

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

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Meetings first Thursday of each Month

Next Meeting:
July 5 7:30 PM
A Hundred Globular Clusters, Plus-or-Minus Fifty
by Leroy Guatney
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.

Rocky Mountain National Park Summer Starwatching

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

Other Events

Little Thompson Observatory Star Night, Berthoud
Closed for annual maintenance

Cheyenne Astronomical Society

July 13 CAS Meeting 9 p.m.
July 20-21 Camp Jack Star Party
August 16-19 Weekend Under the Stars, Foxpark
<http://users.sisna.com/mcurran>

Open House, Chamberlain Observatory, dusk to 10 PM
<http://www.du.edu/~rstencil/Chamberlain/>
July 28 303 871 5172

Longmont Astronomical Society 7PM
<http://laps.fsl.noaa.gov/cgi/las.cgi>

July 19 Longmont Christian School, 550 N Coffman St
July 28 Public Star Party, Flanders Park

June 7 Meeting
Sky Chart Software, by Kimon Berlin

Kimon demonstrated the wide ranging functions of Carte du Ciel, or Sky Chart. French, English, Italian, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Catalan, Dutch, Thai, Polish, Romanian, Hungarian, Serbian, Czech and Russian are available. It supports typical plotting functions, showing stars coded by spectral class and magnitude. Planet motions, minor planet and comet databases can be added. Finder charts may be printed with overlays of multiple finderscope circles. Kimon demonstrated the image import function, which allows digitized images of deep sky objects to be incorporated in the charts. RealSky or Digital Sky Survey CDs may be used as a source. Sky View, the Internet's Virtual Telescope, can be used with a high bandwidth connection to display images which scale smoothly with the chart scale. The program will zoom to match Uranometria charts. The Dreyer description of NGC objects is accessible. It is possible to search for an object by name in the catalogs Messier, NGC, IC, GCVS, WDS, Boss GC, GSC, SAO, HD, BD+SD, CD, CPD, HR. (NOTE - The corresponding catalog or index must be installed.) The program does not yet support Greek characters. Documentation may be printed from the website. There is a night vision red mode. Times for astronomical twilight may be tabulated, and Kimon used this function to show that hunting for Comet Linear should begin around 3:30 in the last week of June. The software is freeware, and the author hopes his users will be able to afford another eyepiece or two this way. The base program is 10 Mb, and is available from: www.astrosurf.org/astroc

Kimon Berlin is at the HP/UX Workstation Lab.

NCAS Business for May 3

The 15x70 binoculars and a mounting bracket have arrived and were borrowed by President Jan Kok. Donald Willson contributed 2 tripods for a base for binocular mounting, thank you Donald! Dan Laszlo agreed to work on a parallelogram binocular arm, and invited members to assist with Rocky Mountain National Park nights.

Local Astronomy Internet Forum For Members Use

"Astro-Colorado" is a new Internet forum started by NCAS member Dave Larison. The list is intended to serve popular astronomy interests in the region and is open for public viewing. □ The site can also be used as a supplement to the NCAS webpage for announcements, discussions, and file uploads. Anyone can read the contents, registration is required if you wish to post. See:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/astro-colo>

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 Saturn 7/17
	By Jupiter 7/ 18
	by Mercury 7/19;
Mercury	In E, dawn, by Jupiter 7/13
Venus	In predawn E sky, by Saturn 7/15
Mars	Brilliant all month in Scorpius
Jupiter & Saturn	Low in E at dawn last half of month
Uranus & Neptune	Predawn in Capricornus

Daytime Occultation of Venus by the Moon 7/17

Watch the Moon hide Venus with a scope or binoculars. The lunar crescent will cover the planet a little after 1145 AM, and reappearance occurs about 0113. The Moon/E's track takes it almost centrally over Venus.

Comet Linear C/2001 A2 Rising in the Morning Sky

This comet is now about 4th magnitude, an easy object for binoculars in the predawn sky. It appears as a fuzzy ball, similar in surface brightness to the Andromeda Galaxy, and a little wider, early in the month. Try to catch it before moonlight interferes. See the attached map. Recent images are collected at:
<http://encke.jpl.nasa.gov/>

A Few Iridium Flares

Calculated for Lemay and Trilby, Ft Collins

Date	LocalTime	(Mag)	Alt.	Azimuth
02 Jul	03:51:32	-8	50	276 (W)
02 Jul	22:57:36	-6	24	254 (WSW)
05 Jul	22:48:46	-7	21	260 (W)

07 Jul	03:30:10	-7	42	282 (WNW)
09 Jul	05:03:57	-7	68	249 (WSW)
11 Jul	03:14:50	-6	36	286 (WNW)
11 Jul	22:40:21	-6	13	273 (W)

Imaging the International Space Station

Several amateurs have succeeded in imaging components of the ISS. The modules and solar arrays can be resolved from the ground. One of the best efforts to date was done with a Meade LX200 10 inch telescope and Sattracker software, and a digital video camera. See::

<http://www.btinternet.com/~mikejtyrrell/iss.htm>

From Randy Moench:

Saw this on the Usenet SAA group.....

The Mayor of San Diego wants to replace usage of well shielded low pressure sodium lighting fixtures with unshielded acorn type high pressure sodium fixtures. Not only will this severely increase light pollution, it will also cost the taxpayers millions of dollars for the new fixtures and hundreds of thousands of dollars a year more in electricity costs. All this at a time when we energy costs have never been higher here in California.

SignonSandiego.com has a vote on the issue going on at the following URL. Please send them a message by going to this site and voting NO.

<http://signonsandiego.master.com/texis/master/search/+/form/Night+sky.html>

Mars Opposition Well Documented by Amateurs

In spite of its marginal location in the sky for the US, Mars observers worldwide are serving up some remarkable images of this apparation. For some of the best images, see:

By Eric Ng:

<http://www.ort.cuhk.edu.hk/ericng/20010621-ut-mars.jpg>

http://www.ort.cuhk.edu.hk/ericng/mars_stack8ps_gau-c.jpg

Luca Grella

http://y42.photos.yahoo.com/luca_grella

Tan Weileong

<http://www.geocities.com/weileong27/mars.html>

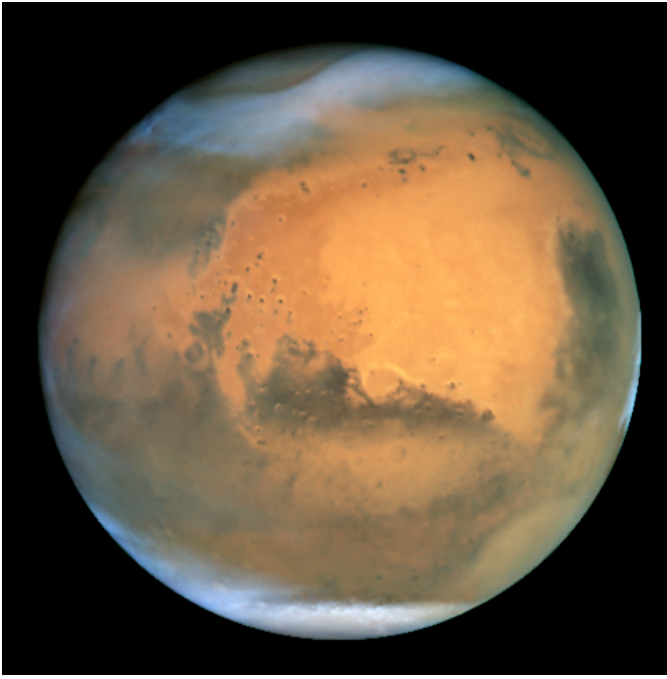
Mars Watch International Images

<http://elvis.rowan.edu/marswatch/images.html>

Rocky Mountain Star Stare 2001 views

See images by David Boll at:

<http://www.frii.com/~dboll/rmss01/rmss01.htm>



Mars, HST, June 26 2001

From:
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TO: