

Longmont Astronomical Society

January 2006



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The Home Planet Stellar Views

Hello Saturn watchers!

It has been a pretty good month for The Home Planet Stellar Views again this month. Despite the cold weather at night, I have been watching and taking pictures of Saturn every chance I can from the yard. The winds and poor seeing had me down some, and then wham! You get an awesome night in. I really have been watching the Clear sky clocks for hints on better seeing nights for Saturn views and pictures. I have found my best pictures are on those rare good seeing nights. Mars is still up and bright but all views of surface details are history now.

Moon was up for Friday 13th, almost full. I had a very good seeing night for a change. The Moon is still an awesome object too and I still love to view and do pictures of moon at different phases. Saturn is at opposition on the 27th of January. Best views of Saturn are still to be had, keep up the watch, you will be glad you took the time to view.

We have the Shaw middle school night coming up on the 24th, so if you want to share the views with some middle school kids here is your chance. Email me or just call me. We have fun on these nights, public nights with city views, hard sometimes but still this is how we show the kids the skies. Most kids and parents have never viewed through scopes. I love to pump the kids up and get their views of things; some really will surprise you at what they know at such a young age. Thanks goes out to the dark sky marines that always help out on these nights; without you guys this all would fizzle out. We also get to show and tell people all about light pollution, a plus benefit as I see it. Awareness is what we need to help us save the dark skies we have left and make it better for the future.

I will bring my green laser for pointing out constellations and planets.

Banquet is coming up, on Saturday the 21st. Most already are signed up but if not you better hurry up and notify Bob or Vern or myself. Thanks. We have had some pretty good speakers over the years. This will be another good time for LAS members to get together as a group. Ray warren will be doing door prizes. See you there.

Lots going on with Stardust reentry and landing in Utah. I wish we could see it from Colorado but that will not happen. Maybe old LAS friend Don Cerow from California will view it. They say it will be easily seen as a meteor fireball across the skies. Wow! Ray Warren just did a talk on Stardust maybe we can get a follow up next month.

Vern Raben and I ventured out to Crow Valley for a new moon dark sky night. I got Ranger to get us special permission to open the gate for us. I met Ranger Steve out there, he unlocked the gate and rest rooms and we talked some. Very nice spot for viewing! Better than Cactus Flats north, darker by a tad and lower down to get out of breezes or should I say high winds. We left early after being scared off by all the clouds. As soon as I was leaving about 10 pm the skies opened up! Darn I should have known better and stuck it out longer. You just never can tell for sure in Colorado. I sometimes hope for clear skies but do not always get them after the long drive there. I will try to get us to use Crow valley more in winter months if Forest service lets us. I will keep you all posted by e mail. Maybe try again next new moon?

Sterling Star party may need some thought. It will be spring before we know it and we need to make a decision to continue or find a new spot. I am game to continue using Sterling reservoir again, but so early in year we always gamble on the weather. I am not one to give up, dark skies are us. Keeping it Cosmic as Tom Teters always says, bye, Gary

Calendar

Jan: New Moon: 28th - Pawnee
 1st qtr: Past – Flanders Park
 Meeting: 19th – Topics: Mike Hotka, Dressing for winter;
 Annual Dinner: 21st – Wayside Inn, Berthoud
 Shaw Heights Middle School—Westminster 24th, 25th 6-7 PM

Feb: New Moon: 25th - Pawnee
1st qtr: 4th – Flanders Park
Meeting: 16th – Topics:

Mar: New Moon: 25th - Pawnee
1st qtr: 4th – Flanders Park
Meeting: 16th –Topics –

Apr: New Moon: 28th and 29th – Sterling or somewhere.....
1st qtr: 1st – Flanders Park
Meeting: 20th – Topics:

May: New Moon: 27th - Pawnee
1st qtr: 6th – Astronomy Day at Twin Peaks Mall & Flanders that night
Meeting: 18th – Topics:

Jun: New Moon: 24th - Members’ choice or.....Rocky Mtn Star Stare: 22nd – 26th
1st qtr: 3rd – Flanders Park
3rd qtr: 17th – Tri-Town Party??? Michelle is this on again?
Meeting: 15th – Topics

Jul: New Moon: 20th, 21st, and 22nd – Fox Park Weekend under the Stars
1st qtr: 1st – Flanders Park – This is July 4th timeframe
Meeting: 20th – Topics

Aug: New Moon: 19th or 26th – Fox Park or Pawnee? And the date could go either way.
1st qtr:
5th – Flanders Park –
Meeting: 17th – Topics

Sep: New Moon: 23rd – Pawnee
1st qtr: 2nd – Flanders Park. This is Labor Day weekend.
Meeting: 21st– Topics:
1st qtr: 30th – Flanders Park

Oct: New Moon: 21st - Pawnee
1st qtr: 28th – Flanders Park
Meeting: 18th – Topics:

Nov: New Moon: 18th - Pawnee
1st qtr: 25th – Flanders Park. This is Thanksgiving weekend.
Meeting: 16th – Swap Meet/Nominations

Dec: New Moon: 23rd - Pawnee
1st qtr: 30th – Flanders Park
Meeting: 21st – Topics: Elections

December 2005 Meeting notes

New members Even Johnson from Indianapolis Astronomical Society.

VP no report

Secretary no report

Treasurer Report: name tags are in for everyone. Observers handbook for \$17.00 there are 15 in stock. We are taking banquet orders tonight. Whoever takes over the treasurer position I have everything with.

Newsletter Report: This is a light newsletter compared to previous months as there were not many contributions. This is your newsletter so be sure to submit your articles.

Publicity Report: Our inventory is on the second to last page of the newsletter and it is all here in stock. Tonight only unbumper stickers are two for a dollar. Thanks everyone over the last year for both helping out with production and purchase of our products. We sold 250 planispheres. I am retiring as publicity so this will all be passed on tonight to someone else. Thank you all.

ALCOR report: Turn in all your observations to me so I can get them turned in. I had a great time as ALCOR this year and thanks for your support! All of Bob Spohn's presentations are on the website.

Fiske report: The new schedules are out and available here tonight. Our own Gil is doing a presentation

Shaw Middle School in Westminster on January 24th and 25th: Looking for volunteers to help out. They are expecting about 100 people to turn out. We will see what happens.

End of the year elections lets pass out ballots. Vern for Treasurer!!!
Still looking for a fundraising chair any volunteers????

President Gary Garzone
VP Michelle Lavers
Secretary Mark Propp
Treasurer Vern Raben
Publicity Bob Spohn temp
ALCOR Dick Mallot
Webmaster Steve Albers
Equipment Chair Leigh
Newsletter Philippe Bridenne

These are your officers for 2006!!!!

Our telescopes are just about done we are in the final stages and hoping for spring to get these done for school kids for the next school year.

Vern we have some nice solar prominence the last few days check your email for some pictures.

How do I do What I do? by Mike Hotka

At the December LAS meeting, I gave a presentation on “How I Do What I Do”. It was a mini presentation about my personal preferences in our hobby of astronomy. I talked very fast and shared a ton of information to the membership in attendance that night.



The next morning, I was in the shower, letting the hot water hit my back, when it hit me and I almost hit the floor of the shower (No! I didn't slip on the soap). I could write a series of monthly articles for the newsletter, detailing how I do what I do. I think you will enjoy them.

To sum up what I choose to observe is pretty easy. I like lists. Some people have these lists in their heads, those objects that they love to visit each and every time they go out. Others, like myself, like them printed on a piece of paper, where I can check them off once I've seen them.

There are lists all over the internet of objects to look at. But there are a set of lists that I have found and have taken great interest to complete, of which I have completed 15. These are the lists of objects for the various observing clubs of the Astronomical League.

If you visit the web site www.astroleague.org and click the Observing Clubs link, you will be taken to a page of observing clubs that are sponsored by the Astronomical League. And each of these clubs has a list. Hot Dog!!!

There is a club for observing the Messier Objects. At monthly LAS meetings this past year, Bob Spohn showed the 110 objects of this club, what they look like and where they were in the sky. For some of you, it was your first introduction to the observing clubs of the Astronomical League (AL).

Most all of these clubs have an observing guide that you can purchase to aid you in understanding the rules of each club, the objects associated with the club and various interesting facts about the objects. These observing guides are well worth their price, for some of the clubs, like the Herschel II Club, the guide is indispensable in aiding you in finding the objects.

Did I mention that you get a prize for successful completion of an observing club? Its like Cracker Jacks, you get this wonderful bunch of goodies (caramel popcorn and nuts) and you also get a prize. Well, the observing clubs of the AL are exactly the same. You get a wonderful bunch objects to observe (tasty treats for the eye)

and you get a nice certificate of completion and an award pin. You also get your name on that observing club's awardees web page.

So, I go to the observing club web site and read about each of the observing clubs. It doesn't take much to get me interested in the club. My taste for faint fuzzies is so varied, that I will look at anything I can find in the sky. And each club has a list!!!

The first observing club I tackled was the Messier Club. I started this club by logging my first object, M57, on July 12, 1986. From that point on, I was hooked on AL observing clubs. Since then, I have looked at double stars (Double Star Club), studied the moon (Lunar Club), performed various observations of our solar system (Planetary Observers Club), studying the moon some more (currently doing the Lunar II Club), looking at a pot-pourri of objects (Herschel and Herschel II Clubs), seen globular clusters (Globular Cluster Club), watched meteor showers (Meteor Club), looked at comets (Comet Club), watched man-made satellites pass overhead (Earth Observing Satellite Club) and am about to start two of the newest AL clubs, the Planetary Nebula and Open Cluster Clubs. I have always been interested in looking at these kinds of objects, and having a club, with a list and a prize is just icing on the cake for me. And I love cake.

In the process of doing all these clubs, I have learned much about our hobby. You get those "ah-ha" moments, when you learn something new and it's like a light going on for you. With the AL Observing Clubs, you get these moments at the most unexpected times. The clubs not only make you look at a certain list of objects, but often provoke thoughts and in the process, you learn a great deal about the topic of the observing club. This is the wonderful affect these clubs can have on you. They teach, you learn.

For those of you who like to take CCD images of the sky, there are observing clubs for you. The Asteroid Club would be a neat one to do using images to show the movement of the asteroid. The Arp Peculiar Galaxy Club would also be a neat club to do with a CCD camera and actually photograph the peculiar aspect of each galaxy in this club.

So, whether you are a beginner or an advanced observer, the AL Observing Clubs offers something to everyone.

But the real prize of doing these clubs is not the certificate. It's not the award pin. It's not seeing your name in ones and zeros. It's seeing some of the most breath taking objects the heavens has to offer. It's learning how to navigate the nighttime skies. It's about being outside, being with friends and having a good time.

Our hobby has sometime to offer to almost anyone. The Astronomical League and their Observing Clubs, makes our hobby more fun.

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

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Kate Becker

Education and Public Outreach

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 University of Colorado
 1234 Innovation Drive
 Boulder, CO 80303-7814

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

Fiske Planetarium 19-28 January 2006 Events

Live Talks and Starshows:

\$6 Adult
 \$5 Student with valid ID
 \$3.50 Child/Senior

Laser Shows:

\$5 All ages

Family Matinee:

\$5 Adult
 \$3.50 Child/Senior

Live Astronomer Talks

Thursday, January 19

Time

7:30 pm

Title

Colorado Skies: Stardust Mission

Matt Benjamin

Experience the beauty of the night sky from the comfort of Fiske Planetarium and marvel at the results of NASA's Stardust Mission. Returned to Earth on January 15, 2006, Stardust carried dust from Comet Wild 2 and interstellar space – results from this mission lead to new understanding of Earth and our solar system.

Star Shows

Friday, January 20

Time

7:30 pm

Title

Spirits from the Sky

Produced in collaboration with Pawnee Tribal Elders, this show gives a glimpse into a fascinating society that was almost lost to history, artfully weaving the changing positions of stars and planets with visual representation of artifacts from Pawnee star and sky lore.

Laser Shows

Friday, January 20

9:30 pm

Title

Laser OutKast -- *NEW!*

Gritty hip-hop from the deep South comes to Fiske Planetarium in this hot new laser show! Warm up with OutKast's soulful rap and funk during this debut performance!

Friday, January 20

10:45 pm

Pink Floyd: Welcome to the Machine

Gathering some of the most memorable moments of Pink Floyd's music, "Laser Floyd: Welcome to the Machine" is a tribute to one of the greatest rock bands of all time.

Family Matinees

Saturday, January 21

2:00 pm

Title

Space Storm

Explore the Sun-Earth connection with Fiske's original production funded by NASA/TIMED and CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. Learn how sunspot cycles and solar flares affect you!

Saturday, January 21

3:15 pm

Jazz Fantasia

Jazz is one of America's true original art forms. The rich history of jazz is brought to life in this comprehensive laser light program.

Live Astronomer Talks

Thursday, January 26

Time

7:30 pm

Title

Sounds of the Sun

Dr. Craig DeForest

Hear the sounds of the Sun as Dr. Craig DeForest of Southwest Research Institute guides you through the solar interior and atmosphere using infrasound and multispectral imaging. Get ready for a smorgasbord of cool images and movies!

Friday, January 27

7:30 pm

Sounds of the Sun

Dr. Craig DeForest

Hear the sounds of the Sun as Dr. Craig DeForest of Southwest Research Institute guides you through the solar interior and atmosphere using

infrasound and multispectral imaging. Get ready for a smorgasbord of cool images and movies!

Laser Shows

Friday, January 27	9:30 pm	<u>Title</u> Laser Radiohead Alternative rock's greatest contemporary band becomes a Fiske laser show filled with songs lively, sad, and bizarre but all good.
Friday, January 27	10:45 pm	Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon Explore Pink Floyd's epic Dark Side of the Moon in a classic laser extravaganza with special effects and stunning visuals.

Family Matinees

Saturday, January 28	2:00 pm	<u>Title</u> Kids in Space Join interstellar traveler Captain Ann Dromeda and her crew of kids in space as the planetarium turns into a spaceship that explores the nine planets of the solar system.
Saturday, January 28	3:15 pm	Space Odyssey This musical tour of the universe is a dazzling display of music and lasers inspired by the moon, planets and stars. Enjoy music from movies and popular artists, all with an outer-space theme.

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

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

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

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

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

February Sky Map

