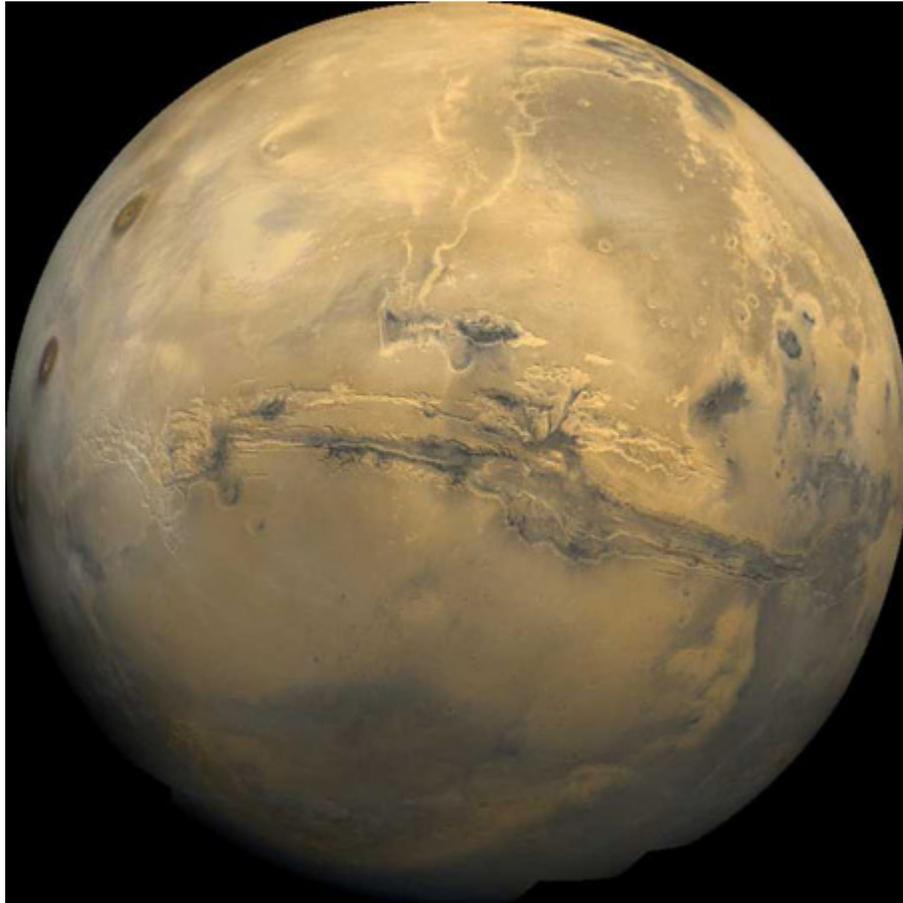


Longmont Astronomical Society

October 2005



*The Home Planet Stellar Views
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The Home Planet Stellar Views

Hello all you Mars observers! No excuses will be accepted, go directly to your yard scopes for spectacular Mars views, because this month is the month for Mars. Like the candy bar, it's a sweet treat for us die hards Mars two years ago was pretty darn good, but personally I think this year is even better. Mars closest approach is October 29th, which is fall, means angle of earth is different from August of two years ago. Mars is only 20 arc seconds wide this year, compared to 25 arc seconds wide two years ago, but this year it is higher in sky. You will have less atmosphere to see thru so pictures should be as good or better on good seeing nights. Let's get some pictures for newsletter, send them to me or Philippe. Yard views will work, no long dark sky drives for Mars, Light pollution and Moon light has very little affect, being minus 1 probably by end of Month. The Longmont Burlington Elementary school astronomy night was a big hit. Thanks to LAS group once again, Philippe Bridenne, Terry Frazier, Andrew Planck, Jeff Laux, Suzanne Metlay, Mark Wiley, Julie Carmen and myself, and many other volunteers that I do not know by name, but thanks for the help. Thanks to Philippe Bridenne, we all stopped looking thru scopes to watch for Iridium Satellite flare. It last for under a minute I would guess, so you need to be watching carefully. Green laser pointers worked well to show the masses where to look for it. It turned up right on time, bright to -3 magnitude. It was a real crowd pleaser, nice treat for those who have never got to experience seeing it before.

The very next night we did Pawnee Grasslands, Crow Valley campground Star party for Greeley Natural History museum. Large crowd of 100 people at least got to see some of The Home Planet Stellar Views at their best, Pawnee is pretty darn dark. Thanks to Bob Spohn, Dave Dunn, Vern Raben, Dan LaFaive, Tom Teters, Andrew Planck, myself Gary, and others from NCAS club too. We got to show crowds another Iridium satellite flare too. Most of them never even heard about them so it was a treat for most. Green laser pointers were getting a work out, showing them where to look for it. Nice icing on the cake for another pretty spectacular dark sky night. Meteors always good in dark places, were pretty good at times. Crowds left around 9:30 pm. Early for Astronomers like us, where are you guys going the night is young?? We stayed up most of the night, got some long hours in viewing. I stayed up till 3:30 am pretty good night indeed. It was my best shots of Mars since two years ago in August then.

LAS did the Lyons elementary school astronomy night Friday Oct. 7th. We had huge crowd of people with white flash lights. We will have to train them better next year you guys. I was blinded a few times with kids pointing lights into my scope views, Ouch, that hurts you guys. I thought they tried pretty hard for darkness, but always a few who have no clue. I did get to turn off light on house by field, only white porch light on in view of the field we were in. I knocked on door, no one home, so I unscrewed light bulb, good thing I am a Master Electrician Hey?? Thanks to Philippe Bridenne, Andrew Planck, Vern Raben and his wife, Julie Carmen, Mark Wiley Jeff Laux and grand daughter too, myself, Terry Frazier who again worked the indoor planetarium, Doug Duncan, Steve Hartman, Erica Ellingson, and many more volunteers. I think half the town turned out. I was impressed! It was a bigger turn out than I thought.

DAS club did an open house in Denver for Colorado Astronomy day Saturday Oct 9th at Chamberlin observatory, which is a museum in itself. If you have never been there, try it sometime. 20 inch Clark Refractor inside dome. Yes I know it's in Denver lights, but still pretty awesome. Mars spectacular is the treat these nights.

The LAS club is so active; I even have a hard time keeping up with it all. Thanks to all the volunteers who give up their time, who always are there to help out, without you guys all this would not happen. You are the ones to dazzle the next generation of young astronomers. You should feel good after doing some of these nights, I see the sparks fly in some of the kids. Atta Boy LAS., we are the best! Like Mc Donalds, Three Billion served, two billion eaten??

Mars Star party here at my house on the Saturday the 22nd will be from 6 pm until you all get too tired, 2 am?? Closest approach is after that but I will be at Pawnee God willing for that night, Hope for clear skies and good seeing conditions, I will e mail you all before then, later, Aperturemon

Calendar

October	Meeting:	20 th – Bob Spohn Messier + Large Binocular Telescope 22 nd – Mars observing star party at Gary's place
November	New Moon: 1st qtr: Meeting:	October 29 th - Pawnee 5 th – Flanders Park 17 th – Swap Meet
December	New Moon: 1st qtr: Meeting:	3 rd - Pawnee 10 th – Flanders Park 15 th – Ray Warren – Stardust Return + Michael Hotka Observing Astro League
January	Banquet Meeting New Moon	21 st - Berthoud (Changed from the 14 th) 19 th – Jim Voss interview – Bob Dornan 29 th
February	Meeting New Moon	16 th 27 th
March	Meeting New Moon	16 th 29 th
April	Meeting New Moon	20 th 27 th
May	Meeting New Moon	18 th 27 th
June	Meeting New Moon	15 th 25 th
July	Meeting New Moon	20 th 25 th
August	Meeting New Moon	17 th 23 rd

September 2005 Meeting notes

President Gary Garzone called the meeting to order.

New members: Ron, Mike Henshaw, Mark Bagdy (already a member but first meeting)

Club business and announcements:

Gary Garzone, Mars observing party Saturday night September 22nd.

BASS meeting, will be this Saturday, at Sommers-Bausch observatory in Boulder CU campus.

Treasurer report: Julie Carmen not present tonight.

Friday October 7th, we will have the Lyons elementary star party. LAS volunteers wanted, good night last year.

September 30th will be the Burlington Elementary Longmont, 4th graders only.

Andrew Plank Calwood, same weekend as Pawnee.

Ray Warren, publicity chairman report:

Radio Astro meeting at DSES will be Saturday 2pm to 6pm. We have been invited by special invitation for Deep Space exploration society. They are the caretakers of the antenna. It is located on Nelson road, West past 63rd up the hill to the right.

Suzanne Traub-Metlay: Project Geo-Astro, work with K-12 in science. Contact Terry Frazier or me for more information. Sign up in advance, get a hold of Brad by email, specify what grade you want to work with, and what geographical area. You get a full days training Saturday October 22nd, 9am to 4pm. Then you make four appearances in the classroom with your assigned teacher. Most of the assignments are in the Front Range. This is the first year, focusing on I-25 corridor. Greater need in rural areas, tackle that later.

Suzanne Traub-Metlay and Terry Frazier: Burlington Elementary Star Party. Not your typical star party for kids, this one goes late. Children assigned to smaller groups of about 10, manageable size. Friday September 30th, starts at 7pm, observing at dark. We are hoping for good weather and some LAS telescopes.

Suzanne Traub-Metlay and Terry Frazier: Fiske Gala, handfuls of tickets. It is normally a fundraiser for Fiske, to replace to the old infrastructure with the new. Saturday September 24th, at 6pm, just approved the menu for the buffet dinner, very nice. Cash bar with wine and beer. Sale of art and other VIP services, including some framed art from Terry. Four celestial objects: 20x22 inch prints, framed, horse head nebula, pillars of creation, detail from POC, and keyhole nebula. Meet with Dr. Duncan, director of the planetarium. New Hubble images from April of the whirlpool galaxy, one of the POC, and a Hubble deep field image will be presented. VIP visit of Fiske. We will have a tour of the CU art museum by the director, curator of Colorado collection. Concert by Sheri Marrow (sp?) astro jazz, lights go down and music up at 8:30. We are giving a discount: for concert: \$30 at door, \$25 for LAS members. For the full evening, is normally \$60, for you \$55. Pay with check made to University of Colorado. Terry will announce at BASS this Saturday. Call in with credit card number, hold until 24th. Friends of CU astronomy get an even bigger discount of \$50. To join \$35 for individual, \$60 for a family, gets 4 passes to any show, invited to shows, and discounts. Fill out a little pink form.

Commercial break from Ray Warren, publicity and fundraising chairman: CU is purchasing 250 of planispheres, we are delivering second batch of 50 tonight. They are selling at undergraduate gift stores,

required for classes. We can use help, Gertie has been helping a lot. We have the production down to a science.

Gil is a featured speaker at Fiske, coming up December 18 to 22nd, astronomical star of Bethlehem. Gil would like us to submit questions regarding the star of Bethlehem, to make sure they are addressed. On the list, or email is: glb205@comcast.net.

Gary: good shows at Fiske, aborigine shows, Colorado skies, great stuff. Thursday night presentations free to students, CU, or high school or Front Range works too!

Webmaster report by Steve Albers: bringing up the website to show ongoing changes. We are discussing future changes and we are getting some good feedback. No network access. Combined links related to observing info, observing sites, adding Mike Hotka compilation. Steve added Brian Simpson's Night Vision tool, added interactive access. All consolidated now.

Bob Noble: announcement, attended a business meeting today, met engineers, Ray Martin, working in Wyoming, probe to go down oil well and do photometry. Ray put his leg over Harley and rode into the sunset. FRAC list was looking for Ray, he was an old astronomer, store in Boulder, used to always see him at Fox Park.

Secretary report by Mark Propp: consolidating all the member info from multiple spreadsheets into one database, with reports generated. It will be less chance for errors, much better. His upside to being unemployed at the moment.

Newsletter report by Philippe Bridenne: Night sky info, Fox park report by Gary, pictures of Aurora. The newsletter will be on web before end of day tomorrow.

Vern Rabin: Presentation on aurora borealis at Fox Park. Images roughly 2 minutes apart, displayed 10 seconds apart (60 to 1 time compression). Awesome colors, bright greens and reds, curtains and waves going across. September 11th, 2005. About two hours later, put scope in silhouette for the picture. Look at the spikes in the greens. Fantastic! It was a great night of observing. Vern's guest from Switzerland, never seen dark skies or telescope: he picked a great night!

Ray Warren, 3rd time! Back to planispheres building! This is what's left of the order for CU, 150 star circles already cut out. Gertie helped, Nelda helped, but got too vigorous and damaged her finger, not here tonight. Jeff Laux also took home a bit stack, he is not here tonight either but he is healthy. Patty Fawcett sent another email. We did a batch for her last spring. We built her 100 last year. She would like the same thing this fall, 1st of October, not sure how many, assuming another 100? In January Patty is starting an exchange in Australia, would like to take down some southern hemisphere planispheres. We could pull it off for her, 100 more by January? We got a recent order from Mike Hotka, girl scouts begging to learn astronomy, they have 15 planispheres. Store will be open at the break. We have the T-shirts and badges. Special tonight on the un-bumper stickers, 2 for 1 tonight only!

ALCOR rep report by Bob Spohn, continue with Messier presentation:

A Tour of the Messier Catalog, in eight spellbinds and enlightening episodes, this being episode 7: One last slice of summer pie.

Working through Capricorn, up through Summer Triangle. Capricornus, easy to make out, triangle shape, east of the noise of the Milky Way. Neptune in Capricornus this time of year. 3 globulars:

M75: may be the most remote Messier globular cluster. Small, condensed core. Herschel described it as miniature M3.

M30, globular cluster. Nice cluster with fairly dense core. Diameter of about 90 LY. Located next to the bright star 41 Capricorni, double star.

M72, Globular Cluster in Aquarius. Quite loose for a globular cluster. Somewhat dim and quite far away. Fairly even brightness across its face. Approaching us rapidly at 255 km/sec.

M73, 4 star asterism in Aquarius. 1.5 degrees away from M72, stood out because it was bright. Still not known if these are actually physically bound as a mini-cluster, or just a line of sight asterism. Don't miss the cool Saturn Nebula NGC7009 about 2 degrees to the NE.

M2, nice globular, gets overlooked because its not "on the way" to anything. Less busy part of the sky, so it stands out. In Aquarius. Nice big, bright cluster. Rich and compact. Lies almost directly beneath the South Pole of the Milky Way! Contains about 150,000 stars. Easy to pick out with binoculars and above, even more so because it lies in a relatively sparse part of the sky. '

M15, globular cluster in Pegasus. A personal favorite of yours truly! Large, bright, rich, and easy to find. Located half again as far on a line from Biham to Enif, the red star that marks the nose of Pegasus. M15 is a strong x-ray source.

Summer triangle, Deneb, Altair, and Vega. Going to Sagitta (the arrow).

M71, globular cluster in sagitta. Another one of those debatable 'very rich open' or 'very loose globular' clusters! Quite small, only about 30 LY apart. Located just south of the middle of the shaft of the arrow of Sagitta.

M27, Planetary Nebula, the "dumbell nebula" One of the largest and brightest planetary nebulae. Brian Kimball image! So called because of their round shape, they have nothing to do with planets! WE see M27 at its equatorial plane: if we saw it from one of its poles, it would probably look like the Ring Nebula.

M56: Globular Cluster in Lyra. Fairly uniform and loose. Discovered by Messier on the same night he found one of his

M57: planetary nebula in Lyra, the "ring nebula." Another Brian Kimball image. The most popular and best known example of a planetary nebula. Takes high power very well under good conditions. Central star is 15th magnitude, challenge to see. New research indicates it may not be spherical, but more toroidal or cylindrically shaped.

M29, open cluster in Cygnus, towards middle of Cygnus the swan. Be careful with open clusters in the milky way, everything looks like an open cluster! Rather trapezoidal shaped with about a dozen 8th to 9th mag stars. Works better with binoculars. Located in a very busy part of the Cygnus Milky Way.

M39, open cluster in Cygnus. Very large and loose, about 30 members, half the apparent diameter of the moon. Best viewed with binoculars or very low power eyepiece. Triangular shaped.

Credits and acknowledgements: Star maps from Brian Simpson's Night Vision. Images from Brian Kimball and NOAO. Text from Brunhams, NOAO, SEDS.

Please see the web for full presentation.

Break, followed by Mark Bagdy. Lives in Estes Park, they have lost all expertise for astronomy in the schools. Science taught in 8, 10, 11, and 12, but teachers have no astronomy knowledge. Celestron C8, unused due to lack of knowledge. Looking for materials to help, found the Night Sky Network.

Mark Bagdy: Welcome to the NASA Night Sky Network. A Partnership for Amateur Outreach! Provide kit, things to do in classroom and things to do in the night sky, in bite size pieces with a WOW! factor. Themed material, tested, training in astronomy content and presentation skills, networking with other amateurs doing outreach. Web site for Night Sky Network, listed on page 9 of the current newsletter. Box arrived, first toolkit is "planet quest". IF we log 2 presentations with this kit on their web site, we get the next kit, and so on. These kits are for the club to keep. This kit has 4 different experiments including: Telescope treasure hunt, how to stars and planets form.

See the full presentation on the web: <http://longmontastro.org>

DSES Visit report by Dick Mallot

The LAS, BASS, and DAS members were invited up to see the radio telescopes at Table Mountain, southwest of Longmont on Saturday 9/17. It was a marvelous afternoon to be up there overlooking Longmont and the Flatirons. Special thanks to Ray Warren for publicizing this event for the Longmont Astronomical Society.

The Deep Space Exploration Society (DSES) invited members up to see the twin giant 60 foot telescopes and talk about the studies that they are doing up there. Its another great reminder of how blessed we are to be living in an area with not only great skies, but the people who have the ability to get access to the great tools in the region and make them available to amateur astronomers.

There was an open house with demos of the hardware and software used by DSES, and then followed with tours of the grounds. They have one of the two telescopes working now, and have plans to start on the second (lower) telescope soon.

I have included some pictures of the site, the demo, and some of the LAS members who attended.



It is simply amazing that amateurs can have access and utilize 60' radio telescopes right in their backyard!! And the only cost is the cost of electricity and heat!!

They are looking for new members to help them build up and maintain the site and who have an interest in actually collecting and analyzing data that is gathered with the system. To find them on the web, just visit the following web site <http://dses.org/>.

Burlington Elementary School Star Party by Philippe Bridenne

On Friday 30th, few LAS members met at a local restaurant to have dinner before heading to the school to setup their telescope. The skies were very clear of clouds, and despite the city lights were able to see few celestial objects. Since the hex nut retaining the 12V power outlet got lost, I could not power my telescope and had to go back to manual to point at objects and re-align every two or three kids.

The key event of the evening was an Iridium solar flare at 20:52:52 of magnitude -3.

I was pretty anxious since we had about 100 kids, teachers and parents searching in the sky and waiting for this flare. And what is the calculation was wrong? But once again, the web site had the right information and when the flare came up (for about 5 to 10 seconds) the crowd was quite surprised and pleased to see this bright flare in the Longmont night!

We had a very good turn out and the whole evening was very well organized.

Message from the Nigh Sky Network

We wanted to congratulate you on logging your club's first events on the Night Sky Network. We enjoyed reading about the successes you had with your first-time uses of the materials - setting up stations with demos is a great complement to observing through telescopes. Good luck on using the Telescope Treasure Hunt next time!

We admire your club's dedication to astronomy outreach and NASA deeply appreciates your contribution to advancing astronomy knowledge among the public. We look forward to reading more about your activities. You have now logged enough events to earn the "Our Galaxy, Our Universe" ToolKit which will be shipped in January to the additional qualifying clubs.

Marni Berendsen
Astronomical Society of the Pacific

Lyons Elementary School Star Party by Philippe Bridenne

On October 7th, few LAS and BASS members met to setup their scope on the field at the Lyons Elementary School. It was another great evening with clear skies! Since I had not received the hex nut to hold my 12V power outlet I had to imagine a temporary solution that worked quite well. (I received the hex nuts the next day!). Despite being in the middle of Lyons, the skies were quite dark and we could see the Milky Way quite well. The organizers had prepared food and drinks for all the participants. The crowd was estimated to be around a 100 kids and parents. The only annoyance was kids running around with white flash lights!

In total we had about 10 telescopes including the school telescope! Around 10:00 pm, someone removed the shield that they had placed on the bright light facing the field where we had setup our scopes. This quickly stopped the observing session despite the fact that the planet Mars showed up about the same time. Most of the kids were gone and I stayed with the very last participants (including Marshall and Jessica, two friends of mine) until it was time to pack and leave.

Few participants wondered what was that bright star close to the moon before sunset....It was....Antares!



Star party for Natural Museum of Greeley by Gary Garzone

Hello all, we did a star party for Natural History museum of Greeley, Colorado, along with National Forest service of the Pawnee National grasslands. A huge crowd of over 100 people came to dark sky place like Crow Valley campground near Briggsdale for views. They all got a special treat and we saw one Iridium flare, a satellite pass. That's where a satellite spins comes into view, solar collectors reflect sun light back to you in early evenings. Minus 1 or 2 magnitude, so bright, easily out shines rest of stars in field, lasted for under a minute I would guess. Great sunsets shots from there too, Mars is the big event these days; I got some very awesome views, pictures to prove it again. Some came out very good. These are still not stacked, single shots only of Mars. I have yet to try my web camera on 30 inch telescope. Will do it soon, as Mars gets even bigger and brighter and better this month. Keep watching Mars, No dark sky needed Yard views will do. Later, Gary

Classified

To buy:

Wanted: Large dob, say 14-15 inches, in good working order, preferably with digital settings circles. Thanks!
Bill Travis, 303-530-5010, wtravis@colorado.edu

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

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

Couch Potato Binocular chair. It all collapses down for transportation. I built this and it works great. \$120.00. Contact Mike Hotka (mhotka@yahoo.com) with questions or comments.

Binocular parallelogram I built. Works great. Tripod not included. \$70.00. Contact Mike Hotka (mhotka@yahoo.com) with questions or comments.

To give:

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

Clean, like new, works. Contact: Bob Noble nobler@att.net

If you have astronomy stuff to buy or to sell, send an email to your newsletter editor 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

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

\$5 - 4" LAS embroidered patch

\$5 - VHS tape, "An Evening With David H. Levy", 3 January 2004

\$1 - LAS Planisphere

2/\$1 - LAS un-bumper sticker

19th Annual LAS Banquet

Saturday, January 21st, 2006
Wayside Inn, 505 Mountain Ave., Berthoud

5:00 Social Hour
6:00 Dinner
\$20.00 Per Person

Entrees:

Chicken Kiev – Herbed butter rolled up in a chicken breast
Broiled Salmon Fillet
12 oz. Rib-eye Steak
10 oz. Prime Rib of Beef
Vegetarian Lasagna
Kid's meal – 2 chicken leg & French fries meal – only \$5.00

Includes salad, potato or rice, hot vegetable, drink & dessert. Cash bar available.

Bring your reservations and check to the meeting, or mail them in to:

Longmont Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 806
Longmont, CO 80502-0806

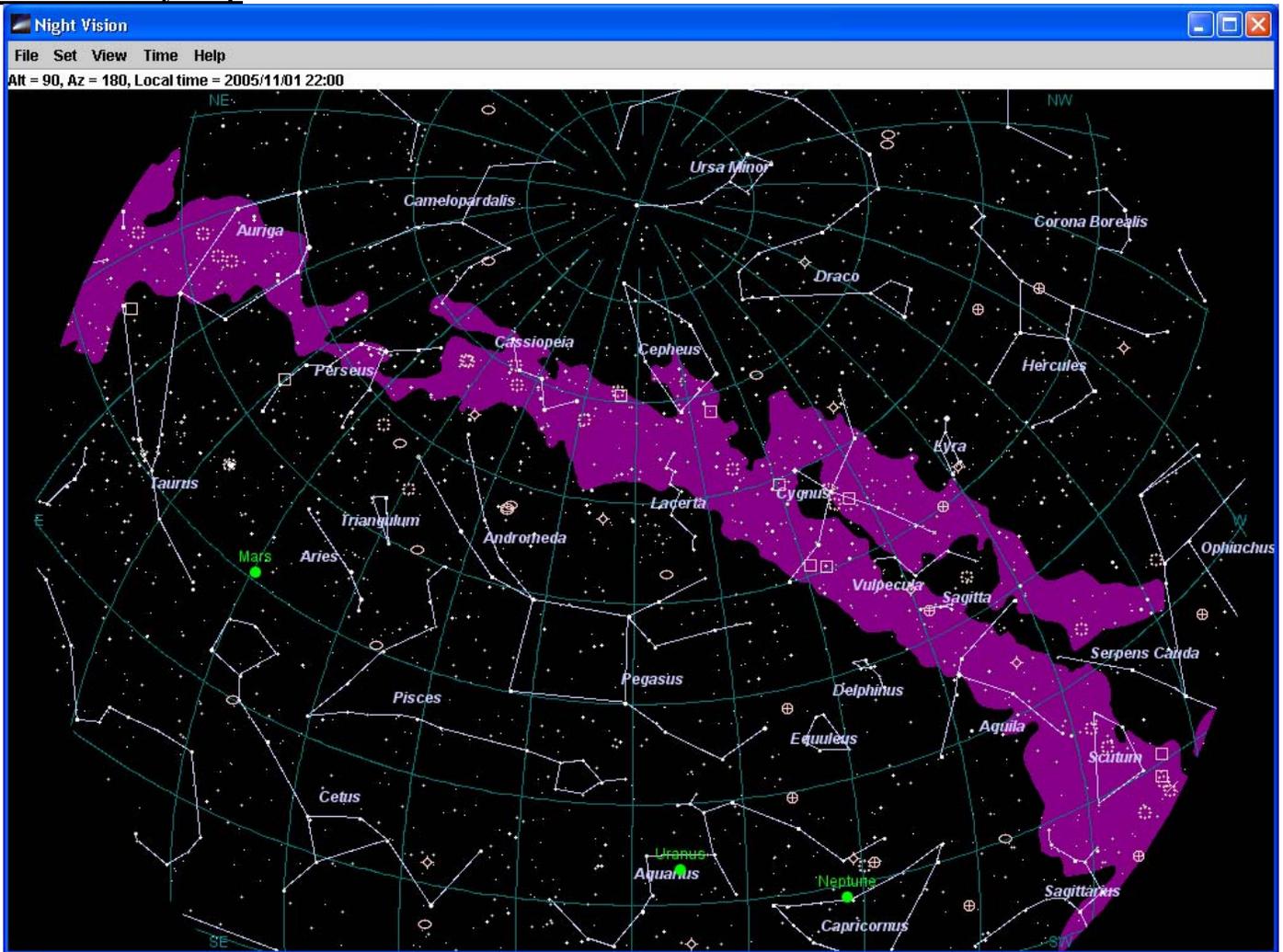
*** Please have reservations in by January 9th ***
Bring a guest(s) and have fun at our big social event of the year!

Include number of entrees, potato or rice pilaf and total cost

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entrée</u>	<u>Potato or Rice</u>

Total: _____

November Sky Map



Night Sky Conference by Philippe Bridenne

On September 29th, Dr. Steven Squyres, the principal scientist for the twin Mars rover missions, chaired a one-hour teleconference with the members of the Night Sky Network.

It was a fascinating conference!

On the day of the conference it was day 619 of our 90 day mission to Mars. Spirit and Opportunity are both in excellent health and continuing very aggressively to explore the surface of Mars.

On that day, was beginning what will be the final drive, the last few meters onto the true summit, the absolute highest point, of Husband Hill which Spirit has been climbing for the last 400 sols or so.

On the other side of the planet it's 11:00 at night and Opportunity is sound asleep and will be starting another day about 11 hours from now. So both vehicles are doing very, very well.

Dr. Squyres gave all of us a brief review of the mission, the objectives and told us the story of the traverse that each Rover has had.

At the end of the call there was a drawing for two books *Roving Mars* signed by Dr. Squyres.

Unfortunately my number was not selected and the two books were sent to other clubs.

The complete MP3 audio and transcript are available from the Night Sky web site at:

<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club/kit-downloads.cfm?Category=Tele%2DConference>

By the way in the transcript, Philip Bradim should read Philippe Bridenne.