

THE DENVER OBSERVER



Newsletter of the DENVER ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

One Mile Nearer the Stars

DAS OFFICERS

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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 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 VII,
July, 2000

July 1 – Saturday -- LOCAL STAR PARTY.

July 7 – Friday -- E-Board Meeting @ 8:00 pm. Budget Committee

July 8 – Saturday -- 4:00 pm; Annual Picnic, see p 5.
Dusk.; Public Open House.

July 14 - Friday -- General Meeting at Olin Hall, D.U. Campus, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Speaker will be Keith Gleason, SBO Manager. See p 4.

July 19-22 -- Astrocon 2000, see p 2.

July 22 – Saturday -- Work Day at Chamberlin; 9 am to noon.

July 27-30 -- Weekend Under the Stars. See p 3.

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 4.

August 26 – Saturday -- LOCAL STAR PARTY.

Sept. 9 – Saturday -- Colorado Astronomy Day

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 -- Pawnee Grasslands Star Party; See next issue.

*** 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 (chcarlso@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 big star parties are coming up for the summer and I would like to encourage you who have not been to one to try it. Star Stare, Weekend under the Stars, and the Pawnee Parties are a terrific chance to do some great observing at great dark sky locations with a great bunch of people. You do not need a scope, only a little camping gear and a desire to stay up too late looking at stars.

The dark sky site is coming along great. Pads have been poured; electricity has been run to the pads and will be hooked up to the lines very soon. A great deal of thanks is due to Ted Cox, Wayne Kaaz, the Dark Site committee, and the fine people who have volunteered to do the grunt work. Thanks to all for a job very well done. I would encourage all that have not been there to go out. Remember that you don't need a scope. People love to share their views. If you need a ride, call me and I will try to set something up.

We are starting to use up the funds we have currently for the Dark Sky Site improvements. We are looking to get a warming facility and a vault toilet. These luxuries will surely warm your heart and other parts also. Contributions will be greatly appreciated. Please mail thousands of dollars to Chuck Carlson, Treasurer. If not thousands, then any amount will be appreciated. We would also appreciate feedback as to what you would like to see out there. You can send suggestions to me or contact any board member.

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

Larry Brooks



<http://www.vcas.org/astrocon/>

Mirror-Grinding Classes

The schedule for mirror-grinding classes is as follows: July 8, 22; August 5, 19. These are at 10:30 AM. Please call Terry Chatterton at 303-621-2442.

An Occasion for Quiet Celebration

Ron Pearson

On the evening of July 14, the DAS will hold its regular monthly meeting. After the speaker we will adjourn to Chamberlin for conversation, coffee and viewing through the 20 inch Clark refractor. Something to keep in mind that night is that July 14, 1894 was first light for the telescope and observatory. It will be the 106 years old that night, and this will be its final 'firstlightday' of the 20th century.



Leslie Peltier, who was born in Ohio when the Chamberlin Clark was 11 years old, grew up to make thousands of variable star observations, discover several comets, and write his autobiography, called Starlight Nights. Peltier 'inherited' two Clark refractors in his lifetime. If you ever need a heady dose of the amateur astronomer's spirit for scientific observation and appreciation of the beauty of the night sky, read his book. He closes the book with a final chapter called "Observations." These are his personal thoughts of years of memories and telescopes. Peltier had a deep appreciation for the Clark telescopes and the number of years they had been around and lives of the people they touched.

(Continued on page 5)

Weekend Under the Stars

July 27 - 30, 2000

Hosted by the Cheyenne Astronomical Society and the Laramie Astronomical Society and Space Observers, held in cooperation with the Front Range Astronomical Super Cluster (FRASC)

This will be number 10 for "The Weekend Under the Stars". Last year was such a great success that I do not know how we will top it, although we sure are going to try. We are expecting some of our regular speakers: including astronomers from the University of Wyoming and Denver University. We are also planning on having some wonderful door prizes from businesses including Orion Telescope, Roger Tuthill, Sky and Telescope, Astronomy, Software Bisque and Astrosystems. We are also planning on having some great Aquarids this year! This meteor shower peaks in late July.

This year promises a turnout exceeding last years total of 225 guests and 1207 inches of aperture. We brag up some of the greatest skies in the U.S. and I don't think were exaggerating. Previously invisible objects stick out like cosmic sore thumbs from Foxpark. If you make just one major star party this year, make it "The Weekend Under the Stars". You won't be sorry. See you in July.

Marty Curran

Observation Officer

Cheyenne Astronomical Society

Information About The Observing Site

The observing site is the winter sports parking area for the south side of the Snowy Range. The site sits a 9100 feet with typical 7th mag stars visible naked eye. Most Messier objects are naked eye as well. The days are hot and the nights can be cold. Bring shorts, t-shirts, sun block, long johns, parkas, gloves and sun glasses. The sun will cook you to a crisp in less than an hour and the night can freeze you in less. Of course if you sun-burn your legs they'll be warm all night ;-).

There are almost no facilities at the site. As a matter of fact, there are two outhouses and nothing else so bring water, food and any supplies you will need to camp out. There is food, gas and supplies at Woods Landing, so it's not too far to go if you forget something but their supplies are limited. There are two large camping areas and the ground is flat and level so you can camp right at the observing site or almost anywhere you like around Foxpark. There are specific campgrounds at Rob Roy Reservoir, Miller Lake, Lake Evans and Lake Owens. Laramie is about a 50

minute drive from the site.

* REGISTRATION

There is no pre-registration for this Star Party. All registration will be taken care of at the time of arrival. Please sign in at our registration desk(at the big tent).

* Fees: ADULTS = \$10.00 each; CHILDREN (12 and under) = FREE

Directions to the Star Party

From Laramie Wyoming, take HWY230 West 28 miles to Woods Landing. Continue from Woods Landing up HWY. 230 12 miles to the turn off to Foxpark (Forest Road 512). The turn is well marked and there will also be a sign marked "Weekend Under The Stars" with an arrow pointing the correct way. Take the county road approximately 2 miles to the small town of FoxPark. Take the left before you get to the town. There is also a "Weekend Under The Stars" sign there. You go about 1/2 mile (approximately) and come to another road. The turn off to the observing site is to the right after you get on the other road. Watch close for the "Weekend Under the Stars" signs.

CONTACT US AT:

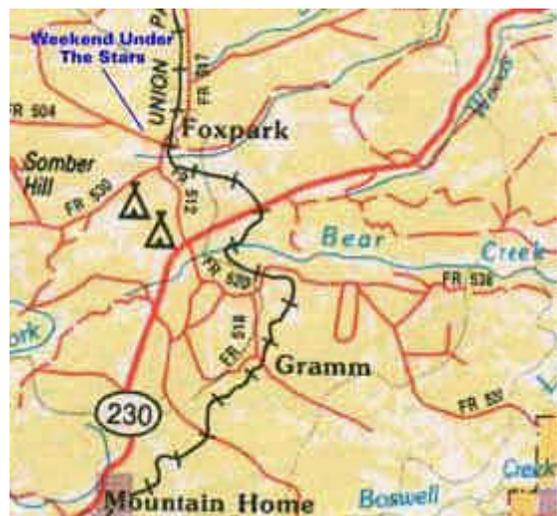
Marty Curran
President CAS
3539 Luther Place
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307)635-5944

mcurran@sisna.com

Charla Wagner
PR Officer CAS
P.O. Box 1967
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307)634-7312

cwagne@missc.state.wy.us

Weekend Under the Stars web page:
<http://users.sisna.com/mcurran/wuts.htm>



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

NEWS FROM Sales

** FOR SALE **

SALE SPECIALS: 'Leitz' Binocs' 8 X 35, Center-focus, Like New ! In Leather case, Save 35% asking \$500....Also, B. & L. 70-mm. 'Scope, 15 to 40 X Near new, also Perfect Optical condition. With Carry case..Save 50%, asking \$325.!

'Tele-Vue' "Ranger" 70-mm 'Scope, "Near-New" Condition, with Case & Mount, No Eyepiece or Diag., Thus save over 55% at only \$300 !!

SBIG, Model ST-5C Advanced Astro CCD-System for Sale...Full "Setup," Priced too low to Publish ! Very Excellent Condition.

Contact member Gordon Teall, (303) 986-0289 or E-Mail at " fotobugteall@msn.com "

** 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

July & August General Meeting Speakers

July's General Meeting Speaker will be Keith Gleason, Sommers-Bausch Observatory Manager. The topic will be "The Sommers-Bausch Observatory at the University of Colorado"

Mr. Gleason's vitae includes;

- Infrared and Optics Engineer, Boeing Aerospace Company, Seattle (1979-1983).

- Continuing-ed astronomy Instructor at CU, summer instructor at UNC in Greeley (1977, 1978, 1985)

- Graduate Research Assistant for the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at CU (1976-1978)

- Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Astro Geophysics Department, University of Colorado (1975-1976)

- Surface Materials Engineer in the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, Western Electric, Lee's Summit, MO (1969-1974).

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.

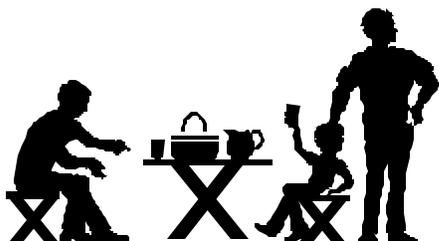
Dr. Ebbets holds an undergraduate degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College and a Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Colorado.

****Annual****
****DAS****
****Potluck****
****Picnic****

Chamberlin Observatory
July 8
4:00 pm



Don't worry, there's no "sign up" this year. Just bring your meats, your snacks, your dishes, your desserts, your appetites. Most of all, bring yourselves to Chamberlin Observatory on July 8 at 4:00 pm for the DAS Annual Potluck Picnic.



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.*

(Continued from page 2)

These are some of Leslie Peltier's observations of the Clark telescopes in the final chapter:

"...Out of the thousands who, at some time, have peered into these telescopes, there must have been at least a few who, in some way, have had the course of their lives changed or affected by the impact of the wonders that they saw, even as I once brushed against some stars which left their lifetime mark on me."

"These telescopes of mine are not just bits of property. I like to think of them as gifts in trust and myself as their administrator; one who is grateful that it has fallen to his lot to open up their eyes and let them see the stars again..."

"I still regard them with that deep reverence that one accords a patriarch, for they have witnessed much of history. So many changes have occurred since it left the deft fingers of the Clarks and first looked out upon the world of 1868. But, though now almost a hundred years have passed, it is only here on earth that much change can be detected."

Perhaps we can wish the telescope, clear skies and clarity of observation for all those in the future that will be touched by its views over the next century.

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