

The Objective View March 2002

Newsletter of the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society

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Meetings first Thursday of each month

Next Meeting: March 7 7:30 PM
Deep Impact Mission, by Jim Crane

Meeting directions

Discovery Center Science Museum
703 East Prospect Rd, Fort Collins

<http://www.dcsm.org/index.html>

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 the NE corner. From I-25, take Exit 268, West to Lemay Ave, continue West 1/2 mile, see Discovery Center on the left.

NCAS Public Starwatch at Discovery Center

Bring a scope of binoculars to share on Friday nights near First Quarter Moon. Set up in the South parking lot. Contact Dan Laszlo with questions: djlaszlo@aol.com 498 9226

March 15 7 PM
April 19 7 PM
May 17 8 PM

NCAS Star Party Dates

March 8, 9, 15, 16

Cactus Flats site is on undeveloped parcel of prairie about 6 miles West of Briggsdale. Take Colo Hwy 14 East from I-25 (Exit 269). Go 19 miles East to Ault. Continue 18 miles East of Ault. At County Rd 65 (Milepost 170), turn North, go one mile. Site is through the wire gate on the right, no road, close gate and set up. Beware of the cactus. Our standard nights are the weekend of the New Moon, sometimes a weekend before and after. The site is now officially wheelchair accessible, but there are no facilities so bring essentials. Call **Tom Teters**, tomt@jymis.com, with questions about star party status or dates, 482-5702 or 482-0807.

NCAS Calendar

April Tom Melscheimer, Little Thompson Observatory
May John Morse, Eta Carinae and High Mass Stars
June Brian Rachford, Aurora Forecasting

Other Events

Little Thompson Observatory Star Night, Berthoud
March 15 7 PM
<http://www.starkids.org>

Cheyenne Astronomical Society
March 15 7 PM
<http://users.sisna.com/mcurran>

Open House, Chamberlain Observatory, dusk to 10 PM
<http://www.du.edu/~rstencel/Chamberlain/>
March 23 303 871 5172

Longmont Astronomical Society
<http://laps.fsl.noaa.gov/cgi/las.cgi>
March 21

NCAS Business

February 7, 2002

President Jan Kok called the meeting to order. Members asked about Observatory Park, a new housing development which promotes dark skies and an observatory on site. The development can be reached from Harmony Rd, south on Ziegler Rd, East on Rock Creek Dr. 472-0300, <http://www.observatoryvillage.com>. Brad Jarvis announced the Mars Society Desert Facility near Hanksville Utah. The architect of the project is Pioneer Astronautics's Robert Zubrin. Participants will develop procedures and technologies for operation of a Mars base. The model habitat is a 2 story, 6 person base unit. The project needs volunteers to fulfill mission roles, such as capcom, science roles. Volunteers can participate from home via Internet. Time is 7 to 10 PM weeknights. To volunteer, contact tmuscatello@qwest.net. Brad Jarvis has signed on as journalist liaison. Brad also recommended new software, Deep Space Explorer from Space.com. The program simulates interstellar space travel, allowing perspectives from many sites far from the solar system. Treasurer Gerry Reynolds asked that members contribute dues for 2002.

Local Astronomy Internet Group

"Astro-Colorado is a Yahoo Group moderated by NCAS member Dave Larison. The site can be used for announcements, discussion of current observations, equipment questions, and file uploads. Anyone can view contents, but only members may post. See: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/astro-colo>

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TO: