

The JSC Astronomical Society

JIM WESSEL, JSCAS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH CHAIRMAN

The Johnson Space Center (JSC) Astronomical Society (JSCAS) meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Universities Space Research Association (USRA) building at 3600 Bay Area Blvd at Middlebrook Drive. This building is also used by the Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI). The JSCAS web site address is easy to remember: www.jscas.net. The next meetings are June 14 and July 12, 2013.

JSCAS has agreed to contribute one or more pages in every bimonthly issue of *Horizons*. The JSCAS contributions will typically feature a calendar of upcoming events, and other assorted astronomy related articles of interest to our readership. We are grateful for their support! JSCAS is very active, with educational outreach such as star parties and monthly open-to-the-public meetings. Those meetings feature high-quality presentations ranging from what's in the current month's night time sky for beginner observing, astronomical oddities, a *Member's Minute* (typically a shorter presentation), a novice Question and Answer session, and of course the changing monthly main talk which covers a gamut of interesting topics, all of which form an excellent astronomy lecture series available to the public totally FREE. Membership to JSCAS is based on continual attendance only, as there are no dues, no by-laws and very few rules.

Of interest, JSCAS has recently developed a loaner telescope program, in which various makes and models of telescopes can be borrowed

short term by its membership. This allows curious individuals to try-before-you-buy and before they make a substantial investment in their own observing equipment. Another new development is JSCAS' DVD library. Over 200 high quality DVDs on a diverse range of astronomy related topics are available to be checked out, just like at a regular library.

JSCAS is a strong supporter of the Houston area Astronomy Day celebration held in October each year at the George Observatory inside of Brazos Bend State Park, southwest of Houston. This year's event is October 12th, and features a full day and night of fun activities and learning opportunities for the whole family. More details

will be provided in *Horizons* closer to the date.

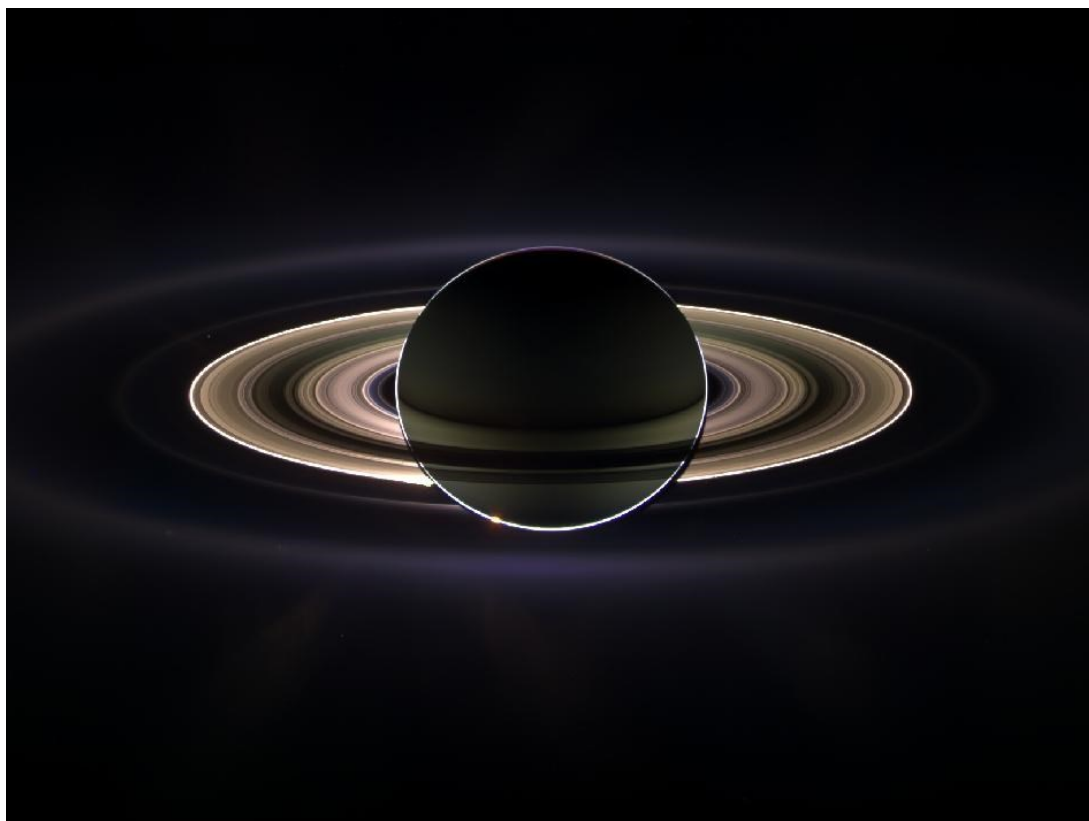
For those with an interest in astronomical observing, JSCAS takes biannual trips to its dark site in west central Texas at the Ft. McKavitt historical site. These 3 day gatherings are opportunities to catch up with old acquaintances and share some truly amazing food, and view some of the best night time skies in North America.

Upcoming JSCAS star parties and related JSCAS events will be listed here in the JSCAS pages in future issues of *Horizons*.

A few upcoming events from the JSCAS web site calendar [page](#) are presented here:



- June 7, 2013: Haak [Winery](#) Star Party.
- June 14, 2013: Dr. Stephen [Bradshaw](#), Rice University, *Solar Activity and Consequences for Earth*.
- July 12, 2013: Dr. Aaron [Clevenson](#). His presentation title will be announced as soon as possible.



A backlit image of Saturn from the Cassini spacecraft. Credit: NASA-JPL Space Science Institute.