



Comet Garrad (C 2009 P1) by LAS member Gary Garzone

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbdizRe-bwg> for the location

**Longmont Astronomy Society Newsletter
August 2011**

From the President:

LAS Meeting - Thursday, August 18

The August meeting of the Longmont Astronomical Society is this Thursday, August 18th at the IHop Restaurant, 2040 Ken Pratt Blvd., Longmont, CO. A group of us will meet for dinner around 6 pm at the restaurant; you are welcome to join us! The general meeting will begin at 7 pm.

The presentation this month will be about planetary imaging. The planet Jupiter will be at opposition near the end of October and will be more convenient to image in the late evening in the coming weeks. I'll talk about techniques to obtain images of Jupiter and other planets, collimation, and software to process the images, namely the latest version of image processing software application, Registax 6.1.

LAS Web site

The LAS web site was upgraded to latest version of the Drupal content management system. This was a major software upgrade and there were some problems. The new version doesn't support the previous image gallery. It has been replaced with different software. The previous content is being replaced but it will take some time to complete. There are also some problems with the calendar which will be fixed as well.

Additional newsletters have been added to the website. We now have all newsletters from March 1987 when the first one was published to the current edition.

Upcoming Star Parties and Events

- ⤴ Beginning Astronomy Class – Friday evening Sept. 30 to Oct. 21. Telescopes will be needed for Oct. 7th and 21st star parties at Sandstone Ranch.
- ⤴ The Greeley Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Bureau event “Star Gazing on the Prairie” is on Saturday, Oct. 22nd at the Crow Valley Campground near Briggsdale, CO.

In the sky this month:

Meteor Showers: For a picture of a Perseid “looking down” from the ISS, take a look at <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/gallery/images/station/crew-28/hires/iss028e024847.jpg>

Comets: there are about 40 comets in the sky (down to about 17 magnitude...) right now. Do what I do – check <http://www.aerith.net/comet/weekly/current.html> for the information.

Planets

Mercury:Mercury passes in front of the sun around mid-August, to swing from the evening to the morning sky. However, Mercury doesn't climb far enough from the sun for any realistic chance of seeing the innermost planet at dawn until late August. Let the thin waning crescent moon be your guide to Mercury on Saturday, August 27. Look east, starting an hour or so before [sunrise](#).

Venus:passes behind the sun this month, transition from the morning to the evening sky.

Mars: just to the south (right) of the Gemini twins at sunrise, about 20 degrees up

Jupiter:still high in the south at sunrise, moons looking good in my 10x bins

Saturn:fairly low in the southwest sky at dusk. Saturn, the sixth planet outward from the sun, sets in the west at about 11:00 p.m.

Audiotour (mp3) at <http://media.skyandtelescope.com/audio/SkyTour+August+2011.mp3>

Club Calendar:

September meeting: September 15 (thursday) at the IHOP, 6 for dinner, 7 for meeting.

Fiske Planetarium:Admission costs \$3.50 for kids and seniors and \$6 for adults
This is the last week of our Summer Schedule. Starting Thursday, August 25th we will move to our Fall schedule of shows. We have an exciting fall line up of speakers and talks by leading CU astronomers. Starting with:

Colorado Skies: Summer Skies (Thursday August 25th at 7:30pm)

City of Stars (Friday August 26th at 7:30pm)

Internet Resources:

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Homebuilt-6-F15-Refractor-and-Mount/> directions for building your own telescope. Big fan of instructables website....

Just had the grandkids visiting, and we made marshmallow guns – about \$13 for two, unless Gary brings his truck to the meeting and leaves the door open, in which case the parts might be free.... <http://www.instructables.com/id/Marshmallow-gun/> for the directions, and this baby will shoot 30 feet!

Current Space Missions:

The Flight Readiness Review was completed this morning ahead of next week's launch of the Juno mission to Jupiter. The session went smoothly, ending with officials formally setting Aug. 5 as the liftoff date for the spacecraft on an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. NASA's Launch Services Program is overseeing the launch, while the mission is managed by Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. Juno launched successfully and is on its way to Jupiter, arrival in 2016.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/juno/main/index.html

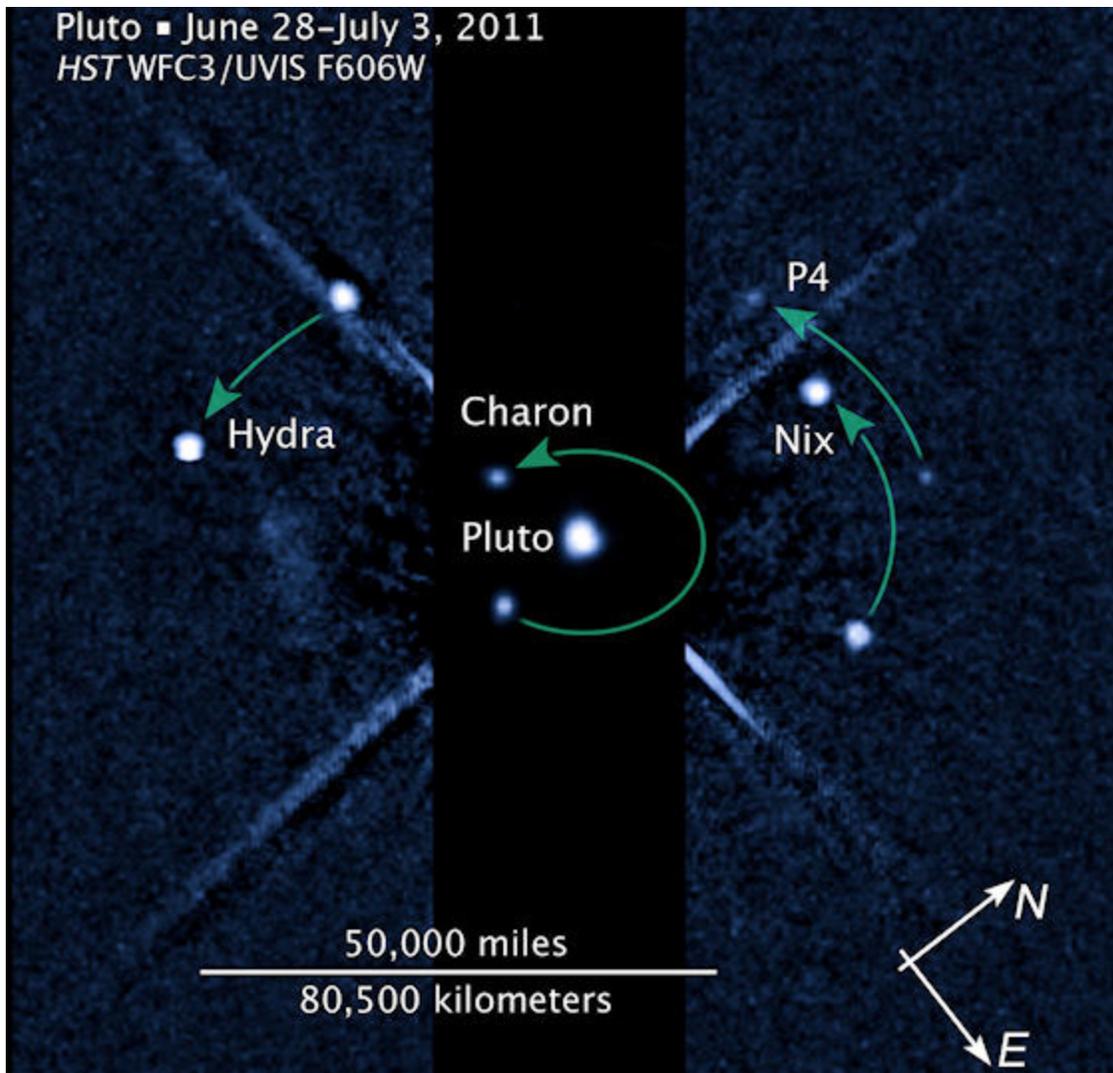
Hubble Discovers a New Moon Around Pluto

July 20, 2011: Astronomers using the Hubble Space Telescope have discovered a fourth moon orbiting the icy dwarf planet Pluto. The tiny, new satellite – temporarily designated P4 -- popped up in a Hubble survey searching for rings around the dwarf planet.

The new moon is the smallest discovered around Pluto. It has an estimated diameter of 8 to 21 miles (13 to 34 km). By comparison, Charon, Pluto's largest moon, is 648 miles (1,043 km) across, and the other moons, Nix and Hydra, are in the range of 20 to 70 miles in diameter (32 to 113 km).

http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2011/20jul_p4/

Pluto ■ June 28–July 3, 2011
HST WFC3/UVIS F606W





M15 by Gary Garzone



NGC 891 by Gary Garzone

OK, that oughta be enough....