





*August 12-14, 2004*

The 14th Annual Weekend Under the Stars is hosted by the  
*Cheyenne Astronomical Society*  
and the  
*Laramie Astronomical Society and Space Observers*

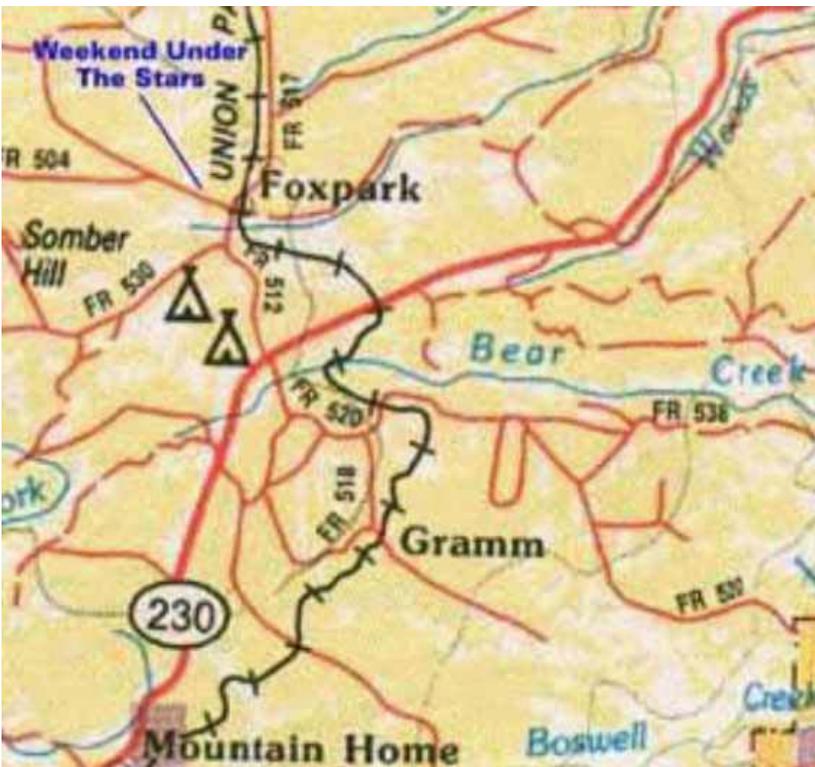


This will be number 14 for "The Weekend Under the Stars." Last year's number 13 turned out to be very unlucky for us. A threatening forest fire was within 3 miles of our observing sight which was being used to house helicopters to fight the fire. The forest service moved us to another open spot about 6 miles as the crow flies from Foxpark but on the other side of a mountain. The new sight was larger but housed a large number of biting deer flies and mosquitoes. The new area was named Dry Park (better known as Dry Creek on the brochure) but we had to change the name to Cloud Park or Rain Park since we got rained out about every night. Those who persisted and got up to check throughout the night were rewarded with clear skies in the morning but it didn't last for long. Despite the last minute change of location, nearby fires and poor weather we still had a nice crowd. We had about 180 registered guests and about 1200 inches of unused aperture. We are looking forward to what the 14th Annual Weekend Under the Stars brings. We hope to see you there.

*Marty Curran*; President, Cheyenne Astronomical Society

### **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. The town is closed up with big gates so you turn left when you get there. There will be a "Weekend Under The Stars" sign near that turn. After turning, go about 1/2 mile (approximately) and you will come to stop sign that enters another road. Get on that road and you will find 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.



*See Page 7 for more WUTS info.*

**Mountain Astronomers Rendezvous and Starparty**  
P.O. Box 55032 Grand Junction, CO 81505

**Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Bringing a scope? what size? \_\_\_\_\_

Camping? tent \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer \_\_\_\_\_ Camper \_\_\_\_\_ Motorhome \_\_\_\_\_  
Size \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Number in party over 16 \_\_\_\_\_, 10 to 16 \_\_\_\_\_, under 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
@30.00 @20.00 free

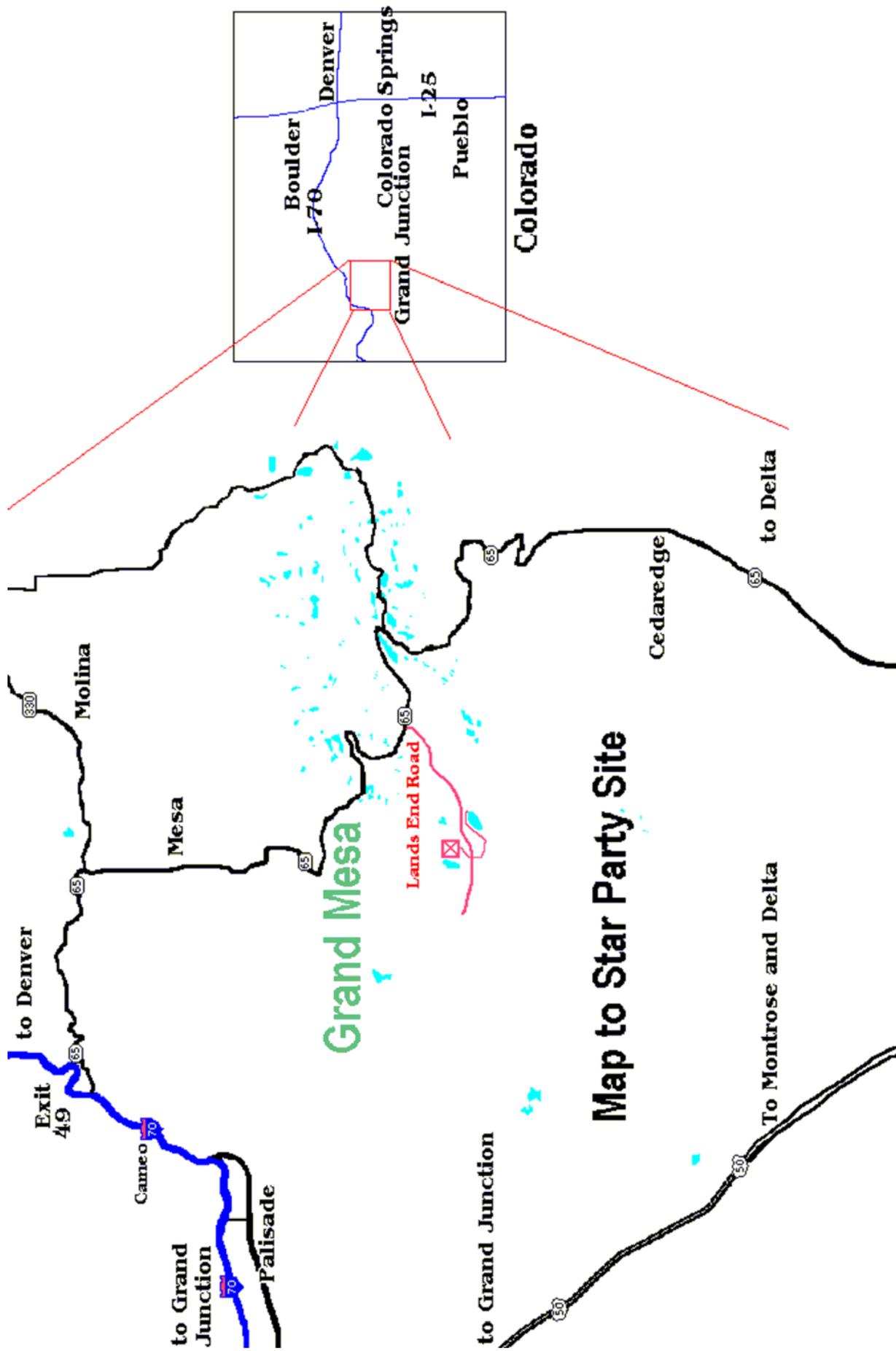
Total remittance \_\_\_\_\_ send to above address

Member?  
W/CAC \_\_\_\_\_, MARS \_\_\_\_\_, AL \_\_\_\_\_, IDA \_\_\_\_\_, ASP, \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

When you arrive you will be given a package containing a commemorative T-shirt, a badge, a ticket for Saturday evening's dinner, and assorted papers and reading materials. Friday night we invite the public for general viewing from dark to midnight, we do or we don't get the site. All other times are ours. While we can't be absolutely sure of clear skies this time of year is usually very good. Due to the large number of lakes and ponds on the Grand Mesa we sometimes get a large number of insects be prepared..just in case. Normal Star Party protocols will prevail, lights out at sundown, red lights after dark. Thank you for visiting this website and your interest in the MARS starparty, hope to see you there. Carlo Godel Pres. W/CAC

**MARS Schedule**

<b>15 Thu</b>	<b>16 Fri</b>	<b>17 Sat</b>	<b>18 Sun</b>
<b>Registration sign in</b> All day entry \$35 at gate  <b>raffle ticket sales</b>  <b>general sales</b>  <b>doorprize at 7:00pm</b>  <b>Lights out at 9:00pm</b>  <b>viewing remainder of night</b>	<b>public viewing day from 12:00pm to 12:00am</b>   <b>2:00pm Jim Stryder Solar viewing and talks on NASA and Mars rovers</b>  <b>4:00 Q&amp;A cosmology and astronomy</b>  <b>doorprize at 7:00pm</b>  <b>Lights out at 9:00pm</b>  <b>public viewing till 12:00am</b>	<b>2:00pm David Copely on astrophotography and 3D imaging</b>  <b>5:00pm dinner and raffle</b>  <b>7:00pm door prize</b> <b>Dr. R. Stencil</b> <b>IDA rep.</b> <b>Tom Bisque on Sky and Paramount</b>  <b>Lights out at 9:00pm</b>	<b>Sleep all day today if you please, a free day to go exploring and hiking on the beautiful Grand Mesa.</b>    <b>9:00pm lights out</b>   <b>Monday morning You can clean up and say goodbyes return home to soft beds and warm baths and perchance dream of next year.</b>



### Map to Star Party Site

Map to MARS Star Party



**Grand Mesa Star Party Site Map & Layout.**

**ANNUAL PICNIC!!!!**

**July 24, 3-7 pm, Chamberlin Observatory!**

The DAS will provide: charcoal, grills, hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, soda, plates, utensils, condiments.

**Bring a dish to share!**

## SCHEDULE

### July

- 9 8:00 PM E- Board meeting, Chamberlin Observatory
- 15-18 **MARS Star Party; see pp 1, 3-5**
- 17-18 Dark Sky Site Weekend
- 24 **ANNUAL PICNIC!! From 3 to 7 pm at Chamberlin Observatory, SEE P 5. Open House, 7:30 pm, Chamberlin Observatory**
- 30 General Meeting at Olin Hall, rm 105, DU, beginning at 7:30. Speaker is Dr. Steve Kilston of Ball Aerospace. Topic: "The Project; A Practical Interstellar Space Ship"

### August

- 12-14 **WUTS See pages 2, 7**
- 14-15 Dark Sky Site Weekend
- 20 General Meeting at Olin Hall, rm 105, DU, beginning at 7:30. Speaker is Dr. Dan Durda of the Southwest Research Institute. Topic is "Tiny Moons and Global Wildfires: Exploring the Effects of Asteroid Impacts."
- 21 Open House, 7:00 pm, Chamberlin Observatory
- 27 8:00 PM E- Board meeting, Chamberlin Observatory

(Continued from page 1)

making sure our Society is properly functional within IRS guidelines -- many things to keep track of. Secretary Ron Pearson is doing double duty as scribe and Restoration and Maintenance Committee Chief. All deserve our thanks and support.

Finally, the annual DAS picnic and pinata bashing is coming up on July 24 -- always a good time. Bring a dish (preferably loaded) and enjoy the festivities. The Open House starts immediately afterward, so plan on a full afternoon and evening. Although we need the rain, we'll hope for clear skies.

All the best,  
*Steve Solon*

### July (Julius) Skies 2004

By Ron Mickle

In July, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are visi-

ble, some more prominent and easier to find than others. Saturn will be in superior conjunction with the Sun on July 8, so from that day on Saturn will start progressing toward the morning sky, becoming visible in late July. Since Saturn is traveling 0.7 times as fast as Jupiter around the Sun, it will spend about 2½ years in each zodiacal constellation, versus about one year for Jupiter.

Mercury and Mars will be in conjunction, with Mercury shining at  $-0.2 m_{\text{vis}}$  and Mars at a dim  $+1.8$ , both barely above the horizon at sunset in the west on July 20. On July 25 look for another conjunction of Mercury, but this time with Regulus. Mercury will be at its highest altitude on July 16.

To view Jupiter at its best this month, catch it around dusk in the western sky while it is still relatively high in the sky. By viewing it early in the evening at dusk, you avoid a lot of the distorting effects of looking through too much of the Earth's atmosphere. Looking to the south, the central bulge of the Milky Way will be as high in the sky in July compared to the rest of the year. The summer Milky Way offers better views of its dust lanes and star clouds than the winter sky.

To get a great view of the planets, stars, and other celestial objects, visit the Denver Astronomical Society's (DAS) Open House at sunset on Saturday, July 24 at the University of Denver's Historic Chamberlin Observatory. Remember that members of the Denver Astronomical Society have free access to the Clark 20-inch at Chamberlin Observatory during Open House.

July 2.....Full Moon  
July 9.....Moon at Last Quarter  
July 17.....New Moon  
July 20.....35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Moon Landing  
July 24.....DAS Annual Picnic, followed by Open House  
July 25.....Moon at First Quarter  
July 31.....Full Moon

Information about the DAS and events such as the Dark Sky Site Weekend, E-Board and General Membership meeting, and Public Nights can be found at the DAS website [www.denverastrosociety.org](http://www.denverastrosociety.org).

-- By Public Night Team 4 (Courtney Cais, John Doran, Brad Gilman, Wayne Green, Rich Loper, Frank Mancini and Ron Mickle)

Credits: The Astronomical Calendar 2004.

**Our Speaker for the July 30th DAS General Meeting is Dr. Steve Kilston of Ball Aerospace**  
**Topic: "The Project; A Practical Interstellar Space Ship"**

**Our Speaker for the August 20th DAS General Meeting is Dr Dan Durda of the Southwest Research Institute (SWRI)**

**Topic: "Tiny Moons and Global Wildfires: Exploring the Effects of Asteroid Impacts"**

**Frank T. Mancini, V.P.**

**The 3rd quarter participation prize is a Celestron Power Tank and a subscription to S&T or Astronomy or 1 years membership extension.**

**Frank T. Mancini, V.P.**

### **Information About The WUTS 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 six 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**

We record the number of people and how much aperture they brought with them for a grand total Saturday evening.

### **CONTACT US AT:**

Marty Curran; President CAS  
3539 Luther Place, Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307)635-5944 (curranm@bresnan.net)

## **OFFICERS AND E-BOARD of THE DENVER ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

The Executive Board conducts the business of the DAS at 8 pm. at Chamberlin Observatory. Please see the Schedule of Events for meeting dates. All members are welcome.

### **OFFICERS**

*President Emeritus*

Larry Brooks

*President:*

Steve Solon (303) 932-7613

*Galaxyshots@compuserve.com*

*Vice President:*

Frank Mancini (303) 414-0300

*Frank.mancini@lpl.com*

*Secretary:*

Ron Pearson (303) 670-1299

*Rpearson@ecentral.com*

*Treasurer:*

Sandy Shaw (303) 234-0264

*m6m7@earthlink.net*

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Jack Eastman      Wayne Green

Joe Gafford      Dan Wray

David Shouldice      Ted Cox

Ron Mickle      Norm Rosling

*ALCor: (Astronomical League*

*Correspondent)*

Sandy Shaw; *m6m7@earthlink.net*

*Past President: Carla Swartz; orion42@comcast.net*

### **DAS Contact Info**

*DAS INFORMATION LINE:*

303-871-5172

*DAS CORRESPONDENCE:*

Denver Astronomical Society

Chamberlin Observatory

C/O Steve Solon

2930 East Warren Avenue

Denver, Colorado 80208

*VAN NATTAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND*

P.O. Box 150743

Lakewood, Colorado 80215-0743

*WEBMISTRESS: Patti Kurtz (p\_kurtz@comcast.net)*

Denver Astronomical Society Website:

**WWW.DENVERASTROSOCIETY.ORG**

***Newsletter Editor: Patrick Ryan***

***(pluto6@qwest.net)***

## About the Denver Astronomical Society

The DAS is a group of amateur and professional astronomers that share a mutual interest in the heavens. The DAS operates the University of Denver's Chamberlin Observatory, along with its prized 1894 Alvan Clark 20-inch refracting telescope. Our members have been involved with the first public planetarium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science 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 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 Sky Site Fund. This last fund was established in order to construct and maintain observing facilities near Deer Trail in eastern Colorado.

Please call our Info Line at (303) 871-5172 and drop by the General Membership 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone numbers: Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

(Associates Only) School: Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you want to download the newsletter in PDF format from our web-site instead of by postal mail?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you want the above information excluded from the yearly roster?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Circle All That Apply:**

Regular Membership: \$35 Associate: \$12 (Age 23 and younger)  
 \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Astronomy Magazine/\$29  
 Sky & Telescope Magazine/\$32.95  
 \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Van Nattan Scholarship Fund \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chamberlin Restoration Fund \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amount Paid \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make **Dark Sky Site donations payable to the DAS EGKDS Fund** and mail to **Steve Solon, 9774 W. Elmhurst Place, Littleton, CO 80128**. Please make other amounts payable to the **Denver Astronomical Society** and mail with this completed form or a copy to: **Sandy Shaw, DAS Treasurer, 1095 Yank Street, Golden, CO 80401**



## Denver Astronomical Society

C/o Chamberlin Observatory  
 2930 East Warren Avenue  
 Denver, CO 80208



"Your Extended-Vision Specialists"  
 Cathie and Tim Havens (303) 789-1089