

THE DENVER OBSERVER



Newsletter of the DENVER ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

One Mile Nearer the Stars

DAS OFFICERS

President - Larry Brooks.....986-5255
 Vice President - Ed Kline.....758-6953
 Secretary - Patrick Ryan
 Treasurer - Chuck Carlson...744-7331
 ALCor - Jerry Sherlin.....680-6894

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Jack Eastman	Joe Gafford
Greg Marino	Ron Pearson
Patti Kurtz	Bill Ormsby
Debra Sorg	Dan Wray
George Jones; Past President	

DAS Information Number - 871-5172
 DAS correspondence addresses;
 Denver Astronomical Society
 c/o Chamberlin Observatory
 2930 East Warren Ave.
 Denver, CO 80208

Van Nattan Scholarship Fund
 P.O. Box 150743
 Lakewood, CO 80215-0743

Correspondence for/about newsletter;
 Observer Editor, Pat Ryan
 2345 S. York, #12
 Denver, CO 80210

email: neptune9@thesimpsons.com
 DAS URL; <http://members.tripod.com/denverastro>

The Executive Board conducts the business of the DAS at 8:00 pm at Chamberlin Observatory: please see schedule for day of meeting. Everyone, and their input, is invited.

SCHEDULE

Volume XLVIII, Number VIII, August, 2000
--

August 5 – Saturday -- Dusk.; Public Open House.
August 11 – Friday -- E-Board Meeting @ 8:00 pm.
August 12 – Saturday -- Work Day at Chamberlin; 9 am to noon.
August 18 - Friday -- General Meeting at Olin Hall, D.U. Campus, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Speaker will be Dennis Ebbets, Ball Aerospace. See p 6. See p 2 for a special announcement from the pres.
August 26 – Saturday -- LOCAL STAR PARTY.
August 25-27 – WCAC Star Party. See pp 3, 4.
Sept. 8 – Friday -- E-Board Meeting @ 8:00 pm.
Sept. 9 – Saturday -- **Colorado Astronomy Day. See p 3.**
Sept. 15 - Friday -- General Meeting at Olin Hall, D.U. Campus, beginning at 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 23 – Saturday -- Work Day at Chamberlin. LOCAL STAR PARTY.
Sept. 29-Oct. 1 -- Pawnee Grasslands Star Party; See pp 6-7.
October 6 – Friday -- **The Sky Show. See pp 3, 5.**
October 13 – Friday -- General Meeting at Olin Hall, D.U. Campus, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Annual Show N’ Tell.
October 21 – Saturday -- **Annual Auction.** Setup at Chamberlin begins at 11:00 am, Auction begins at 1:00 pm.

*** Chamberlin Observatory; Mirror Grinding Class starts at 10:30 a.m. Please see p. 2 for schedule. ***

SKY & TELESCOPE sends only one notice before your subscription ends. Remember, the cost of this, and the other magazines, is over and above our yearly dues. The DAS sends only one issue of The Denver Observer after your dues run out. Also, for questions concerning new memberships, renewal memberships, address changes, and magazine subscriptions, please contact DAS Treasurer Chuck Carlson (chcarlo@du.edu). Send in your money, with the renewal form on the back page to; DAS Treasurer, Chuck Carlson, 1521 South Vine St., Denver, CO 80210-2835
--

From the President

The society will hold an open meeting starting one hour before the General Meeting for the purpose of getting input from the membership concerning the Dark Sky Site and all other activities of the club. If you cannot be present, please write your thoughts down and send them to us.

If you have any questions call me at (303) 986-5255 or email me at Lbrooks100@aol.com
Larry Brooks

Mirror-Grinding Classes

The schedule for mirror-grinding classes is as follows: August 5, 19; Sept. 2, 16. These are at 10:30 AM. Please call Terry Chatterton at 303-621-2442.

The DAS now has its own mail list serve. For more info, and to subscribe, go to;
<http://www.cudenver.edu/~lguatney/DAS>

ASTRONOMY CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER: ALL LEVELS OF INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE AT CHAMBERLIN AND MT. EVANS OBSERVATORIES. FOR CURRENT SCHEDULE, CONTACT DR. BOB STENCEL (303-871-2135; rstencel@du.edu; www.du.edu/~rstencel) AND/OR THE DU REGISTRAR'S OFFICE (303-871-2284).

**** FOR SALE ****

Meade 7" APO refractor, 1996 model with all standard accessories; Mount upgraded to 750 with current 1697 Computer firmware.

Heavy duty tripod.

Eyepieces: Meade Super Wide Angle 40mm; TeleVue 27mm Panoptic.; TeleVue 12mm Nagler 4; TeleVue 7mm Nagler; TeleVue 2x Big Barlow
TeleVue 2" to 1.25" Brass Equalizer

Thousand Oaks Solar Filter:
ND-5 Meade 7" Type 2 Full Aperature.
Extra 25lb. Counter Weight.
DC Power Adapter.

Asking \$7250.

Contact: Sam Andrews (303)-688-4429 Email: sandrews@lasertech.com

**** FOR SALE ****

Discovery Telescopes Dobsonian

12.5" main mirror, 1524mm fl, f/4.8.
Diffraction limited PYREX optics. Enhanced Aluminum coatings with 94% reflectivity. Cabinet quality Dobsonian mount with Ebony Star formica. Zero backlash Teflon pads.

2" Crayford Focuser

10 mm plossl

TelRad Finder

Base wt: 37 pounds

Tube wt: 61 pounds

This telescope is "as new" and is available in Boulder for pick-up only.

Manufactured by Discovery Telescopes.

\$950

Tim Shropshire

303-499-2824

timothy@boulder.net

**** FOR SALE ****

16" homemade strut-type Dobsonian with Meade f4.5 optics.

9-pt cell with 3 collimation thumbscrews and fan.

4-vane spider for adjustable secondary.

Telrad, R&P focuser with 2" 32 ocular, 1.25" adapter.

Plywood box, fiberglass top end.

Clunky, ugly, not easy to set up, but it works.

I've enjoyed chasing faint fuzzies with it for years.

\$825

U-Pick-Up

Dennis; 720-870-0465, Aurora, CO

Missing Item From Picnic

Debra Sorg had brought a pie spatula to the picnic, and it was taken home by someone else. There were two spatulas at that picnic. We think that the person the brought the other one took ours home by mistake. We have the other spatula. We would very much like ours back because it belonged to a set.

Ours was of much heavier construction, with heavier wood on the handle. The wood on ours was a light color, the other one had darker wood and was much lighter construction.

If you have this item, please contact the editor at; neptune9@thesimpsons.com

COLORADO ASTRONOMY DAY

September 9, 2000

Plans are not quite finalized for this year's Colorado Astronomy Day. However, you can expect the schedule to reflect that of years past; daytime events will take place at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and nighttime events will take place at Chamberlin Observatory. Stay tuned for a more detailed schedule next issue.

WCAC Star Party August 25-27

WCAC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that it will host a regional star party for amateur astronomers from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and for travelers from all over. This event will be held on the Grand Mesa west of the intersection of Lands End Road and Colorado Highway 65 at 10,000 elevation. The dates are August 25th through the 27th. Camping is available at the site and at nearby National Forest camp grounds. Motels are available in the towns of Cedaredge and Mesa. Both are about 15 miles from the site. Participants should be prepared for warm days and cool to cold nights.

Friday night will feature a speaker describing the summer constellations and highlights of the summer sky. Saturday afternoon, we will have a speaker discussing various aspects of amateur astronomy and the Astronomical League. We will

have one or two solar telescopes and perhaps some general discussion of solar astronomy throughout the day. Saturday at twilight, we will have a speaker making a presentation about the International Dark Sky Association.

Door prizes will be awarded periodically on Saturday and Sunday morning. We may serve a chili dinner for a small donation on Saturday night. Email MDonn28253@aol.com for more information.

Please see page 4 for the map to the site.

**You are invited to the
first-ever**

Denver Sky Show

Hosted by

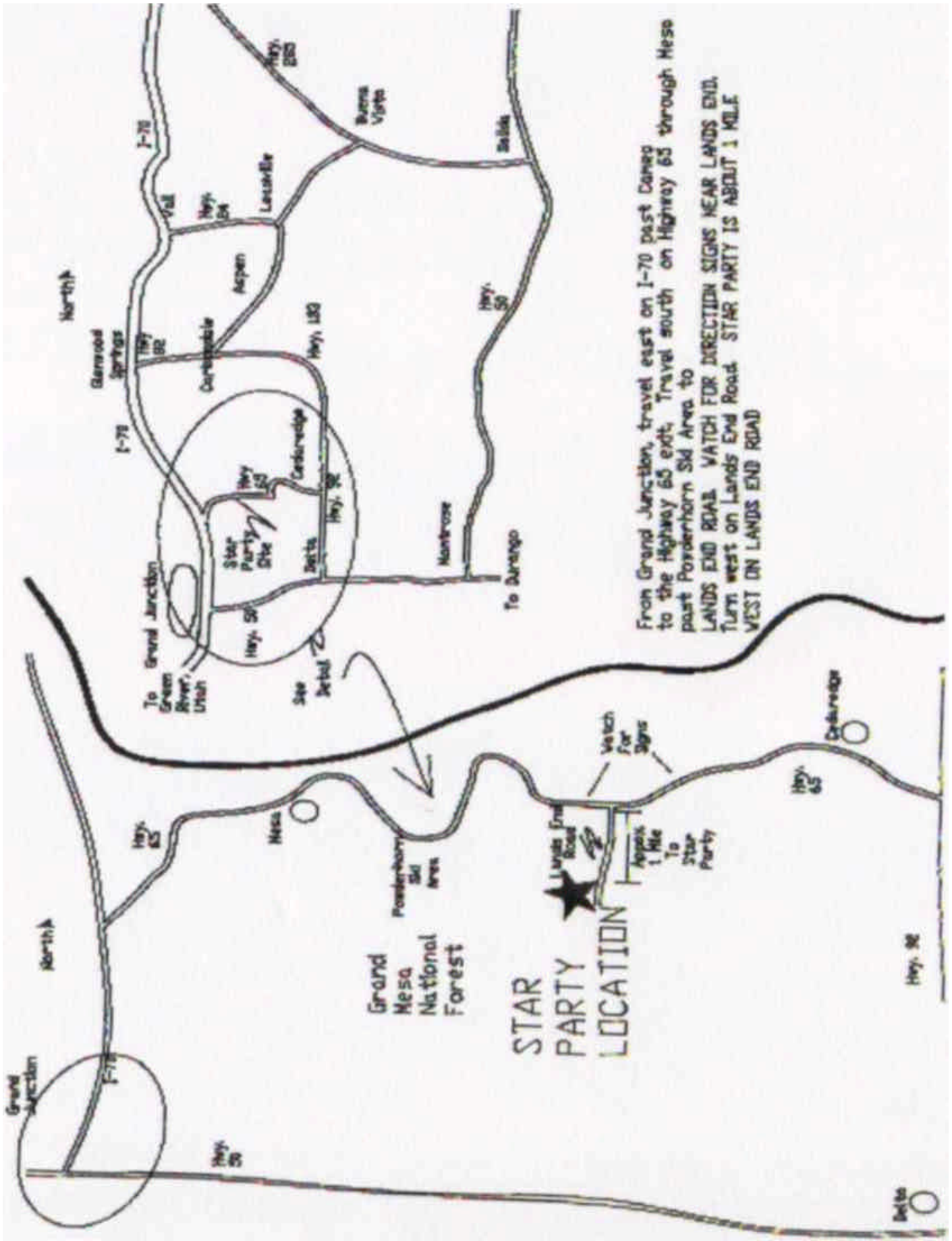
***Astronomy Magazine and
the Denver Astronomical
Society***

October 6, 2000

Please join us for a new kind of star party; one that we hope will excite and inspire the general public, as well as expert amateurs. We are proud to invite you to participate in *Astronomy Magazine's "Sky Show"* in Denver on October 6th (rain date October 7th). The event will be held at Aurora Reservoir.

Although we anticipate vendors and activities, *the star party rules the night!* The largest area of the star party will be completely geared to the general public unfamiliar with astronomy and stargazing. There will be basic "observing stations" — one for constellations, one for lunar and planetary, and one for deep sky observing. Each station will introduce the types of telescopes in use, and some observing etiquette. The visitors will be given handouts at each station to take home with

(Continued on page 5)



From Grand Junction, travel east on I-70 past Cameo to the Highway 65 exit. Travel south on Highway 65 through Mesa past Powderhorn Ski Area to LANDS END ROAD. WATCH FOR DIRECTION SIGNS NEAR LANDS END. Turn west on Lands End Road. STAR PARTY IS ABOUT 1 MILE WEST ON LANDS END ROAD

(Continued from page 3)

them.

Constellation Station - A quick tour of the sky and constellations. We'll introduce the summer triangle and the Milky Way along with the use of binoculars for stargazing.

Lunar/Planetary Station -

We'll have a first quarter moon that evening that the public loves to look at. As for planets, we'll have Mercury and Venus in twilight, then Saturn and Jupiter rising mid-evening.

Deep Sky Station - A talk (still brief, here) will discuss the difference between nebulae (i.e., reflection, dark, planetary, supernovae remnants), star clusters (globs and open), and galaxies. The telescopes at this station will be separated into these three categories. The tricks to observing some objects will also be discussed.

We are looking for volunteers and telescopes to work these stations. we need station captains (constellation, deep sky, lunar and planetary) -- folks who feel comfortable about their knowledge (you don't have to be astrophysicists for this) and could give folks a 2-3 minute spiel about their specialty. For instance: You like galaxies, talk galaxies. If you like Jupiter, talk Jupiter. Additionally, we need a constellation person who can point out constellations. Besides the station captains, we'd like people with telescopes at each of the stations. Perhaps you have a preference? It's pretty easy and slides right into what you already know and love to share.

It will be very helpful to have an approximate count of folks with telescopes so we can get you special car passes and/or arrange special parking, if needed.

Additionally, the front range clubs can make a strong presence – you are welcome to bring information and set up a booth with your representatives. You might see new membership from this event!



Please respond by email anytime, or telephone Patti Kurtz at (303) 948-5825. Email: pkurtz@uswest.net.

Aurora Reservoir is located 2 miles east of S. Gun Club Rd. on E. Quincy Ave.

Also -- as for times -- setup starts at 2:00 p.m. for vendors and telescope people. The event starts at 6:00 and goes til midnight.

For your convenience, I'll be posting updates on a website soon.

Thank you so very much and best regards --- Patti Kurtz

S&S Optika
Colorado's premier astronomical supply store.
5174 South Broadway
Englewood, Colorado 80110
(303) 789-1089
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 am to 6 pm; Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm; Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm.

DAS Pawnee Grasslands

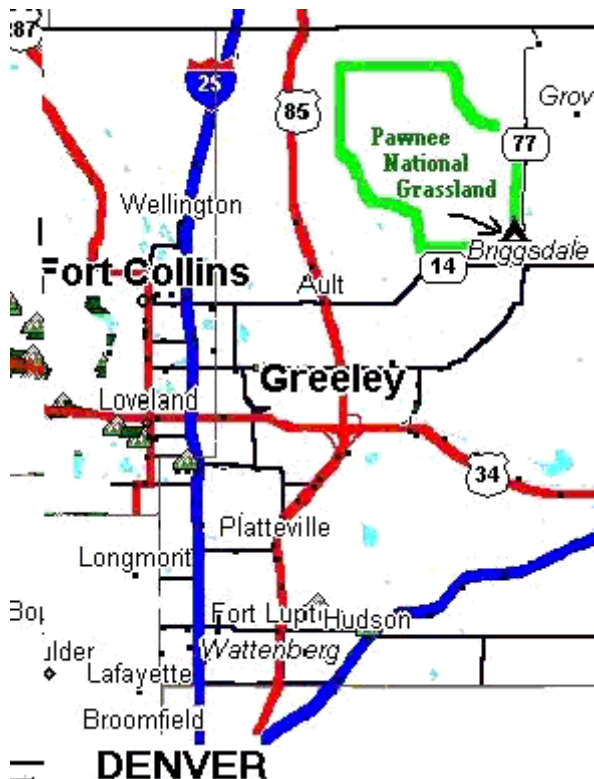
Star Party

September 29 – October 1, 2000

Location: Crow Valley Recreation Area

Directions: Turn east from either Highway 25 or 85 onto Highway 14. On HW 14 (25 miles after passing 85), turn north (left) onto Weld County Road 77. Go 1/4 of a mile to the sign that proclaims the Crow Valley Recreation Area (**see first map below**). Turn left and follow the signs to the Stewart J. Adams *Education Site* just beyond the Farm Implement Museum (**see second map on opposite page**).

This site has toilet facilities and RV hook-ups. However, we could not be assured that the water would still be on, so you had best bring your own. Everyone, from EVERY club & society, is invited!



Whoa Nelly, this is a lot of stuff, huh?! Star Parties, events, gatherings... I'm surprised that I could fit it all in, and still have room for this little column.

However, there's still more to come, in October. Our General Meeting that month, on the 13th, is our Annual Show N' Tell night. Furthermore, October 21st will witness our Annual Auction. So get all of your stuff together; the kluges that you want to show off, the items you want to sell, the money that you will spend at the Auction.

Maybe yours truly will be able to spend some at this year's Auction, seeing as how I have a new, and better paying, job. I'd like to thank the Board, who've put up with my grumpiness the past couple of months, while I searched for a job. I have a new e-mail address to go with my new job; neptune9@thesimpsons.com

Now you make sure and read through this issue, and make plans for any event and party that you want to attend. Don't be like that #@* who blamed ME for his lack of planning and foresight!

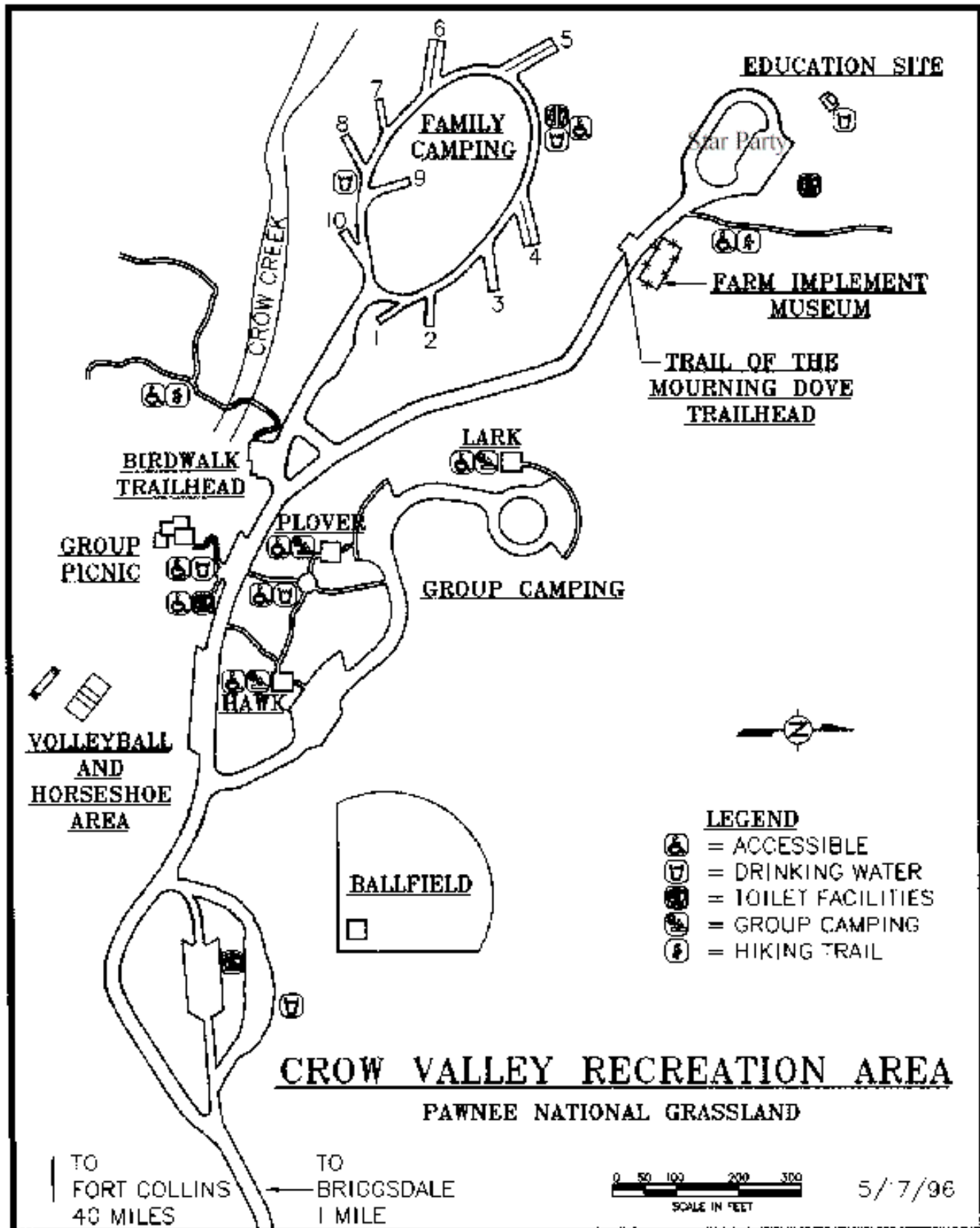
But honestly, I really don't want to be grumpy!

August General Meeting Speaker

August's General Meeting Speaker will be Dennis Ebbets, Systems Engineer at Ball Aerospace Systems Division in Boulder, CO. The topic will be "The Next Generation Space Telescope."

Since joining Ball in 1985, Dr. Ebbets has worked primarily on science instruments for the Hubble Space Telescope, and on design studies for other space missions, including the Next Generation Space Telescope. He is a member of the Investigation Definition Team for two instruments aboard Hubble, the Goddard High Resolution Spectrograph and the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph.

Dr. Ebbets holds an undergraduate degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College and a Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Colorado.



About the Denver Astronomical Society

The DAS is a group of amateur and professional astronomers sharing a mutual interest in the heavens. The DAS operates the University of Denver's Chamberlin Observatory with its venerable 1894, Alvan Clark, 20" refracting telescope. Our members have been involved with the first public planetarium at the Denver Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Astrophysics Observatory's "Moon Watch" program. The DAS successfully petitioned to have the Chamberlin Observatory listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Our Credo is to provide members a forum for increasing and sharing their knowledge, to promote and to educate the public about astronomy, and to preserve the historic telescope and observatory in cooperation with the University of Denver. To these ends we have established three tax deductible funds; the Van Nattan Scholarship Fund, the Chamberlin Restoration Fund, and the DAS Dark Site Fund. This last fund was established to construct and maintain observing facilities sites near Deer Trail in eastern Colorado.

Please call our Info Line at (303) 871-5172 and drop by one of our General Meetings. Become a member and enjoy speakers, facilities, events, and our monthly newsletter, The Denver Observer.

Application for Membership to The Denver Astronomical Society

New Renew

Name: _____



Denver Astronomical Society
 c/o Chamberlin Observatory
 2930 East Warren Ave.
 Denver, CO 80208

Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____
 Zip: _____
 Home Phone : _____
 Work Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Occupation: _____
 Other Interests: _____
 (Associates Only) School: _____ Grade _____

Do you want to download the newsletter from the web site, as a PDF file, instead of receiving it in the mail?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you want this information **kept out** of the yearly roster?

Yes _____ No _____

Please Circle All That Apply:

Regular - \$30 Associate - \$10 up to age 22

\$ _____

Sky & Telescope;/\$29.95 Astronomy/\$29

\$ _____

Dark Site Fund Donation\$ _____

VanNattan Scholarship Fund\$ _____

Chamberlin Fund Donation\$ _____

Total Amount Paid\$ _____

Complete this form, or a copy, and send it with a check or money order payable to The Denver Astronomical Society to:

DAS Treasurer, Chuck Carlson, 1521 S. Vine St., Denver, CO 80210-2835