

# THE DENVER OBSERVER



Newsletter of the DENVER ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

One Mile Nearer the Stars

## DAS OFFICERS

President - Larry Brooks.....986-5255  
Vice President - Rich Lane....984-2714  
Secretary - Patrick Ryan .....  
Treasurer - Chuck Carlson....744-7331  
ALCor - Jerry Sherlin.....680-6894

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Jack Eastman	Joe Gafford
Bernie Presser	Ivan Geisler
Jerry Sherlin	Ed Kline
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: pryan@du.edu  
DAS World Wide Web 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 I,  
January, 2000

**January 15 – Saturday** -- Dusk.; Public Open House. Lecture; “How to Use Your New Telescope.”

**January 20 - Friday** -- Total Lunar Eclipse; Moon enters umbra at 8:01 pm MST, totality at 9:43, Moon leaves umbra at 11:26

**January 28 - Friday** -- General Meeting at Olin Hall, D.U. Campus, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Speaker is Russ Mellon. See p. # 2 for details. E-Board nominations!!

**February 5 – Saturday** -- LOCAL STAR PARTY. Kiowa Open House; see page #3 for details.

**February 11 – Friday** -- E-Board Meeting @ 8:00 pm

**February 12 – Saturday** -- Dusk.; Public Open House.

**February 18 - Friday** -- General Meeting at Olin Hall, D.U. Campus, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Speaker is Dr. Edward Euler. See p. # 2 for details. E-Board elections!!

**February 19 – Saturday** -- **Work Day; 9 am—Noon.**

**March 4 – Saturday** -- LOCAL STAR PARTY & Messier Marathon.

**March 10 – Friday** -- E-Board Meeting @ 8:00 pm

**March 11 – Saturday** -- Dusk.; Public Open House.

**March 18 – Saturday** -- **Annual Banquet. See p #3 for details.**

\*\*\* 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

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The Denver Astronomical Society and the University of Denver is involved in looking at changes in the Chamberlin Observatory. Those changes involve removing the Clark refractor from the observatory and replacing it with a modern up to date telescope.

An article in the last newsletter by Dr. Stencel states that "it may be possible to improve the main telescope at Chamberlin, add new classroom space and handi-capped access, plus insure that the Clark refractor is suitably preserved for the future. I feel that this can be accomplished without removing the Clark from the observatory. The current plan is to replace the Clark with a 36-inch cassegrain to be upgraded to a 51-inch cassegrain in the future. The Clark will be removed and may be used as a static (non-usable) display at the Denver Museum of Natural History. It is hoped that the 20-inch will be returned to Chamberlin at a later date after a new classroom building with a dome has been built. However I feel that

once removed, it will not be brought back. With limited budgets and competing needs, the university could not justify the expense of two moves.

Dr. Stencel needs the new telescope for the students and the astronomy program at the University. Just as the University has supported the DAS and public outreach, the DAS has and continues to support the astronomy program at DU. The DAS has spent many years maintaining the observatory and doing the public events at Chamberlin. We do not want to stand in the way of the University's astronomy program. I feel that both the historic value of Chamberlin and the needs of the astronomy program at the University should be met. Other means of providing of the program with a research grade telescope need to be explored in much more depth. Other ways can be found to do both. It will take a little more time and a little more work, but it will prove to be best in the end. Therefore, I wish to state I am in favor of maintaining the status of the 20-inch while getting the new scope at the same time.

I want to emphasize that within the membership of the club and between the university and some club members there is difference of opinion as to removing

the Clark and replacing it with the new instrument. This divergence of opinion must not deteriorate to a personal level. We may not agree but we should continue to deal with each other in a professional respectful manner.

Bob Stencel will present the current plans to the club followed by a question and answer period at the January meeting. Look for notices in the Observer. You can also express your opinion via email to Dr Stencel, other E-Board members or myself. If you have any ideas or thoughts as to ways to save the 20-inch, send an email to Dr. Stencel or myself.

My email address is Lbrooks100@aol.com  
Dr. Stencel is Rstencel@du.edu

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### Mirror-Grinding Classes

The schedule for mirror-grinding classes is as follows: January 8, 22; February 5, 19. These are at 10:30 AM.

Please call Terry Chatterton at 303-621-2442 for more information.

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### January Speaker

The January 28 speaker will be Russ Mellon, President of Equinox Intersciences, who will speak on "Engineering of Larger Telescopes."

### February Speaker

The speaker for February 18 will be Dr. Edward Euler of Lockheed Martin. Dr. Euler is Program Director of the Mars Surveyor Program. He will give us a debriefing on the Mars Polar Lander. He will discuss the future of Mars missions. Dr. Euler received a NASA Public Service Award for his participation on the Viking Mars Lander Program. He earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and his Ph.D. in Space Science from Northwestern University.

*Rich Lane*

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### CHAMBERLIN IN 2001 AND BEYOND

Professor Robert Stencel, Director

The University of Denver seeks and welcomes constructive input from its neighbors and the Den-

ver Astronomical Society. To that end, we are presenting some long-term goals for DU's historic Chamberlin Observatory, to stimulate discussion. Here are proposed goals for the coming years:

- (a) restore the Clark-Saegmuller refractor to its historically accurate condition, and continue public outreach programs with DAS collaboration;
- (b) address code and ADA problems with the building, per the preservation master plan developed in conjunction with a building preservation grant from state historical society;
- (c) recapture the research and training component for which Chamberlin was intended, but has lost due to antiquated equipment and infrastructure. This latter goal can be achieved by adding a modern telescope, and taking advantage of digital communications.

A remarkable convergence of opportunities suggests it may be possible to improve the main telescope at Chamberlin, add new classroom space and handicapped access, plus insure that the Clark refractor is suitably preserved for the future. These steps will improve the training of students by DU, and the quality of public outreach by DAS, and thereby help astronomy in Denver thrive well into the new millennium. Please join with us in making good things happen.

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**Second Annual Kiowa  
Observatory Open House  
And Star Party  
February 5, 2000**

Terry Chatterton, Jon Goldberg and Steve Solon would like to invite the Society to spend February 5th at Kiowa Observatory for an Open House. The gathering will start at 8 p.m. and, in addition to lots of parking, there will be demonstrations on conventional, as well as, CCD photography and processing, and lots of ideas on what can be built at the DAS Dark-Sky Site. If you've been to a Messier Marathon at Terry's, you know where we are.....call (303) 932-7613. Free & hot eats & drinks! Come one and all !

**DIRECTIONS**

Drive south on Parker Road (83) to Franktown. Turn left at the (only) light onto Highway 86 and proceed 16 miles, through Elizabeth, to Kiowa. Go through Kiowa to Road 45 (at the water tower with

the red light).

Turn right (south) and proceed 2.6 miles to the entrance to Pine Meadows (the "Pavement Ends" sign.) Turn left and go to your 3rd left (Wilderness Drive), turn, then go to your 2nd left (Wildwood Place), turn, and look on your right for the faint blue light on Terry's house. Go approximately 200 feet and turn right at the fenceline (not the mail box.)

Please be considerate with your headlights and remember: As you're going through Franktown, Elizabeth and Kiowa, be extremely mindful of the speed limits; if it says 30, 35, 40, or 45, that's all you're allowed.....ask Jon Goldberg.

**Hope we'll see you there!**

See Kiowa Observatory on the World Wide Web!  
<http://hometown.aol.com/JPGold881/index.html>

**ANNUAL BANQUET**  
**March 18**

The banquet will be held at *Dardano's Restaurant* again, 11968 W. Jewell Ave. Cash bar from 6:00 - 7:00. Buffet dinner from 7:00 - 8:00. Speaker at 8:00. Served at your table: coffee or tea, homemade bread, and cheesecake. Served on the buffet line: roast beef, chicken ernesto, Italian sausage, lasagna, cavatelli, cheese ravioli, fettucine, alioli, mixed Italian vegetable in butter sauce, broccolli with a cheese sauce. Stay tuned for price information in the next newsletter.

*Rich Lane*

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**A.L. Important Stuff**

*We don't have room to go into detail, but it is vital that you visit the Astronomical League's web site, at <http://www.astroleague.org/>, for info on the following awards; The Astronomical League Award, G. R. "Bob" Wright Service Award, The Leslie C. Peltier Award, National Young Astronomer Award, Jack Horkheimer Award, Mabel Sterns Award.*

**ASTROCON 2000; July 19-22**  
sponsored by the  
**Ventura County Astronomical Society**  
Visit the website today!  
<http://www.vcas.org/astrocon/>

## 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.



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

## Application for Membership to The Denver Astronomical Society

( ) New      ( ) Renew

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