

I did an article that can be found in the Photos area of the Club's Facebook page which has similar information that I also will put on the Club's FB photo area. You can bring up the photos and do a "Save as" click to your computer if you want the article's pages. The Club's FB page does not have an area for downloading files.

At the Astronomy Club meeting we discussed astrophotography imaging with some of our newest members. I was thinking maybe I should make a list of software that many of us use or have used. You can find lots of YouTube videos on using anyone of the listed products. Many of the listed software are Free but a Donation is also nice.

DeepSkyStacker: I used a lot starting out. It now has a Live Stack feature that can be used also. I still use at times for deep sky stacking. <http://deepskystacker.free.fr/english/index.html>

RegiStax6: I use it also, but it is used mostly for planets. It will stack individual frames. It will also stack individual frames of a video one may have done on a planet. You do not have to convert the video to individual frames the software will do that. <http://www.astronomie.be/registax/download.html>

ZWO: has two software programs that I have used. FireCapture and ASISudio. These may require having a ZWO camera. FireCapture is for Planetary acquisition. ASISudio is mostly deep space but it does have Planetary, Live Stacking, Fitts file viewing, Deep Space Imaging (just taking sequence pictures) and Deep Sky Stacking (stacking your individual frames later).  
<http://www.firecapture.de/>  
<https://download.astronomy-imaging-camera.com/software/>

AutoStakkert! Is another one but I have not used it often. If I recall, it will take video files and stabilize them and stack. You process in the stacked image in RegiStax or other software. Check it out on YouTube videos.

PIPP: I have not used this often either. <https://sites.google.com/site/astropipp/> Here is a link to using it with other above-mentioned software.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQagPJ8pM7Y&ab\\_channel=LateNightAstronomy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQagPJ8pM7Y&ab_channel=LateNightAstronomy)

PHD2: it is a guiding software a must for long exposures, and you will need an electric telescope type mount that can receive guiding impulses.

SharpCap: is another imaging software. If you want the Pro version it is about \$15 per year. The Pro version has added features such as Polar Alignment. It does a lot of different imaging styles. I was using it but when NINA came out, I use NINA most of the time. <https://www.sharpcap.co.uk/>

NINA: Many people are going over to NINA now to acquire their images. All software that I have used are good and did the job for years. Here is NINA's main web page and the download button is on that main page. I also has a plug-in for a three star polar alignment feature. <https://nighttime-imaging.eu/>

Now there are other software programs out there that will cost you some money but like I said a Donation is always good for the free downloads.

As for processing your stacked image here are some suggestions, GIMP, AFFINITY PHOTO and PHOTOSHOP. I purchased AFFINITY PHOTO not long ago for under \$50. It was on sale and is a way lot lower than what I paid for Photoshop CS2 way back when. It stacks astronomy photos and processes

the final image very close to what Photoshop does. But Photoshop now has a monthly fee as I recall. I have an older version of Photoshop CS2 and did not elect to go to a monthly fee for a software program I do not use all the time.

Now like all software programs there is always a learning curve and I rely on YouTube Videos or other Tutorial videos provided by the software, like AFFINITY PHOTO has online.