SeeStar S30-Pro report!

Hi all,
Back on December 31st, 2025 I pre-ordered the new S30-Pro smart scope from ZWO. It arrived this past Thursday, Feb 12th 2026 and I was able to get in a quick test drive this weekend.

If you would like to re-read my report on the original S30, you can find it here:
file:///C:/Users/lsmch/Documents/revised-web/sp-reports/SeeStar-S30-Report.pdf

After opening and discarding the outer cardboard shipping box, here's a photo of the goodies:

Inside the product box was a small padded carry-case containing the telescope, tripod, user guide booklet, USB-C charging cable, and white-light solar filter. The biggest outer physical change in the new S30-Pro is an improved carrying case, a slightly larger solar-filter, and two labels on the chassis that reads "S30-Pro" and one indicating where to hold your phone to connect with the scope if it's equipped with NFC auto-connect.

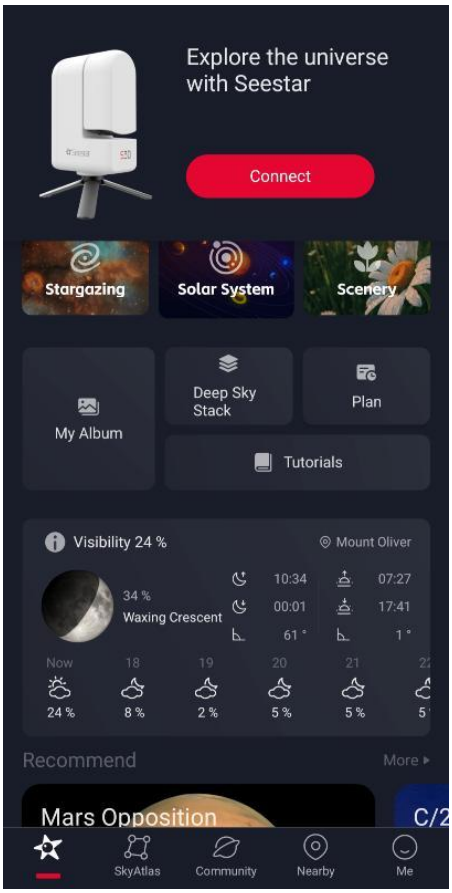
Inside the smart scope, there's lots of new stuff, better optics, new camera sensor chips for both optics, more internal memory, and the new Milky-Way app software functionality to take advantage of the widefield lens.

The scope comes about half-charged so I plugged it in for several hours to top-off the battery.
After following the instructions to initially boot-up and connect, my phone app downloaded and updated the telescope firmware which took about 5 minutes to finish.

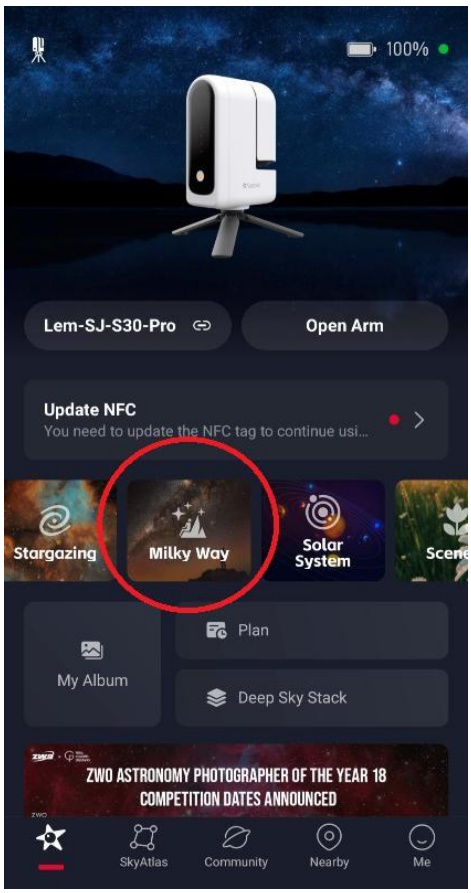
Here's the new S30-Pro telescope "Specs":

Specification	
Product Name	Seestar S30 Pro
Sensor	Tele: Sony IMX585; Wide: Sony IMX586
Resolution	Tele: 2160 x 3840 (8.3MP); Wide: 2160 x 3840 (8.3MP)
Field of View	Tele: 4.6°; Wide: 63°
Aperture	Tele: 30mm; Wide: 3.4mm
Focal Ratio	Tele: F/5.3; Wide: F/1.75
Focal Length	Tele: 160mm; Wide: 6mm
Optical Lens	4-Element Apochromatic Lens (with ED glass)
Wide-Angle AF	Support
Working Distance	Tele: 6m-∞; Wide: 0.1m-∞
Built-in Filter	UV / IR Cut Filter Astronomical Light Pollution Filter (OIII 30 nm / Ha 20 nm Bandwidth) Dark Field Filter
External Filter	Magnetic Solar Filter
Storage	128GB eMMC
Battery Capacity	6000mAh, Battery Life: 6 hours (ZWO laboratory test data)
Power Input	Type-C, DC 5V~3A
Transmission Mode	Wi-Fi / USB Type-C / Bluetooth
Wi-Fi Reset	Support
Image Formats	JPEG / FITS
Video Formats	MP4 / AVI
Wi-Fi Specifications	5G / 2.4G
Wi-Fi Range*	Within 10m
Bluetooth Range*	Within 5m
Mount Type	Alt-azimuth (Supports Equatorial Mode)
Mounting Thread	3/8-16
Working Temperature	-10℃~40℃
Charging Temperature	0℃~40℃
Storage Temperature	-10℃~60℃
Operating Humidity	20%~80%
Storage Humidity	20%~50%
Net Weight	1.65KG
Size	210mm x 140mm x 80mm

Other than a few changes for the new Milky-Way camera function, the phone app for the S30-Pro is exactly the same as the original S30. (note: for first time users, there are a couple of initial scope calibrations that you should perform to help improve pointing accuracy).



(S30)



(S30-Pro)

I’m not going to review the “Stargazing”, Solar System”, or “Scenery” modes as you can read about those in my previous S30 review from last year. Other than new preset exposures to select from, (2, 5, 10, 20, 30, and 60 seconds), The “Stargazing” mode is mostly the same features as of 12/31/2025.

Friday evening I had a short window to try out my new S30-Pro before clouds rolled-in.
(apparently included inside the shipping box was six more weeks of winter, lol))
I setup the S30-Pro scope in Alt-Az mode on my patio table to make a FOV comparison on the Rosette Nebula with one that I took last year with the then new S30.
Here's the results: (first the old S30 image from last year, then the new S30-Pro image)

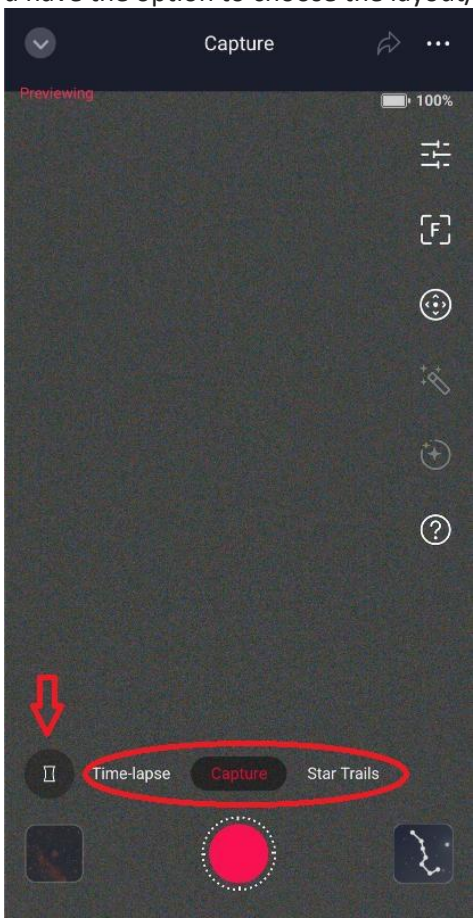
(30 second exposure livestacked for 15 minutes, Alt-Az mode, NB filter, AI denoise and brightness/contrast tweaked in-app, using the standard/normal FOV).

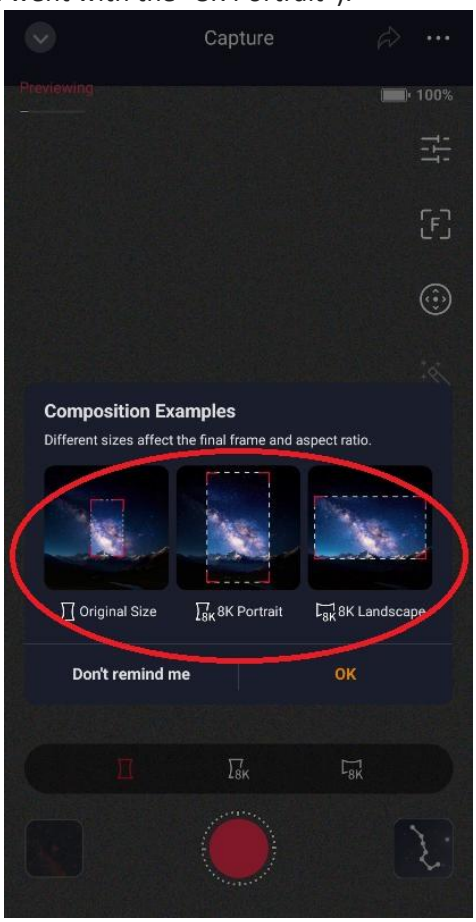
Wow! the standard FOV of the new S30-Pro is nearly the same size of doing a full mosaic in the old S30!
This is an immense time saver, as a full mosaic in the S30 would run several hours.

To demonstrate what a little post-processing will do, here’s the S30-Pro image after doing a one-click “Enhanced” processing using my Google Pixel8 phone (cropped).

With clouds beginning to move in, I had just a little time to experiment with the Milky-Way mode.
(this new feature was the primary driver behind my purchasing the new S30-Pro)
I wasn't expecting anything great, as I live in under Bortle 7 skies (suburban/urban transition), with plenty of neighborhood backyard lights, and I've not had much success shooting the Milky-Way from home using my other wide-field equipment. Additionally, there was a thick snow pack on the ground and house roofs to reflect off of.
I mainly wanted to see how the new mode would work.

Here's what the app screens look like after you enter "Milky-Mode". First you need to select what type of shot you want to do, Time-Lapse, Capture, or Star-Trails. (I went with "Capture").
Then you have the option to choose the layout/size. (I went with the "8K Portrait").

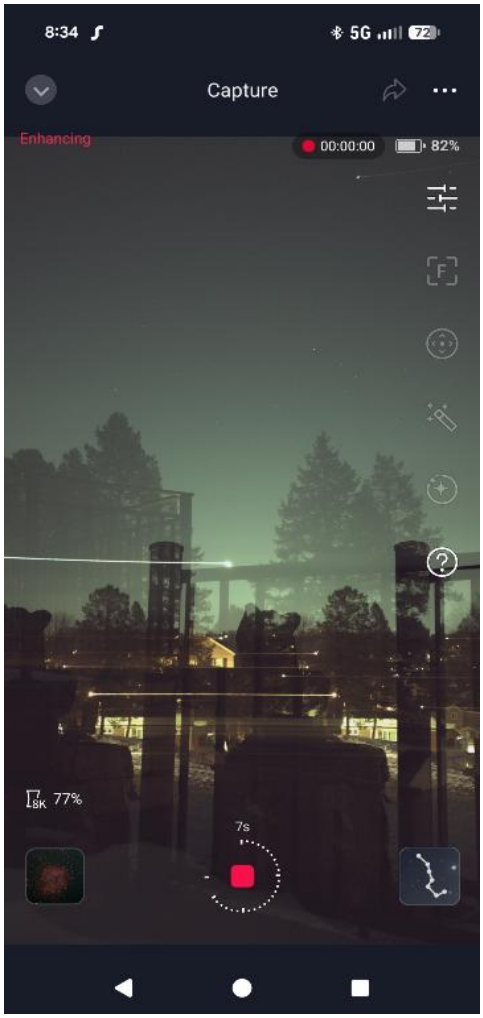




I selected 20 second exposure, and in preview mode positioned the view to include foreground trees and railing.
Then I clicked "Capture".

First thing I learned in Milky-Way mode is that you need to remove any dew shield off the main lens, as it partly blocks the FOV, lol.

It was interesting watching the app display as it took exposures and stitched the frames together.
(looked a little chaotic superimposing frames on top of each other as it went).
It took a good while for the mosaic to finish, stitching together a total of nine individual frames.
Here's the finished image, not much to look at but shows the FOV. Orion is in the top right, Sirius and Canis Major in the center, Procyon in Canis Minor top left of center.



Speaking of Orion, I also used the Milky-Way cam in normal mode to take a 20 second constellation pic livestacked for 5 minutes. I think from a dark-sky site I can get the entire Barnard's Loop nebula in the FOV!

This new Milky-Way feature is going to be the "Cat's Meow" on the observing field!

And with that, the clouds won the night.

So, what is my overall opinion of the new SeeStar S30-Pro?
While I've already enjoyed using the original S30 version this past year, the new scope specs and features of the S30-Pro are going to be a lot more fun under either an urban or a dark sky!

For a quick evening of EAA deep-sky observing or image data collecting, just like the old S30, all I have to do is step outside and plop the S30-Pro on my patio table and turn it on before heading back inside.
(I don't even need to put on a coat!). Then I just start the SeeStar phone app, pick an object, a quick initialization, and I'm EAA observing/imaging! From the warm indoor comfort of my living room sofa!

For about another 10 minutes, I could setup the scope in EQ mode and polar align.

The improved FOV of the S30-Pro allows the user to capture large deep-sky objects with good amount of sky around those objects without the need to do a mosaic. And the new Milky-Way function will allow both captures of large swaths of our galaxy, along with individual constellation images. A wide-field delight!

Like I mentioned last year, if you don't already have a smart telescope, the S30-Pro is a lot of fun and you can't go wrong using one.

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