



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*

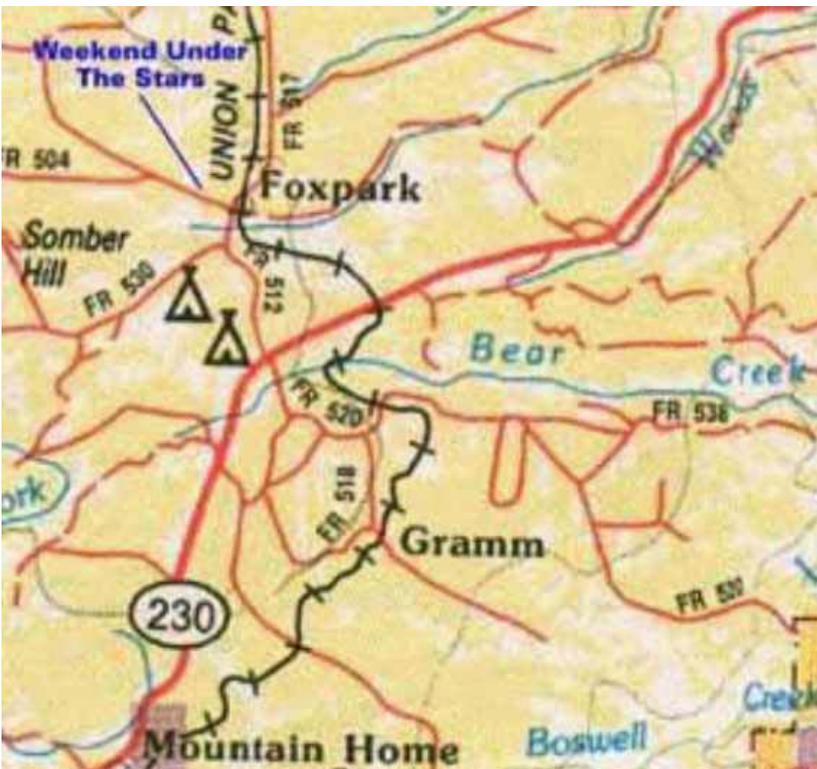


This will be number 14 for "The Weekend Under the Stars". Last year's number 13 turned out to be very unlucky for us. A threatening forest fire was within 3 miles of our observing sight which was being used to house helicopters to fight the fire. The forest service moved us to another open spot about 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 6 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?
WCAC _____, 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. WCAC



ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAR STARE
JUNE 17-20, 2004

For almost two decades, astronomers from across the U.S. and around the world have been gathering each summer in the mountains above Colorado Springs. What mysterious power draws them here each year? What secret treasure awaits those that make this annual pilgrimage? At last, the truth can be revealed. These gazers of the stars are enjoying Rocky Mountain Star Stare! Held each June in Pikes National Forest, RMSS is one of this nation's premier star parties each and every year. Average attendance is over 300 astronomers, and the popularity of this event made it the focal point of the movie "Star Party".

The Colorado Springs Astronomical Society sponsors this amazing gathering of amateur astronomers. This year's event will be held from June 17th through June 20th high up in the Colorado Rockies at 8817 feet! Incredible fields of stars by night are supplemented with workshops, children's activities, door prizes, catered meals and fun for everyone. Pre-registration for this 4-day event is only \$10.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child making RMSS one of the least expensive star parties in the nation!
(Please see pages 4-5!!)

RMSS 2004 Registration Info

IMPORTANT

You will need to go to the following web address to fill out the registration form for RMSS and to get the RMSS Rules:

<http://www.csastro.org/rmss/registration.htm>

This is **NOT** an online registration where you can submit a credit card payment to pay for this event. You will display this form on the screen, type in your info, and then print it and mail it to the address shown on the form, with your payment. This is the only way to insure that everything (from whether or not you're bringing pets to registering for the meals) is filled out correctly and that all necessary information is displayed.

Regular Registration Prices

(after May 20, 2004 and on-site)

Adults, \$15.00

Children (ages 6-17), \$5.00

CSAS is not responsible for inclement weather conditions. All registration fees are NON-refundable.

Please check-in at the Registration desk upon arrival at the site. If Registration is closed feel free to set up camp and register later.

Your **food vouchers for the Friday and Saturday Meals** will be included in your Registration Kit when you check-in, as will door prize tickets and nametags. **Preordered merchandise** will be available at the site, extra merchandise will available on-site in limited quantities.

RMSS Schedule

TIME	EVENT
THURSDAY JUNE 17, 2004	
	Events TBA
12PM - 7PM*	Registration / Merchandise Sales
6:04 PM	Moonset
8:32 PM	Sunset
10:31 PM	End of Astronomical Twilight
Midnight	Generators Off
FRIDAY JUNE 18, 2004	
	Events TBA
3:38 AM	Start of Astronomical Dawn
3:50 AM	Moonrise
5:38 AM	Sunrise
11AM - 8PM*	Registration / Merchandise Sales
Noon	Generators May Be On
5:30 PM	Dinner
7:04 PM	Moonset
8:32 PM	Sunset
10:31 PM	End of Astronomical Twilight
SATURDAY JUNE 19, 2004	
	Events TBA
3:39 AM	Start of Astronomical Dawn
4:29 AM	Moonrise
5:38 AM	Sunrise
11AM - 6PM*	Registration / Merchandise Sales
Noon	Generators May Be On
Noon	Swap Meet
1:00 PM	ATM Walkabout
5:30 PM	Dinner
8:04 PM	Moonset
8:32 PM	Sunset
10:31 PM	End of Astronomical Twilight
Midnight	Generators Off
SUNDAY JUNE 20, 2004	
	Events TBA
3:39 AM	Start of Astronomical Dawn
5:16 AM	Moonrise
5:39 AM	Sunrise

S&S
OPTIKA

"Your Extended-Vision Specialists"

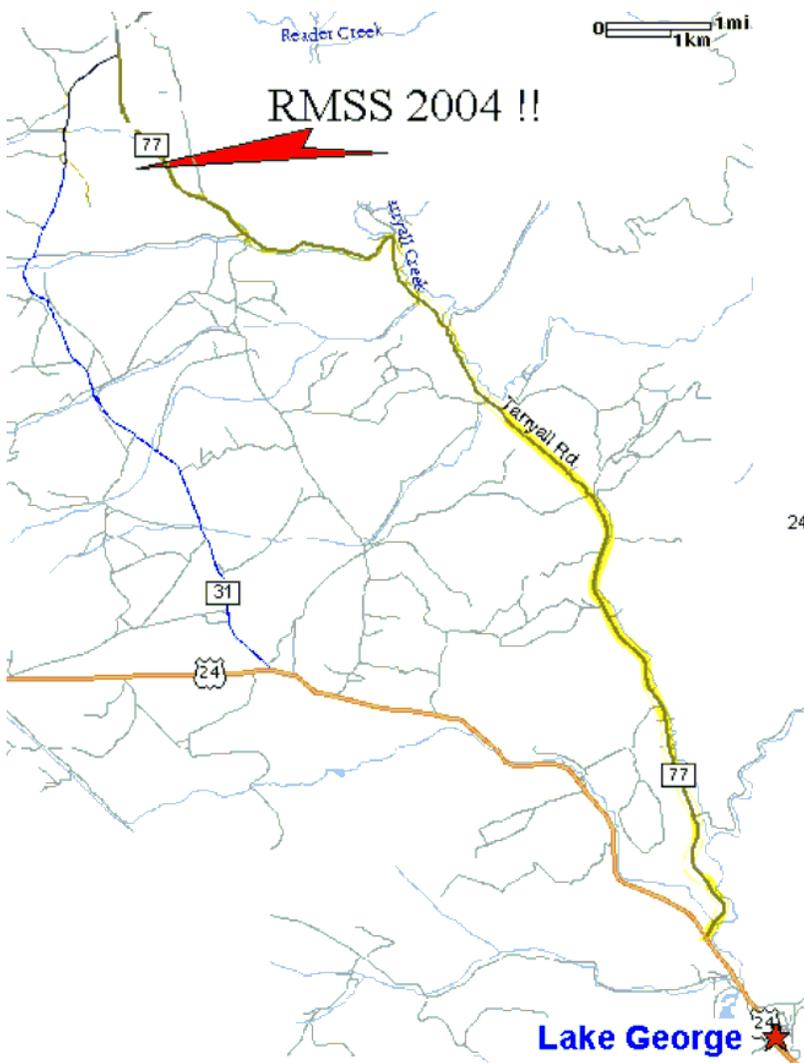
Cathie and Tim Havens

(303) 789-1089

5174 South Broadway

(Brookridge Shopping Center)

Englewood, Colorado 80113 (303) 789-1089



Directions to RMSS: To get there from Colorado Springs, go west on Highway 24 through Woodland Park, Divide, Florissant, and Lake George. From the Lake George Community Park sign (on the right side of the road), go west exactly 1 mile to the intersection of Hwy. 24 and Park County Rd. 77 and turn right. Continue north on Park Cnty. 77 for 9.1 miles to the turnoff at O'Brien Gulch (left turn off Park Cnty. 77). This is 1.4 miles after a hairpin curve and 2/10ths of a mile after crossing over a cattleguard. As you turn left onto the dirt access road, look for the sign directly ahead marked O'Brien Gulch/Badger Gulch and take the left fork. From the turn off Park Cnty. 77, it is exactly 7/10ths of a mile to the observing field. As you approach, bear to the left up a slight hill to reach the field. GPS coordinates are: 39 degrees 05 minutes 1.2 seconds North Latitude by 105 degrees 27 minutes 8.6 seconds West Longitude

SCHEDULE

June

- 8 Transit of Venus
11 8:00 PM E- Board meeting, Chamberlin Observatory
17-20 RMSS See pages 3-5
19-20 Dark Sky Site Weekend
25 General Meeting at Olin Hall, rm 105, DU, beginning at 7:30. Speaker is Dr. John Stevens of Lockheed Martin. Topic is "Enabling Manned Missions to Mars."
26 Open House, 7:30 pm, Chamberlin Observatory

July

- 9 8:00 PM E- Board meeting, Chamberlin Observatory
15-18 **MARS Star Party; see pp 1, 3**
17-18 Dark Sky Site Weekend
24 ANNUAL PICNIC!! From 4 to 7 pm at Chamberlin Observatory. Open House, 7:30 pm, Chamberlin Observatory
30 General Meeting at Olin Hall, rm 105, DU, beginning at 7:30.

Our Speaker for the June 25th DAS General Meeting is Dr. John C Stevens Ph.D. Director of Space Exploration Architectural Studies at Lockheed Martin
Topic: Enabling Manned Missions To Mars

The DAS 2nd quarter participation prize is the Astronomy Encyclopedia by Oxford Press.

Frank T. Mancini, V.P.

(Continued from page 1)

understand it? Well, yes, there is the science, to be sure, but just as important, there's the awe, the mystery, the fascination.

No degrees necessary; just the desire to be open-minded to all the possibilities and wonders the uni-

verse affords.

Being the authority that we are puts us in a very skittish position. We are being entrusted to nurture and enhance an interest common to most, desired by many and pursued by few . . . and do it in such a way as to keep it alive -- mighty tricky, considering all the numbers, sizes, distances and so forth -- one could get bogged down.

I listen carefully to our members as they talk to folks about the sky and am so pleased with the enthusiasm that's conveyed as they do it -- reminds me of my second grade General Science teacher; she's why I'm here, and why most of you are, too. Thank you all for your wonderful work.

Steve Solon

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)

JUNE (Junius) SKIES 2004....Ron Mickle

The highlight for this month is the transit of Venus across the face of the Sun. This will be the first time it has been seen since 1882. Unfortunately, it will not be visible for us in Denver. According to Sky & Telescope Magazine, you would need to travel to Omaha, NE, St. Louis, MO or Columbus, OH to glimpse this rare event. By June 16, Venus will be rising in the east-northeast just before sunrise. At this time, a Venus as a thin crescent will be visible through telescopes.

Jupiter is still shining bright ($-2.0 m_{\text{vis}}$) in Leo. Note that on the 19th, at approximately 20:43 MDT, there will be a grouping of the Galilean satellites Io, Europa and Callisto. Moving west, you should come upon Mars $m_{\text{vis}} +1.8$, which lines up with Castor and Pollux, then Saturn at $+0.1$. Saturn will be setting about 2½ hours after the Sun. By month's end, Saturn will be lost from view, so if you're planning on viewing the rings and satellites, now is the time.

A challenge for those at the EGK DSS is to locate and identify Pluto. On June 11, the dark planet is at opposition and $m_{\text{vis}} +13.8$.

To get a great view of the planets, stars, and other celestial objects, visit the Denver Astronomical Society's Open House at sunset on Saturday, June 26 at the University of Denver's Historic Chamberlin Observatory. Remember that members of the Denver Astronomical Society have free access to the Clark 20" at Chamberlin Observatory during Open House.

- 2.....Full Moon (*also called the Rose Moon*)
- 7.....Arietid meteors (*radio shower*)
- 9.....Last quarter Moon
- 17.....New Moon
- 21.....Summer Solstice (*18:57 MDT*)
- 25.....First quarter Moon

Astronomical Calendar 2004
Sky & Telescope, June 2004

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

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Galaxyshots@compuserve.com

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Ron Mickle Norm Rosling

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DAS Contact Info

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Denver Astronomical Society

Chamberlin Observatory

C/O Steve Solon

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Denver, Colorado 80208

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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: \$30 Associate: \$10 (Age 22 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