

SAROS 132 – OPEN CALL FOR NIGHT SKY OBSERVATION



Ajay took this photograph in 2013 when the Devasthal Optical Telescope was under construction at a height of 2540 meters in Uttarakhand Himalayas, India. The circumpolar star trails in the sky span the entire true night, between the end of evening astronomical twilight and the start of morning astronomical twilight, 9hr 41min. Dhruv Tara, the Pole Star, has rotated around the celestial pole by 145 degrees.

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OVERNIGHT OBSERVATION: Saturday, 5 – Sunday, 6 October 2019
The Sagar School Observatory at Tijara, near Alwar

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, September 30, 2019

Write to stargate.saros132@gmail.com telling us in 3 short lines why you want to be a part of this event.

The night sky observation is the second event planned as part of **Saros 132**. It is a collaboration between Rohini Devasher and Astro-photographer and amateur astronomer Ajay Talwar.

“Throughout its long history, observation has always been a form of knowledge that straddled the boundary between art and science, high and low sciences, elite and popular practices. As a practice, observation is an engine of discovery and a bulwark of evidence. It is pursued in solitude but also in the company of thousands. As a product, observations have been accumulated anonymously over millennia but also authored singly by individuals eager to secure priority and fame. They have been preserved in proverbs, in chronicles, in diaries, in archives, in learned journals and in computer banks. The very word ‘observation’ is suggestively ambiguous: at once a process, a product, an all-consuming pursuit.”¹

¹Daston Lorraine, *Histories of Scientific Observation*, University of Chicago Press, 2011

A group of people will be selected to join us for a night of collective observation/speculation at The Sagar School Observatory at Tijara, near Alwar. The observatory on the school campus is managed by Ajay, who takes weekly classes using their research level 14 inch Celestron Schmidt Cassegrain telescope.

On 5 October, the Moon will be in its first quarter. Jupiter and Saturn will be visible in the evening. Saturn and the Moon will be close together in conjunction. Uranus and Neptune will also be visible later in the night. We will also hunt for star clusters and double stars.

Over the course of the evening and through the night, we might think about observation and recording, the practices of taking notes and paying attention as they were cultivated by early modern observers and as they continue to be practiced by amateur astronomers across the world today.

Come join the 'star party'!

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