



October's Feature Presentation:
Telescope Basics

Steve Bieger

Links mentioned in Steve's presentation:

[Telescope Basics](#)

[Quick Reference](#)



Steve Bieger presented BASIC TELESCOPES; a very informative coverage of the types and uses, advantages and disadvantages of the various types of scopes for astronomy.



Steve covered several types of mounts, including how to make an alt-az mount into an equatorial mount by tilting the azimuth axis toward the north celestial pole with a wedge.



Steve continued with suggested ways to learn before you buy, including a really inexpensive and rewarding way to begin - learn the sky with your eyes first, then add those binoculars you may have at home already. Learn about dark adaptation, and keep a log book on all you learn. From experience, he suggested ways to budget your purchases when you do begin to buy a telescope (or two) and all the essentials that go with it (like bug spray :-). Steve included some useful tips like reading the manual thoroughly, making a check list, and practicing telescope setup and takedown in the daylight. Equipment lists can get long, so make a check list for that too. Finally, remember that astronomy requires curiosity, patience, persistence, an attitude of fun, there is no dumb question, and don't forget the observing etiquette.

Thanks Steve, very enjoyable - and thanks to all who brought telescopes to set up for everyone to see.

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[What's New?](#)

[Site Map](#)

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Telescope Basics - Resources

Steve Bieger

Online charts

[S&T Skychart](#)

[Skymaps](#)

[Orion Telescopes "In the sky"](#)

Local observatories

[Fernbank Science Center](#)

[Agnes Scott College Bradley Observatory](#)

Manufacturers sites and catalogs

[Celestron](#)

[Meade](#)

[Orion](#)

Local dealers

[Camera Bug](#)

[Wolf Camera](#)

[Telescope Atlanta](#) (care of Bradford Map)

Binoculars

Astronomy magazine article

<http://www.astronomy.com/asy/default.aspx?c=ss&id=8>

Sky & Telescope article

http://skyandtelescope.com/howto/scopes/article_153_1.asp

Telescope and mount types

S&T - Choosing your first telescope

http://skyandtelescope.com/howto/scopes/article_241_1.asp

Astronomy - Selecting your first telescope

<http://www.astronomy.com/asy/default.aspx?c=ss&id=9>

Orion - Choosing a telescope

[http://www.telescope.com/content/learningcenter/content2main.jsp?
iCategoryID=91&iContentID=619&CCNavIDs=19,21,91](http://www.telescope.com/content/learningcenter/content2main.jsp?iCategoryID=91&iContentID=619&CCNavIDs=19,21,91)

Star hopping

Art Russell's web site

<http://education.gsu.edu/spehar/FOCUS/Astronomy/index.htm>

Celestial coordinates

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equatorial_coordinate_system

Setting circles

Astro-tom

http://www.astro-tom.com/telescopes/setting_circles.htm

GoTo computers

Check the telescope manufacturer web sites above

Magazine articles for beginners

NightSky magazine

<http://nightskymag.com/>

Binocular and scope buyers guides

Check the newsstands around August

Optics

Check the library and stores for astronomy books

Batteries and chargers

Batteries.Com

<http://www.batteries.com>

Fryes

<http://outpost.com>

BatteriesPlus.Com

<http://www.batteriesplus.com>

Filters

Check the telescope manufacturer web sites above

Lumicon

<http://www.lumicon.com/filters.htm>

Thousand Oaks Optical

<http://www.thousandoaksoptical.com/nebula.html>

Power stations

Celestron, Orion

Other manufacturers carried by sport shops

Telrad

Available through most dealers

Dew shield

Available through most dealers

Chair or stool

Available through most dealers, Orion, etc

Cases

Orion

Lowe's

Home Depot

Adjustable chairs

Orion

<http://www.telescope.com/shopping/product/detailmain.jsp?itemID=126&itemType=PRODUCT&iMainCat=6&iSubCat=30&iProductID=126>

Kendrick

<http://www.kendrickastro.com/astro/observingchair.html>

Foldable table

Check the camping stores

Collimation tool

Available through most dealers, Orion, etc

Fine focuser

Helical focuser from Orion

<http://www.telescope.com/shopping/product/detailmain.jsp?itemID=11734&itemType=PRODUCT&iMainCat=6&iSubCat=30&iProductID=11734>

Anti-dew systems

Kendrick, Thousand Oaks Optical, Dew-Buster

Sonoma State University - Bright Stars (RA & Dec)

http://www.phys-astro.sonoma.edu/observatory/observers/standards/BS_circles.pdf

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About Us

Home

What's New?

Site Map



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Quick reference:

Sky & Telescope magazine - <http://skyandtelescope.com/>

Astronomy magazine - <http://www.astronomy.com/>

NightSky magazine - <http://nightskymag.com/>

Skymaps - <http://skymaps.com/>

Fernbank - <http://208.63.68.213/index.html>

Agnes Scott College Bradley Observatory - <http://bradley.agnesscott.edu/>

Celestron - <http://www.celestron.com/>

Meade - <http://www.meade.com/>

Orion - <http://www.telescope.com/>

Camera Bug - <http://www.camerabug.com/>

Wolf Camera - <http://www.wolfcamera.com/>

Telescopes Atlanta (care of Bradford Map) - <http://www.telescopeatlanta.com/>

Art Russell's site - <http://education.gsu.edu/spehar/FOCUS/Astronomy/index.htm>

Wikipedia (astronomy) - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astronomy>

Astro-tom - <http://www.astro-tom.com/>

Batteries.Com - <http://www.batteries.com>

Fryes - <http://outpost.com>

BatteriesPlus.Com - <http://www.batteriesplus.com>

Lumicon - <http://www.lumicon.com/filters.htm>

Thousand Oaks Optical - <http://www.thusandoaksoptical.com/nebula.html>

Kendrick - <http://www.kendrickastro.com/>

Sonoma State - http://www.phys-astro.sonoma.edu/observatory/observers/standards/BS_circles.pdf

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Home

What's New?

Site Map