which is the pulsar that Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell discovered in 1967 ("LGM" stands for "Little Green Men," because Dr. Burnell joked that the signal must be an alien). I have met Dr. Burnell twice, and she is one of the most remarkable people I have ever met. I think her discovery is so fundamental to understanding the life cycle of stars, which, of course, is why the discovery was awarded a Nobel Prize in Physics (that left Jocelyn's name off because she was a female graduate student at the time). Dr. Burnell told me that she thinks the Nobel snub made her *more* famous, and she continues to be very good-natured about the lack of recognition, which I applaud her for. I would want to be sent to LGM-1 to see, in person, one of the greatest discoveries that has been made in all of astronomical history AND discovered by someone whom I have met!

Q5: *What is something you learned during your astronomy pursuits that might be surprising to someone else?*

Kayla: I have learned how INCREDIBLY important humanities and communication classes are; these are often referred to as "general education" courses, and I think that many people write them off as being "unrelated" or "unimportant." Humanities and communication classes are where students learn how to write, speak to an audience, think critically, evaluate sources, and integrate ethics into the choices they make. We would not want aerospace engineers building rockets if they don't understand the fundamental ethics of sending human lives into space! I think it is incredibly important in science to be clear, effective communicators; not only does science communication help involve and inspire individuals outside of STEM, but it is also critical within disciplines so that individuals can act upon information that is accurately portrayed in writing.



Sarasota's Own Kayla Tylor

Photo by [Alyssa Shrock Photography](#)

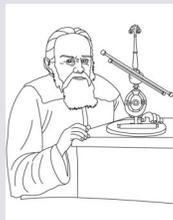
already been previously established but now became more structured and planned. The Suncoast Stargazers were incorporated on 2/25/22 and became a 501 (c) (3) Private Foundation on 4/22/22. We became members of the prestigious NASA Night Sky Network of National Astronomy Clubs on 2/27/23. Monthly public stargazing events were scheduled, and monthly educational zoom speakers were booked. Many of the speakers are club members with a high degree of expertise in various areas of interest. Others are outside contacts that we have developed and nurtured.

And so, we continue on with over 300 members and over 800 Facebook Followers. We have a core group of members eager and anxious to staff public events with their telescopes and help in any way that they can. The founding members decided that every effort would be made to accommodate newcomers to the hobby and to help them grow in the hobby at their own pace. We now have access to a dark sky site, a quarterly newsletter, and soon an annual picnic. The growth of the club and the support of local well-respected organizations has been much appreciated and most gratifying. The Suncoast Stargazers look forward to continuing to spread the joy of astronomy in the upcoming 2025/2026 observing season.

Ed McDonough

2025/2026 Observing Season

- 7/19/25 – Robinson Preserve, Summer Doldrums
- 9/27/25 – Robinson Preserve
- 10/25/25 – The Bay Sarasota
- 11/1/25 – Robinson Preserve
- 11/15/25 – Myakka State Park, Dark Sky Special
- 11/29/25 – Robinson Preserve
- 12/27/25 – Robinson Preserve
- 1/24/26 – The Bay Sarasota
- 1/31/26 – Robinson Preserve, Full Moon Special
- 2/14/26 – Myakka State Park, Dark Sky Special
- 2/21/26 – Robinson Preserve
- 3/21/26 – Robinson Preserve
- 3/28/26 – The Bay Sarasota
- 4/25/26 – Robinson Preserve
- 5/23/26 – Robinson Preserve



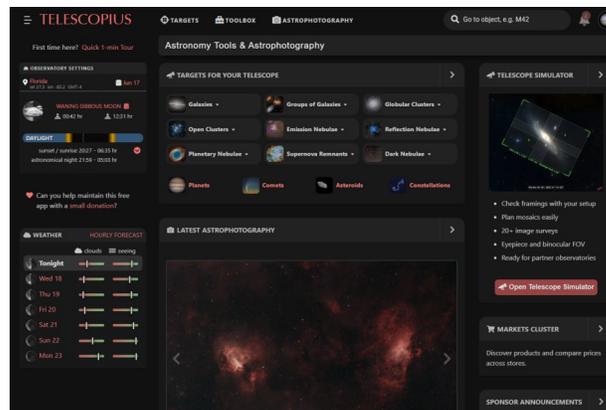
Special Events Can be added with short notice, follow us on [Facebook](#) and our [website](#) for more information. Also watch for email updates!

the past, but software and the omnipresent internet make this a much easier, intuitive and fun task. I am a big fan of <https://telescopius.com>. It is a one stop shop for planning your astronomical needs, whether they are purely visual or photographic. It offers a host of other features that can ease the complexity of target selection and image framing. I highly recommend spending some time perusing the site and checking out what it offers.

With planning aids and other observational tools, we can continue to pursue our shared love of the sky and the treasures it holds.

Clear skies!

Howard H.



Who is Suncoast Stargazers?

We are the Suncoast Stargazers, a very large, active and knowledgeable astronomy group in the Bradenton, Sarasota and Venice area of the Suncoast. We strive to showcase our members community involvement with “open to the public” star parties monthly. Our members also have access to a dark site observing complex, monthly zoom meetings, classes on using your equipment, and Astro Imaging guidance. Whether you are new to the hobby, mid-tier, or advanced, you are welcome here. Join us and register as a full benefit member and/or also feel free to follow us on our FB page. Post your questions. Ask for help. Show off your images. It’s all free, no membership fees.

We are also proud affiliate members of the Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida
<https://www.scienceandenvironment.org/>

The views expressed in each article are those of the individual authors and are shared to encourage exploration and discussion within the Suncoast Stargazers community. While the organization does not officially endorse specific products mentioned, we support our members in sharing their knowledge and experiences. Authors are responsible for the accuracy and content of their contributions.

