

Vereinigung der Sternfreunde e.V. VdS

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www.sternfreunde.de

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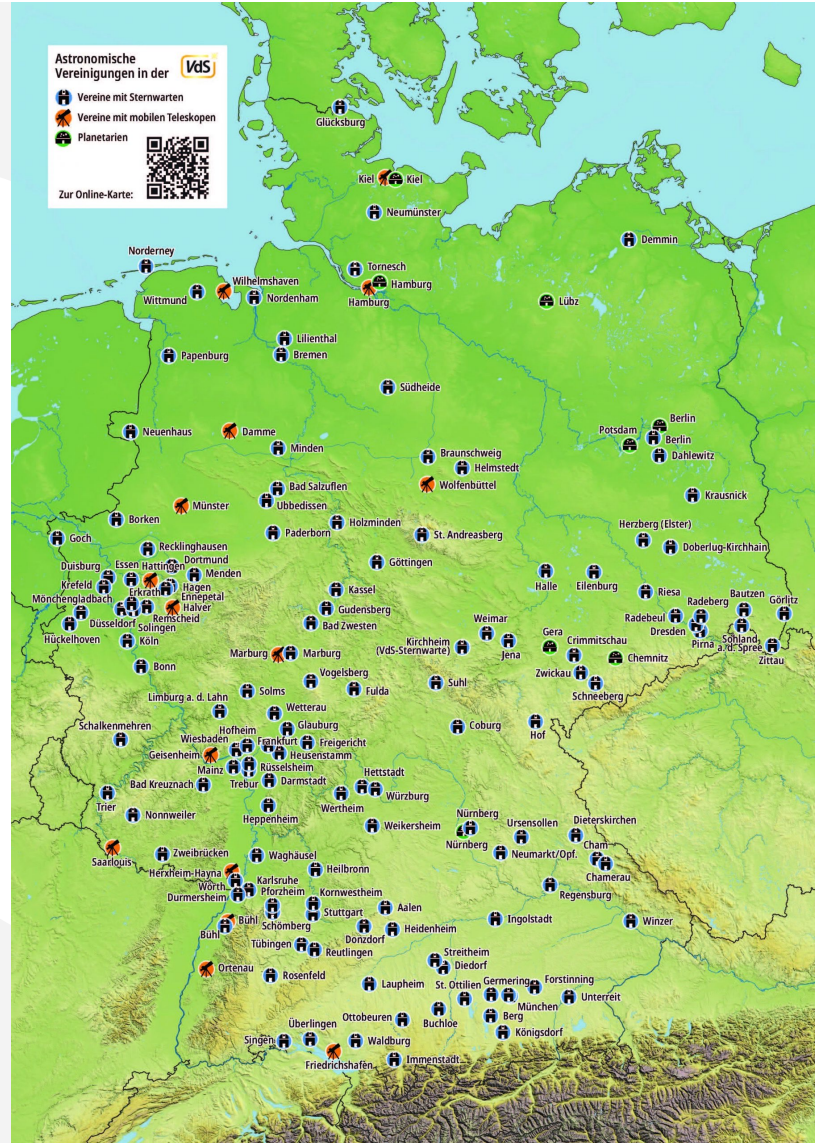


VEREINIGUNG
DER STERNFREUNDE

Vereinigung der Sternfreunde

- Founded in 1953
- Organized as „eingetragener Verein“ (legal framework often used for clubs, but e.g. also for the MPG) → quite flexible
- Largest amateur-astronomical society in D-A-CH
- Around 4000 individual members with a huge diversity in background
- Also ca. 100 clubs as members → debate about potential expansion of an umbrella-like role

Map from: <https://sternfreunde.de/mitgliedssternwarten/>



Some things members are interested in

- Enjoy astronomy as a hobby
- Communication (real-world conferences, and digital formats)
- Teaching and offers for the general public (e.g. „Astronomietag“, next one will be 28.03.2026)
- Publishing
- Do specialized research in areas where amateur astronomy can deliver valuable insights



The “Fachgruppen”

Amateurteleskope/Selbstbau

Peter Riepe: redaktion-selbstbau@sternfreunde.de

Astrofotografie

Peter Riepe: redaktion-astrofotografie@sternfreunde.de

Astronomische Vereinigungen

Astrid Gallus: redaktion-astrovereinigungen@sternfreunde.de

Astrophysik und Algorithmen

Klaus Rohe: redaktion-astrophysik@sternfreunde.de

Atmosphärische Erscheinungen

Wolfgang Hinz: fg-atmosphaere@sternfreunde.de

Dark Sky

Dr. Andreas Hänel: redaktion-darksky@sternfreunde.de

Geschichte

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Jugendarbeit

Robin Riesner: fg-jugendarbeit@sternfreunde.de

Kleine Planeten

Gerhard Lehmann: redaktion-kleine-planeten@sternfreunde.de

Kometen

Uwe Pilz: redaktion-kometen@sternfreunde.de

Meteore

Dr. Sirko Molau: redaktion-meteore@sternfreunde.de

Planeten

Sven Melchert: redaktion-planeten@sternfreunde.de

Radioastronomie

Dr. Klaus Henning: redaktion-radioastronomie@sternfreunde.de

Remote-Sternwarten

Bernd Christensen: redaktion-remote-sternwarten@sternfreunde.de

Sonne

Andreas Zunker: redaktion-sonne@sternfreunde.de

Spektroskopie

Dr. Daniel Sablowski: redaktion-spektroskopie@sternfreunde.de

Sternbedeckungen

Dr. Eberhard Bredner: redaktion-sternbedeckungen@sternfreunde.de

VdS-Volkssternwarte

Dr. Jürgen Schulz: juergen.schulz@sternfreunde.de

Veränderliche

Dietmar Bannuscher: redaktion-veraenderliche@sternfreunde.de

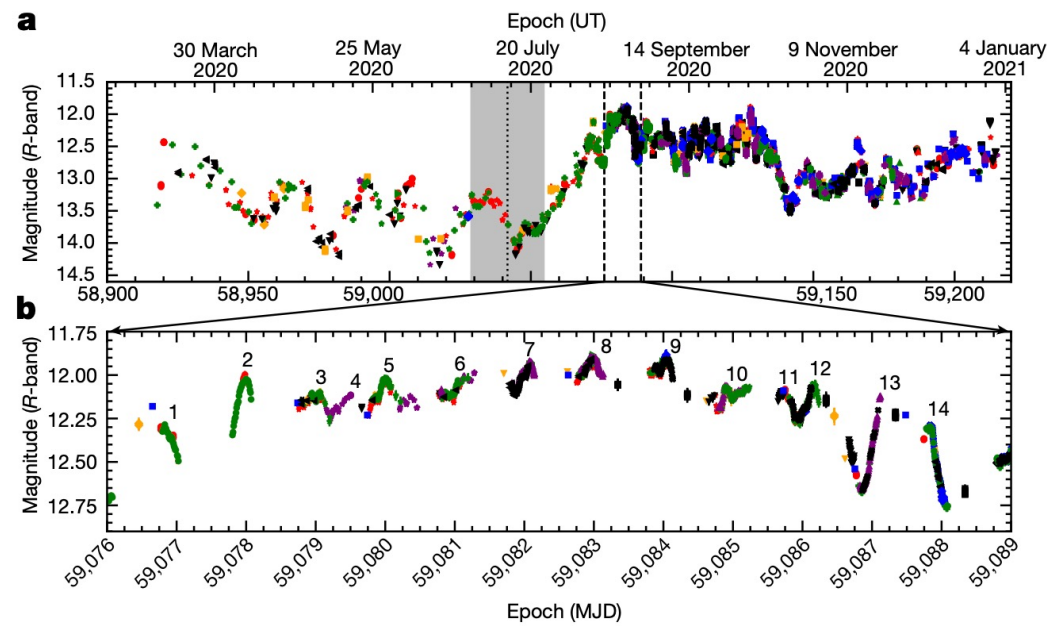
Visuelle Deep-Sky-Beobachtung

Dietmar Bannuscher: redaktion-deepsky@sternfreunde.de

With regards to transient phenomena...

- „Sternbedeckungen“ → occultations; potential not only for precision measurements of asteroid properties, but also stellar parameters
- „Veränderliche“ → variable star observing, sometimes decades-long high-precision lightcurves
- „Spektroskopie“ → spectroscopy
- „Astrofotografie“ and also „Visuelle Deep-Sky-Beobachtung“ → Photographic and visual observations, e.g. supernova (pre-)discoveries can happen
- „Remote-Sternwarten“ → remote operated telescope; wider sky coverage, but also expertise in operations

From: Jorstad, S.G.,
 Marscher, A.P., Raiteri,
 C.M. *et al.* Rapid quasi-
 periodic oscillations in
 the relativistic jet of BL
 Lacertae. *Nature* **609**,
 265–268 (2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-05038-9>



WEBT (Raiteri, Villata et al.) is one inspiring example of what can be achieved in the Pro-Am Domain

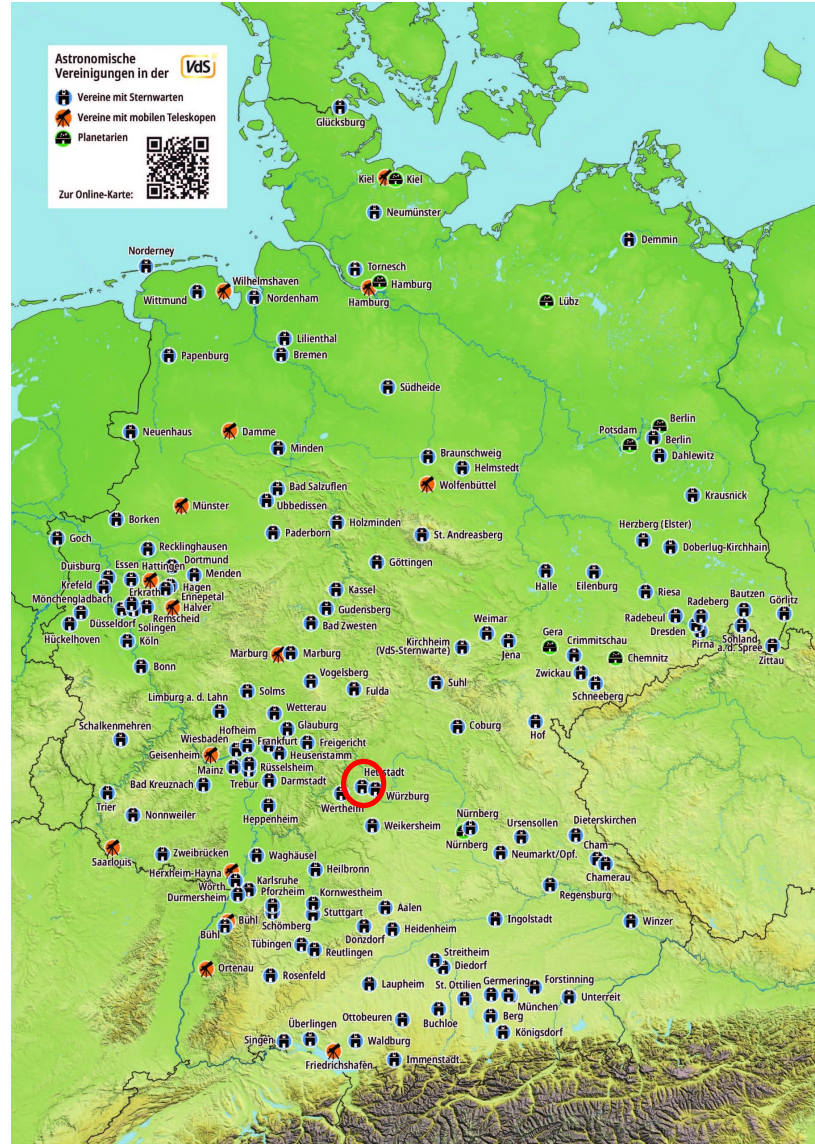
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Extended Data Table 1 | Optical telescopes

Observatory (Telescope; Camera)	Country	N_{obs}	$\langle\sigma_R\rangle$	Color	Symbol
Abastumani (70 cm)	Georgia	1631	0.008	Red	•
Aoyama Gakuin (35 cm)	Japan	32	0.022	Orange	▼
ARIES (104 cm)	India	2	0.005	Green	▲
ARIES (130 cm)	India	15	0.005	Green	▲
Belogradchik (60 cm; pol)	Bulgaria	28	0.028	Blue	◄
Catania (Arena; 20 cm)	Italy	134	0.008	Purple	►
Catania (GAC; 25 cm)	Italy	151	0.009	Purple	►
Catania (SLN; 91 cm)	Italy	230	0.005	Purple	►
Connecticut (51 cm)	USA	181	0.020	Black	■
Crimean (AP7p; 70 cm)	Crimea	137	0.007	Red	★
Crimean (ST-7; 70 cm; pol)	Crimea	892	0.007	Red	★
Crimean (ST-7; 70 cm)	Crimea	12	0.010	Red	★
Haleakala (LCO; 40 cm)	USA	14	0.046	Orange	◆
Hans Haffner (50 cm)	Germany	591	0.005	Green	+
Hypatia (25 cm)	Italy	4164	0.005	Blue	×
Lowell (LDT; 430 cm)	USA	7	0.013	Purple	•
Lulin (SLT; 40 cm)	Taiwan	1014	0.012	Black	▼
McDonald (LCO; 40 cm)	USA	13	0.044	Red	▲
Montarrenti (53 cm)	Italy	9	0.006	Orange	◄
Mt. Maidanak (T-60; FLI; 60 cm)	Uzbekistan	240	0.011	Green	►
Osaka Kyoiku (51 cm)	Japan	1610	0.007	Blue	■
Perkins (180 cm; pol)	USA	293	0.005	Purple	★
Pulkovo (65 cm)	Russia	23	0.015	Black	◆
Roque (NOT; e2v; 256 cm)	Spain	15	0.024	Red	+
Rozhen (200 cm)	Bulgaria	72	0.025	Orange	×
Rozhen (50/70 cm)	Bulgaria	99	0.027	Orange	×
SAI (FLI; Zeiss-600; 60 cm)	Crimea	455	0.009	Green	•
SAI (ZTSH; 260 cm; pol)**	Crimea	141	0.009	Green	•
Seveso (30 cm)	Italy	183	0.010	Blue	▼
Siena (30 cm)	Italy	1056	0.005	Purple	▲
St. Petersburg (40 cm; pol)	Russia	767	0.010	Black	◄
Svetloe (40 cm)	Russia	5	0.029	Red	►
Teide (IACS0; 80 cm)	Spain	30	0.040	Orange	■
Teide (LCO; 40 cm)	Spain	11	0.050	Orange	■
Tijarafe (40 cm)	Spain	1314	0.029	Green	★
Vidojevica (140 cm)	Serbia	97	0.006	Blue	◆
Vidojevica (60 cm)	Serbia	116	0.011	Blue	◆
West Mountain (90 cm)	USA	222	0.005	Purple	+
Wild Boar (24 cm)	Italy	632	0.005	Black	×

Map from: <https://sternfreunde.de/mitgliedssternwarten/>



Options to engage with VdS

- Of course huge diversity among ca. 4k people
- (Basically) all of them do astronomy as a pastime (different perspective than it being a job)
- Many very cordially welcome interaction and the opportunity to be involved in professional research
- Good starting point: very concrete idea „what do we need“, and „how can it be achieved“ (mainly speaking data-wise)

Options to engage with VdS

- Bochumer Herbsttagung (not organized by VdS, but by close colleagues):
08.11.2025
http://www.boheta.de/fset_start.htm
- Würzburger Frühjahrstagung
14.03.2026
<https://sternfreunde.de/event/wuerzburger-fruehjahrstagung-2026/>
- Forum (German language, but English posts would work)
<https://forum.vdsastro.de>
- E-Mail: service@sternfreunde.de
- How can we (VdS) make Astro-COLIBRI more well known in „our“ community?