Inside the Observer

Schedule of Events
Society Directory
Meeting Speaker
Membership Info
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

O B S E R V E R

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*

J U N E S K I E S

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 & Timocaris 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
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 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.

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JUNE SKIES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

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.

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,

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 Denver Astronomical Society
One Mile Nearer the Stars
Stephanie Pahl to Speak at June Meeting

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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.)

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