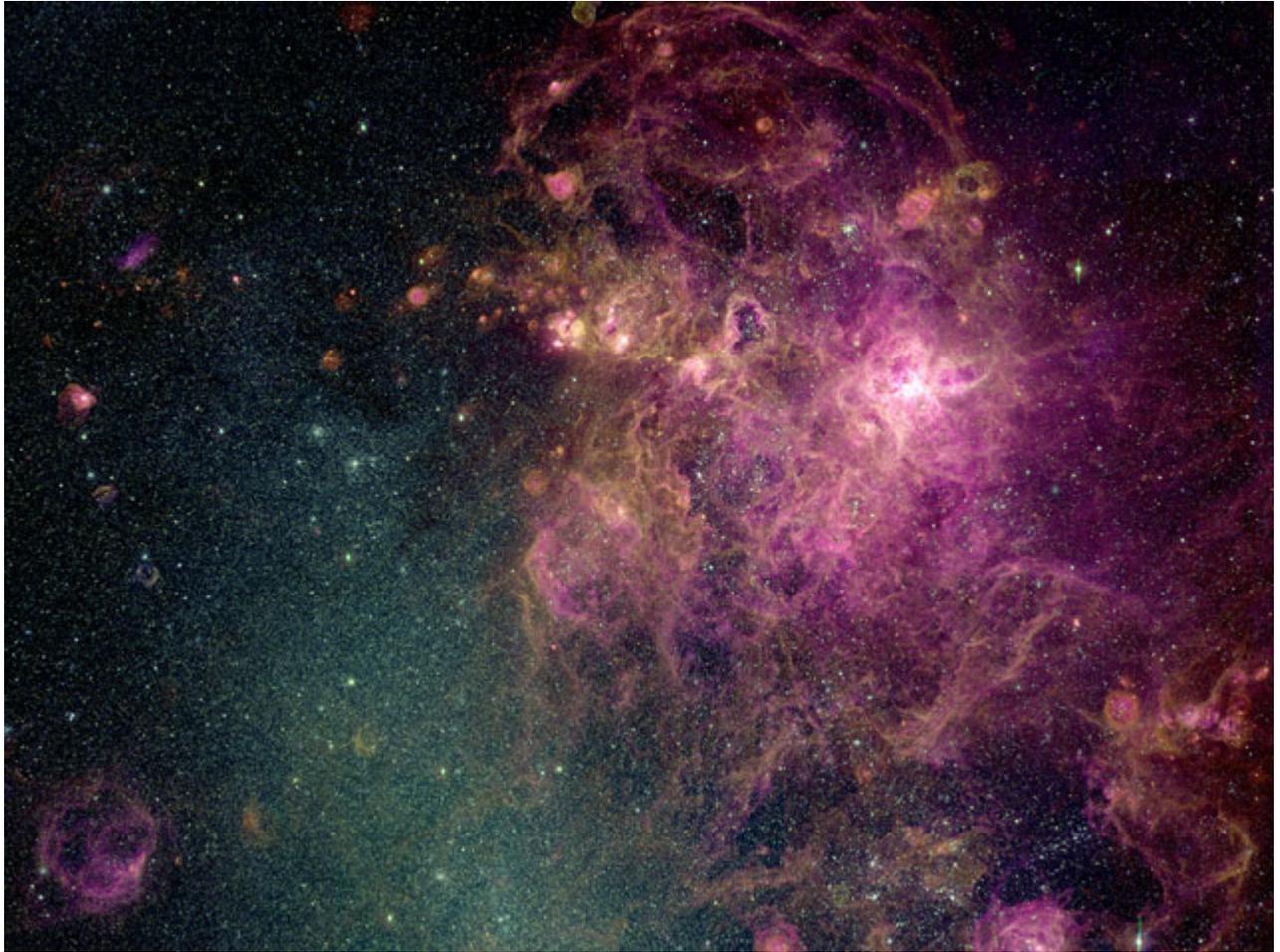


# **Longmont Astronomical Society**

## **December 2005**



*The Home Planet Stellar Views  
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Classified  
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January Sky Map*

## The Home Planet Stellar Views

Hello Astronomers, I love doing astronomy as you can tell. We had a Star Party here in my yard for Adam Jensen for FRCC astronomy class. The Night was very good and I got lots of LAS people to help out. Thanks to Vern Raben, Bob Sophn, Mike Hotka, Brian Gamble, Marc Wiley, William Possel, Ken Tryon, Terry Frazier. Carol and I provided the hot chocolate, coffee and goodies to eat.

Thanks you guys for excellent night. I actually got to see lots of dark sky stuff. The Blue snowball, Orion nebula, always a treat, NGC 891, edge on galaxy and of course Mars too , but seeing for Mars was bad that night. Glad to see we got so many people out in the cold viewing and still had fun anyway. You have to dress warm to handle it. Lucky I have barn to go inside and warm up. Works well for FRCC astronomy nights that we do for FRCC as our LAS agreement to hold several parties for them in exchange for our use of the classrooms, video and laptop gear.

The Home Planet Stellar views have been good this past month. Mars was bad for viewing for two weeks it seemed then wham, three or four pretty good nights in a row of good seeing for picture taking. Mars is quickly getting smaller in size as we whiz by Mars.

Farewell to a few great months of actually seeing some surface details on Mars even in small scopes from the yard in urban America. Do not worry, next great planet views will be Saturn, The Queen of the universe, will dominate the night skies. I can hardly wait. I have been staying up late trying to get good views of Saturn and do the last shots of Mars before it's all over for picture taking as it gets way smaller.

The cold weather here in Colorado is the big news, hardly ever gets below zero like that in December. Some had 14 below without wind chill. Well a few of us have dared to venture out in the cold and dark to test the extremes. Dan Lafaive, Vern Raben and I dared to test the limits. We all reported it was tuff. Batteries and drives did not work well at all. If you breathed thru the full face hood you would fog the lens or if wearing glasses and then everything looks like a nebula, fuzzy. My pictures came out OK of Mars but the seeing was just average despite the cold. I always thought the cold steady air would help out. Not really, warmer nights with good seeing produced better pictures. Now if I could get a extreme cold night with excellent seeing that might be the ultimate picture taking kind of night.

Vern Raben and I were doing moon, Mars and Saturn pictures Saturday night. Some very good views of Mars still. I took some more pretty good shots. I have been watching the clear clocks from LAS web page and they are right a lot of the times. When they say good even at Sommers Bausch observatory in Boulder, then also in Brighton , Broomfield and Fort Collins then you know you got a very good night coming up. Thanks Steve Albers for LAS Web pages that are used by many people.

Banquet is coming up so sign up with Julie Carmen. Same place as last year Wayside in Berthoud on Saturday, January 21. Please try to do this one; we have had a pretty good showing last few years. Remember David Levy, Clark Chapman, Wow! LAS has had a great year. Lots of people who make it all work, thanks goes out to all the officers and those who will be taking over with this month's elections for LAS offices.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all . I hope you all have a Happy and Safe Holiday season. I plan to take some time off work if possible, probably do some dark sky adventure, hey ? Pawnee, new moon? Saturn in January will be the best in years, you will be getting the pictures, See you in the dark, bye, Gary

## Calendar

December	New Moon:	3 <sup>rd</sup> - Pawnee
	1st qtr:	10 <sup>th</sup> – Flanders Park
	Meeting:	15 <sup>th</sup> – Ray Warren – Stardust Return + Michael Hotka Observing Astro League
January	Banquet	21 <sup>st</sup> - Berthoud (Changed from the 14 <sup>th</sup> )
	Meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> – Jim Voss interview – Bob Dornan
	New Moon	29 <sup>th</sup>

February	Meeting	16 <sup>th</sup>
	New Moon	27 <sup>th</sup>
March	Meeting	16 <sup>th</sup>
	New Moon	29 <sup>th</sup>
April	Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup>
	New Moon	27 <sup>th</sup>
May	Meeting	18 <sup>th</sup>
	New Moon	27 <sup>th</sup>
June	Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup>
	New Moon	25 <sup>th</sup>
July	Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup>
	New Moon	25 <sup>th</sup>
August	Meeting	17 <sup>th</sup>
	New Moon	23 <sup>rd</sup>

**November 2005 Meeting notes**

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm

Swap meet should be good stuff

Visitors : John new, Loraine heard of us through the paper and website.

Everyone welcome to go to Gary's after meeting for views through the 30" at Mars.

Julie Carmen: Gil will give a show at Fiske on STAR. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, the show will tell the story of the star of Bethlehem.

The lighting code in Flagstaff AZ is so awesome that if that large of a city you can see the Milky Way in the middle of town. She would like to get the IDA to come in and talk to the club and the local business regarding lighting ordinances.

Time to order new name tags \$7.00 a piece and will be sending in an order in two weeks so get with her to order one. Julie will be stepping down for Treasurer next month and will personally train the new person.

Dick Mallot: Just happy to be here after missing the last two meetings.

Newsletter Philippe: Report about Crestview school star party in the newsletter. Please if you go to and event feel free to send in a report to Philippe for the newsletter. For the classified section, feel free to submit or get rid of some items please contact Philippe. If someone has the thank you card from Crestview to please turn it back in as I would like to keep it for our collections.

Lastly the picture of the Bubble Nebula from Brian Kimball.

Keep sending in articles.

Ray Warren Publicity: Planispheres this is our final order of 40. So that will make 500 to public organizations when this is complete. Help get them put together they are due in a week. The un-bumper stickers, whizzy wheels, log book, etc. Ray will also be retiring his position.

Terry Fraiser: Working on the December issue of reflector, wanting filler pictures for those of us that image please send in your pictures as big a file as you can send. reflectorphotos@swbell.net

Webmaster: No Report

Secretary: No Report

New business: Banquet is coming up. Time to get in your order forms. January 21st at the Wayside inn in Berthoud.

Nominations for 2006 officers:

President: Gary Garzone

VP: Michelle Lavers

Secretary: Mark Propp

ALCOR: Dick Mallot

Newsletter: Philippe Bridenne

Treasurer: ??

Publicity/ Fundraiser: ??

We have two positions without nominations. We need to see about getting these positions filled so if you are interested feel free to volunteer for any of these positions.

November 29th FRCC star party at Gary's House at about 8 pm. Feel free to show up for this star party with a scope. Roughly about 15 people. The cloud out date is the Thursday following December 1st.

Break:

Swap Meet

Philippe gave a demonstration of Google Earth.

For more information visit the website at <http://earth.google.com/>

### **2006 Texas Star Party - Sign up Now!**

The great tradition of dark sky observing continues with the 28th Annual TEXAS STAR PARTY, April 23 - 30, 2006!

TSP WILL NOT BE MAILING A FLYER this year, so keep this e-mail or print it out!

1. You should submit a Registration/Reservation Request Form to ENTER THE TSP DRAWING before January 14, 2005. This will provide you the highest possible chance of being selected as one of the 700 people who will be able to attend TSP this year.

<http://www.texasstarparty.org/draw.html>

or fill out the Request Form immediately at:

<http://www.alphadata.net/cgi-bin/forms/forms.cgi?form=3>

READ THE REST OF THIS E-MAIL BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR REQUEST.

2. Participants at the TEXAS STAR PARTY can select from a variety of accommodations on the Prude Ranch, including bunkhouses, private cabins, trailer hookups, and campsites with convenient bathhouses. All accommodations include access to a TV lounge, a western-style dining room, and an indoor swimming pool. And of course the convenience of the observing fields!

For rates and more information on ranch and nearby accommodations please visit:

<http://www.texasstarparty.org/travel.html>

3. The TSP Registration Fee (DOES NOT INCLUDE your accommodations) is \$50/person if you pre-register before March 25, 2006. (Each additional family member is just \$30 more.) For more information about TSP Registration rates and policies, visit:

<http://www.texasstarparty.org/tspreg.html>

The drawing for names is in late January, and if your name is drawn you will get a TSP Registration Form (and optional Prude Ranch Reservation Form) to send in with your payments in February/March.

SIGN UP NOW!

Questions? Visit our website for the latest and complete details!

<http://www.texasstarparty.org/>

We look forward to seeing you next April!

Sincerely,

The volunteers for Texas Star Party

**Star party nights at Shaw Heights Middle School**

Thanks for your interest in helping out with star party nights at Shaw Heights Middle School! We'd like to hold the star parties on January 24th and 25th, with a rain/snow/cloud alternate night on the 26th. Right now we're looking at running the events from 6-7pm, but that is flexible--please let me know if you would prefer a later time to allow for travel to Westminster.

I hope that you and your organizations will be able to help out! Don't hesitate to email me or give me a call if you have any questions and to let me know if you'll be able to make it. This should be a fun event!

Kate

--

Kate Becker

Education and Public Outreach

Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics

University of Colorado

1234 Innovation Drive

Boulder, CO 80303-7814

303-735-0962 (office)  
303-492-6444 (fax)

## **Classified**

*To buy:*

*To sell:*

I am trying to sell a Celestron Ultima 9.25. If the deal were local I would expect closer to \$1,600 or so and accept credit cards.

<http://www.astromart.com/viewad.asp?cid=233874>

Jared Workman

I got a new (800MHz) computer & wish to sell my 3rd computer. It's a 433MHz, 64meg RAM, 9 Gig HD space, 33.6K modem, and SoundBlaster sound card, with a 15" monitor, programmable keyboard & MS mouse, with Windows 98 SE for sale. \$180. No problems with it what-so-ever. Will deliver & setup within 30 miles of Ft. Collins. It would be great for a stand-alone application or a kid's computer.

Contact Tom Teters [tomt@starmon.com](mailto:tomt@starmon.com)

Orion telescope EQ 120mm 4.7" lens achromatic refractor; F/8.

This telescope is one year old and is in great condition.

All the following items are included with the telescope:

- ✓ True track dual axis DC motor drive tracking system (is great for doing long exposure astrophotography)
- ✓ EQ mount
- ✓ Tripod
- ✓ Telrad with dew shield
- ✓ 1.25" diagonal mirror (also accept 2" eyepieces)
- ✓ 6X30 Finder Scope
- ✓ Collimation eye piece
- ✓ 25 mm & 4mm eye pieces
- ✓ Astrosystems new waterproof cover
- ✓ A JMI refractor hard case, is able to fit a 5" or 6" refractor. There is a lot of storage space for all types of accessories such as eyepieces, etc..

This is a great and wonderful telescope for any beginner or intermediate astronomer.

All for \$1,000 firm! Contact Marc and Julie at (303) 210-3966 (Cell) or (303) 682-5428 (Home) or email if interested; [marcwiley@wildmail.com](mailto:marcwiley@wildmail.com)

Couch Potato Binocular chair. It all collapses down for transportation. I built this and it works great.

\$90.00. Contact Mike Hotka ([mhotka@yahoo.com](mailto:mhotka@yahoo.com)) with questions or comments.

JMI NGC-DX1 2 inch focuser. \$100.00. New price is \$279.00. Contact Mike Hotka ([mhotka@yahoo.com](mailto:mhotka@yahoo.com)) with questions or comments.

Sky Commander Digital Setting Circles. \$200.00. New price is \$410.00. Contact Mike Hotka ([mhotka@yahoo.com](mailto:mhotka@yahoo.com)) with questions or comments.

I have an ORION SKYVIEW 4.5" Reflector telescope with finder scope; equatorial mount tripod, with 9mm and 25mm lenses, 1.25 mm Barlow and extra filters. The telescope is in great condition, just toooo advanced for my amateur status. All for \$500!

Contact Anna Vayr at 303-776-7167 or via email at [anna.vayr@spot.colorado.edu](mailto:anna.vayr@spot.colorado.edu)

*To give:*

FREE: Monitor, HP D1195A 15" CRT, will display 1024x768.

Clean, like new, works. Contact: Bob Noble [nobler@att.net](mailto:nobler@att.net)

If you have astronomy stuff to buy or to sell, send an email to your newsletter editor [philippe\\_bridenne@yahoo.com](mailto:philippe_bridenne@yahoo.com)

### **The LAS warehouse**

LAS logo T-Shirts:

Crewneck, navy blue, 8" white LAS logon on front

\$10 - S, M, L, XL

\$12 - 2XL

\$13 - 3XL

\$14 - 4XL

Light blue with the lapel logo and Dobsonian telescope.

\$1 LAS un-bumper stickers

\$5 LAS Observing Log Book

\$1 LAS Whizzy Wheel (astronomy calculator)

\$2 - 5" LAS vinyl sticker, black or white

\$5 - 4" LAS embroidered patch

\$1 - LAS Planisphere

2/\$1 - LAS un-bumper sticker

# January Sky Map

