

The Objective View May 2001
Newsletter of the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society

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Meetings first Thursday of each Month

Next Meeting:
May 3 7:30 PM
Topic to be announced

Club business from 7-7:30 PM

Meeting Directions
Discovery Center Science Museum
703 E Prospect Rd, Fort Collins

In Fort Collins, from the intersection of College Ave and Prospect Rd, head East about 1/2 mile. See the Discovery Center sign to the South, enter the West Wing at its NE corner. From I-25, take Exit 268, West to Lemay Ave, continue West 1/2 mile, see Discovery Center on the left.

Starwatch at at Discovery Center

Scopes are appreciated at monthly evening starwatches. Set up in the South parking lot on the Friday nights near 1st quarter Moon. Contact Dan Laszlo if you can come, 498-9226, djlaszlo@aol.com. Weather cancellations will be posted at 472-3990. Events to come:

May 25 8:30 PM

N.C.A.S. Invitaional Star Party- May 17-19, 2001

This will be the First Star Party of the 2001 season to be held in the M.A.R.S. area. It will be held at Virginia Dale, Colorado (Two Chicks Paintball), just South of the Wyoming border on Hwy 287. This is 40 miles north from the 'Y' in N. Ft. Collins, Colorado and approximately 28 miles South of Laramie, Wyoming at an elevation of 7560'. See

<http://ncastro.org/invite.html>

or call Tom Teters, tom@ezlink.com, with questions about the star party , 482-5702 or 482-0807.

Rocky Mountain National Park Summer Starwatching

Contact Dan Laszlo if you can volunteer with a scope this summer. Dates are June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24.

Other Events

Little Thompson Observatory Star Night, Berthoud 7 p.m.
May 18 <http://www.starkids.org>

Cheyenne Astronomical Society
<http://users.sisna.com/mcurran>
Camp Jack Star Party May 18-19
CAS Meeting
May 18 8 p.m.

Open House, Chamberlain Observatory, dusk to 10 PM
<http://www.du.edu/~rstencil/Chamberlin/>
May 26 303 871 5172

Longmont Astronomical Society 7PM
<http://laps.fsl.noaa.gov/cgi/las.cgi>
May 17 Longmont Christian School, 550 N Coffman St

April 5 Meeting: High Altitude Ballooning, by Bill Beach, K0UT, Edge of Space Sciences

High altitude balloons allow experimenters to reach altitudes of 80,000 to 100,000 feet at a nominal cost. A latex balloon hauls its 12 pound payload up at about 1000 feet per minute, and goes 21 miles nearly straight up. The balloon ruptures, and instruments drop at about 5000 feet per minute. Balloons carry VHF antennas, instruments for temperature and pressure sensing, cameras, a GPS receiver for altitude and location, and experiments from students ranging from junior high to college. Roaches and spiders have made the trip. It takes a few months to prepare a package for launch. Expendable material cost is about \$300 for the balloon and helium, and the total invested in experiments is typically \$1000 to \$2000. The launch site near Windsor is active by 7 AM, the package is assembled from 7:30 to 8 AM, and launch is at 9 AM. Packet radio transmissions carry the location every 2 minutes. Bill showed a video which encapsulated a flight, including the balloon's rupture at the apex of its journey. The balloon has expanded to about 50-100 feet in diameter at the peak altitude, and is visible up to the moment it breaks. EOSS flight recaps are available at the non-profit organization's website at: www.eoss.org

NCAS Business for April 5

President Jan Kok called the meeting to order. Treasurer Gerry Reynolds reminded members to get their dues in. An 18mm Ultima eyepiece and Ultima barlow were purchased used, and Steve Little kindly donated a Lumicon Deep Sky filter to the club, in appreciation for assistance with Rocky Mountain National Park starwatching. The equipment committee is following a lead on 15x70 Oberwerk binoculars provided by Don Willson and Eric Levine. The MARS Region is offering \$1400 seed money for a project, and optics for the Carter Lake observatory would be a possibility. Members are asked to give preferences for a location for the MARS regional convention. Members are asked to promote dark sky awareness.

Software For Sale SkyMap Pro version 4. \$25

By Chris Marriot of the UK. Includes printed manual. Current version is Seven which goes for \$95 these days. Randy Moench, 7348 Poudre Canyon Hwy, Bellvue CO 970-491-8429

Best Looks

Moon By Mercury & Jupiter 5/23, 24
by Mars 4/ 10
Mercury In W, eves, last few days
Venus In predawn E sky
Mars Brightens all month from mag -1 to -2
Jupiter & Saturn Low in W at dusk 1st half of month
Uranus & Neptune Predawn in Capricornus

Comet Linear C/2001 A2 in Outburst

Look for the Comet at about 6th magnitude in Lepus. It may fade rapidly. From Sky & Telescope's Roger Sinnott: The ephemeris below, calculated at Sky & Telescope from Marsden's elements in MPC 42316, gives the comet's position at 0h Universal Time on each day for the next several weeks. Also given are elongation angle from the Sun, approximate magnitude, and constellation.

Comet LINEAR (C/2001 A2)

Date	RA	Dec.	Elong.	Mag.	Const.
0h UT	h m	° ' "	°		
May 1	5 53.2	û16 16	58	6.6	Lep
May 3	5 52.3	û17 02	57	6.4	Lep
May 5	5 51.2	û17 49	56	6.3	Lep
May 7	5 49.9	û18 37	55	6.2	Lep
May 9	5 48.3	û19 24	55	6.0	Lep
May 11	5 46.5	û20 13	54	5.9	Lep
May 13	5 44.3	û21 01	53	5.8	Lep
May 15	5 41.7	û21 49	52	5.7	Lep
May 17	5 38.7	û22 36	52	5.5	Lep
May 19	5 35.2	û23 22	51	5.4	Lep
May 21	5 31.2	û24 06	50	5.3	Lep
May 23	5 26.5	û24 48	50	5.2	Lep
May 25	5 21.2	û25 27	50	5.1	Lep
May 27	5 15.2	û26 03	49	5.1	Lep
May 29	5 08.4	û26 33	49	5.0	Lep
May 31	5 00.8	û26 59	49	4.9	Lep

A Few Iridium Flares

Calculated for Lemay and Trilby, Ft Collins

Date	LocalTime	(Mag)	Alt.	Azimuth
03 May 05:17:05	-2	19	27	(NNE)
04 May 05:11:07	-4	18	26	(NNE)
06 May 03:59:53	-5	11	92	(E)
06 May 04:50:42	-5	12	25	(NNE)
07 May 03:53:42	-1	10	93	(E)
07 May 04:02:52	-3	13	95	(E)
08 May 03:56:38	-2	13	96	(E)
08 May 04:05:52	-1	16	98	(E)
09 May 03:59:39	-6	15	99	(E)
09 May 21:15:31	-1	18	349	(NNW)
10 May 03:53:31	-0	15	101	(E)
10 May 04:02:44	-2	19	102	(ESE)
10 May 21:09:03	-1	19	348	(NNW)
11 May 03:56:31	-6	18	103	(ESE)
11 May 21:02:42	-3	21	347	(NNW)
12 May 03:50:18	-0	18	105	(ESE)
12 May 03:59:37	-1	22	106	(ESE)
12 May 20:56:34	-6	23	346	(NNW)
13 May 03:53:31	-7	21	107	(ESE)
13 May 20:50:14	-6	24	346	(NNW)
14 May 03:47:18	-1	21	109	(ESE)
14 May 20:44:00	-6	26	345	(NNW)
14 May 23:19:23	-7	20	242	(WSW)
15 May 03:50:20	-2	25	112	(ESE)

International Space Station passes for Fort Collins-Loveland from Heavens-Above

<http://www.heavens-above.com/main.asp?Loc=Fort+Collins&Lat=40.585&Lng=-105.084&TZ=MST>

Date	Mag	Starts			Max Altitude			Ends		
		Time	Alt	Az	Time	Alt	Az	Time	Alt	Az
24 May	1.7	02:24:41	25	NNE	02:24:41	25	NNE	02:26:25	10	NE
24 May	2.4	03:58:45	10	NW	04:00:14	13	N	04:01:44	10	NNE
25 May	2.1	02:59:55	14	NW	03:01:03	16	NNW	03:03:08	10	NNE
25 May	2.7	04:36:57	10	NNW	04:38:05	11	N	04:39:13	10	NNE
26 May	2.1	02:02:48	20	N	02:02:48	20	N	02:04:28	10	NNE
26 May	2.7	03:37:35	10	NNW	03:38:43	11	N	03:39:53	10	NNE
27 May	2.7	01:05:32	11	NE	01:05:32	11	NE	01:05:38	10	NE
27 May	2.5	02:37:43	10	NW	02:39:17	13	NNW	02:40:56	10	NNE
27 May	2.8	04:14:54	10	NNW	04:16:21	12	N	04:17:47	10	NE
28 May	2.3	01:40:16	17	N	01:40:16	17	N	01:42:03	10	NNE
28 May	2.9	03:15:43	10	NNW	03:16:47	11	N	03:17:51	10	NNE
28 May	2.2	04:51:17	10	NNW	04:53:43	20	NNE	04:56:09	10	ENE
29 May	2.6	00:42:35	13	NNE	00:42:35	13	NNE	00:43:03	10	NE
29 May	2.8	02:15:51	10	NNW	02:17:07	12	N	02:18:23	10	NNE
29 May	2.7	03:52:17	10	NNW	03:54:09	15	NNE	03:56:00	10	NE
30 May	2.6	01:16:42	14	NNW	01:17:22	14	NNW	01:19:11	10	NNE
30 May	2.9	02:53:06	10	NNW	02:54:23	12	N	02:55:41	10	NNE
30 May	1.7	04:28:25	10	NW	04:31:10	28	NNE	04:33:56	10	E
31 May	2.2	00:17:56	19	NNW	00:17:56	19	NNW	00:20:00	10	NNE
31 May	3.0	01:53:26	10	NNW	01:54:30	11	N	01:55:34	10	NNE
31 May	2.4	03:29:12	10	NNW	03:31:27	18	NNE	03:33:43	10	ENE
31 May	0.2	21:39:10	10	SSW	21:41:53	28	SE	21:44:37	10	ENE
31 May	1.2	23:14:57	10	W	23:17:48	32	NNW	23:20:41	10	NE

From:
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TO: