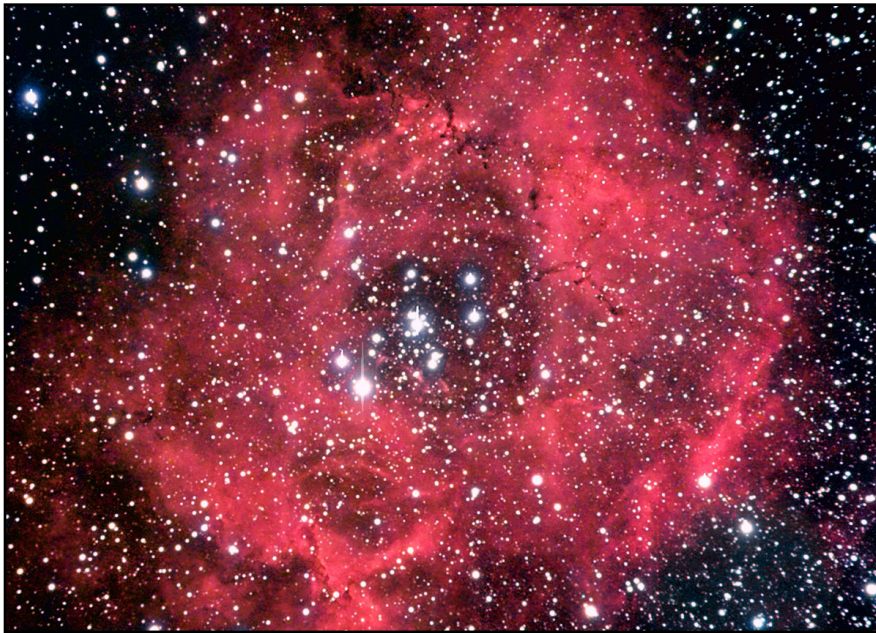


# OBSERVER

## A June Rose



At a distance of 4700 light years and with petals extending to a width of 130 light years, the **Rosette Nebula** (NGC 2237) along with its embedded cluster of O-type stars (NGC 2244) occupies 80 arc minutes of the sky off the left shoulder of Orion. The area immediately surrounding the cluster sizzles at 6 million

degrees Kelvin, causing the H-II cloud to fluoresce in deep red, a true "American Beauty" nebula, lacerated by several Herbig-Haro regions north and west of the core. This LRGB image comprises 4.5 hours of data through Steve's 80mm Stellarvue refractor.

*Image copyright Steve Solon*

### Inside the Observer

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[www.thedas.org](http://www.thedas.org) (Please see the website for info and a renewal form)

### Calendar

- 3.....New moon
- 10..... First quarter moon
- 18..... Full moon
- 26.....Last quarter moon

## JUNE SKIES

The Moon floats thru a wonderland of celestial objects during the month, sometimes getting in the way with its bright girth and other times more modestly marking where to look—and the Moon itself is always good to look at. Some day some young person you know may live there! The ever-changing terminator reveals the geography on its face bit by bit. On the 9th look for eye-catching Mare Nectaris and the egg-shaped crater Fracastorius on its bottom edge. Then, following June Astronomy page 49 we should look for the ridge called Dorsum Zirkel near craters Lambert & Timocharis on June 12. Dorsum Zirkel could be a character out of a

sci-fi story. Read Robert Heinlein's *The Menace From Earth* for an entertaining taste of Moon life for the emigrating humans.

The shy crescent of the moon is in the hard-to-find constellation Cancer the Crab in the early evening of the 7th. Look for it if you want to know where this Zodiac member is. Near the center of its Y-shaped asterism is M44 the Beehive Cluster. Then once again the moon passes Mars on the 8th and the Saturn/Regulus pair on the 9th. By the 20th the just-past-full moon is in the region of Jupiter, trying to blare him out of the sky but failing. The big guy of planets rises early

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

The last general meeting was another Show and Tell where we learned some great ideas for use with telescopes, astro-imaging and observing in the field.

There are some good star parties in the area this year, Rocky Mountain Star Stare (RMSS) and Weekend Under The Stars (WUTS) are two of the best ones. DAS does not hold a regional star party, but there is no reason not to do so! I suggest we hold a star party for the DAS this summer at our Dark Sky Site. Sometime in July or August it is possible to see all the planets (even Pluto) in one evening, and I think we should go for the gusto! A early evening cookout on the road near the Dark Site (no fire at the Dark Site remember)

and down to business. We will have to start right at sunset and continue into sunrise to observe all the planets. Our



A special object for the newsletter—**IC3799**, an edgewise spiral galaxy in Corvus was discovered visually by Herbert Alonzo Howe on May 11, 1899 at Cham-



party will most likely be on the third-quarter moon weekend as we can nail Pluto early in the evening, and the other planets are bright enough that we don't have to worry about moonlight getting in the way.

We also have the annual picnic on July 12th at Observatory Park. Bryan Wilburn has graciously agreed to head the herd again this year. Please chip in and make the work go easy! Contact Bryan for details. **Continued on Page 3**

berlin Observatory with the 20-inch Alvin Clark refractor. It is one of the 58 Index Catalog (IC) objects he discovered solely with this instrument.



This was taken on May 4, 2008 just after midnight at North Sterling Reservoir—10 minutes each of LRGB exposures with an SBIG ST-2000XM ccd camera on a JMI 18-inch f/4.5 Newtonian telescope.

Image copyright Joe Gafford

Society Directory

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*The Executive Board conducts the business of the DAS at 7:30 p.m. at Chamberlin Observatory. Please see the Schedule of Events for meeting dates. All members are welcome.*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

Work at Chamberlin has commenced in earnest. There are boards on the windows, and marks on the walls where new safety features will be added. Window reconstruction should be evident at the next open house. Our thanks to DU, Historic Denver and ourselves for patience with the work. If you ask politely, Aaron Reid, Chamberlin's Coordinator may show you the drawings.

The SAS conference at Big Bear this year was a real blast. I cut the RTMC part short due to weather and a desire to get back home and start working on my own telescope! I'll bring the proceedings to the next meeting.

Dust off those star charts and clean up those scopes! The summer with its warm weather is here!—*Wayne Green.*



## STEPHANIE PAHL TO SPEAK AT JUNE MEETING

Stephanie Pahl will give us a presentation on the Solar Analemma at the June general meeting. The Analemma

is that elongated “figure 8” shape the sun seems to create in the sky when it is photographed at the same time of day at regular intervals throughout the year.

Many of you already know Stephanie, either through events at the society or through S&S Optica where she has worked since 1999. Stephanie became involved with the DAS through Larry Brooks, with whom she worked as a Denver Museum of Nature and Science volunteer in the planetarium. Larry bought her first red flashlight, introduced her to the DAS and got her the job at S&S Optica. She has been hooked on astronomy ever since.

A former Van Nattan Scholarship awardee, Stephanie has been a member of the DAS for 10 years. She put her scholarship to good use, receiving her Bachelor's degree in the field of Physics and Mathematics in 2006. Her primary interest is in computational physics. She interned at a low-temperature physics lab, making finite element models of superconducting circuits. The lab was involved in making high sensitivity conductors used  
*Continued on Back Page*

## JUNE SKIES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



enough to see this month. By month's end he is up 15 degrees at 9:30. June 23 the Moon passes blue dot Neptune and at third quarter in another three days passes green dot Uranus located just below the Cirlet of stars in the head of the right-hand fish in Pisces. On the 30th the moon visits the Pleiades again.

Remember that we spoke in both April and May of Coma Berenices, the

“corner” constellation sandwiched between Leo and Bootes near the zenith? Now in June's *Sky & Tel* page 50 Gary Seronik mentions the greatly different distances of three objects there. The scattered stars of Melotte 111 are 300 light-years away while the globular cluster M53 is 58,000 light-years distant. The Black-Eye Galaxy M64 is 300 times farther than that! Look at them again and contemplate this huge spread of distances. A little star map is included in Gary's article.

After revisiting Coma B, look at Bootes and its monster star Arcturus, one of the beacons of the Spring night. Large globular cluster M3 is to the upper right of Arcturus but may be easier to find from Coma B, specifically the horizontal arm between Beta and Gamma.

From Beta, the corner star, ootch half of the Beta-Gamma distance to the left. M3 is there. Industrious ootchers can go the same distance again to the left for fainter glob NGC5466. Now back at Arcturus, check out asterism Picot 1, known as Napoleon's Hat, just below it. Then locate the star in Bootes way off to the left and a bit below Arcturus. About twice that distance farther in the same direction is big glob M5.

Outbursts happen! Late in the month on the night of 26-27 we may be treated to an outburst in the Bootid meteor shower. Bootes, the radiant constellation of this shower, is up all night. As the wise guy Oblivius said, outbursts come to him who waits.—*Dennis Cochran.*

# Stephanie Pahl to Speak at June Meeting

*(Continued from Page 2)*

in the search for dark matter at the Soudan Mine in Minnesota.

In addition to working at S&S, She also teaches physics labs part time at Metro State College and the University of Colorado in Denver. She also teaches astronomy courses for the schools at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Her current area of research is in sonoluminescence, the conversion of acoustic energy to light.

The General meeting will be held on June 13th beginning at 7:30 P.M. at Olin Hall on the DU campus. Coffee and donuts, soft drinks, and idle chatter, along with views through the Clark 20-inch refractor (weather permitting) will be the on menu for the post meeting gathering at

Chamberlin Observatory immediately following the General meeting. Make plans now to attend the June general meeting and see one of our very own give a presentation!

—Keith Pool

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**  
Our very own Neil Pearson received an Honorable Mention from the Astronomical League for the National Young Astronomers Award 2008.  
Congratulations, Neil!!

## D A S S C H E D U L E

### JUNE

- 7 Open House at Chamberlin Observatory (Begins at 7:00 P.M.)
- 13 General Membership Meeting at Olin Hall (Begins at 7:30 P.M.)
- 15 Father's Day
- 20 E-Board meeting at Chamberlin Observatory (Begins at 7:30 P.M.)

### JULY

- 5-6 EGK Dark Sky weekend
- 12 Annual Picnic (3:00 P.M.) and Open House at Chamberlin Observatory (7:00 P.M.)
- 18 General Membership Meeting at Olin Hall (Begins at 7:30 P.M.)
- 25 E-Board meeting at Chamberlin Observatory (Begins at 7:30 P.M.)



The Denver Astronomical Society  
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### FROM THE EDITOR:

Sorry folks, about the delay in this month's newsletter. Your editor is having massive computer problems that may take awhile to work out (including learning another software program with which to design). Thank you for your patience and if anyone has an extra G3 Macintosh computer he or she'd like to donate, please give me a call at (720-217-5707).

Thank you!—Patti Kurtz, Editor