

ASSA ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY SECTION ANNUAL REPORT (2025-2026)

THE STATE OF ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGING

The Astrophotography Section aims to coordinate and promote astronomical imaging technology and collect images created by amateur astronomers. Amateur astronomers from across Southern Africa are increasingly contributing images and data to professional astronomers worldwide. Both amateur and professional photographers in Southern Africa are steadily producing higher-quality astronomical images.

MEMBER ACTIVITY

The Astrophotography Section actively encourages amateur photographers to submit their images to our Flickr image archive. We feature these photographs on the ASSA website under the Gallery section, categorised by photographer and subject. Only images captured by Southern African photographers or taken in Southern Africa qualify for submission. Photographers do not have to be ASSA members to contribute. Our primary goal is to promote and encourage astrophotography in the region.

INITIATIVES

Selected images submitted to the ASSA Flickr Gallery may be published in the annual ASSA Sky Guide.

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITIONS

2025 Winter Astrophotography Competition — closed 15 July 2025; winners announced at the ASSA AGM on 11 August 2025.

- 1st place: **Peter Dunsby** — *M83* — Celestron Advanced VX EQ Mount
- 2nd place: **Mark Chertkow** — *NGC 6727* — Celestron StarSense Explorer DX130 AZ
- 3rd place: **Gerald de Beer** — *NGC 6334* — Celestron SkyMaster 15×70 binoculars
- All entrants received a high-quality print of their competition image, plus a limited-time discount on additional prints.

2025 Summer Astrophotography Competition — closed 15 January 2026; open to South African residents, no dedicated astro cameras (DSLRs and webcams only). Sponsored by Graphic Image Technologies, Move Shoot Move, Dwarf Labs, First Light Optics, Seestar and Outdoor Photo.

- 1st place: **John Lindsay-Smith** — *Blood Moon Rising* — Dwarf 3 Smart Telescope (Graphic Image Technologies & Dwarf Labs)
- 2nd place: **Yolanda Combrink** — *Blood Moon* — Seestar S50 Smart Telescope (Graphic Image Technologies & Seestar)
- 3rd place: **Truhan Pretorius** — *Milky Way* — Seestar S30 Smart Telescope (Graphic Image Technologies & Seestar)
- 4th place: **Jacques van Delft** — *Sunspots* — Nomad Grab & Go (Move Shoot Move)
- 5th place: **Manuel Da Silva** — *Moon* — Benro Slim Carbon Fibre Tripod (Outdoor Photo)
- 6th place: **Analize Jooste** — *Lunar Eclipse* — Optolong L-Pro Filter (First Light Optics)

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

Martin Heigan currently serves as the Section Director.