



# The Denver Observer

## Colorado Astronomy Day Saturday, October 4, 2003

With the recent approach of Mars, Colorado Astronomy Day, October 4th, also promises to provide fun and educational activities for the entire family. The event is presented by the Denver Astronomical Society and co-sponsored by the University of Denver's historic Chamberlin Observatory and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Daytime activities will take place at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, where visitors will be able to take a journey through the solar system by watching a show at Gates Planetarium. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a multitude of exciting, educational activities at Space Odyssey and view solar spots on the Sky Terrace in the new Leprino Family Atrium. Speakers throughout the day will discuss current astronomical research. Admission is free to museum members. General admission tickets are \$8 each for adults and \$5.50 each for children (ages 3-12) and seniors (60+).

Beginning at 7 p.m., join us at Chamberlin Observatory, 2930 E. Warren Ave., Denver, to view Mars through the 109 year-old 20" Alvan Clark telescope, the 12th largest refractor telescope in the world. We will also have over 30 amateur telescopes available for viewing, along with astronomy-related activities for kids. This is a free event and reservations are not necessary.

### **COLORADO ASTRONOMY DAY** **Saturday, October 4, 2003** **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **RICKETSON HALL** **Denver Museum of Nature & Science**

**12:00-12:45 p.m.**  
**Welcome and Opening**  
**Carla Swartz**  
(Denver Astronomical Society)

**Dr. Laura Danly**  
(Curator of Space Science at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science)  
and

**Dr. Robert Stencel**  
(Director, University of Denver's Historic Chamberlin Observatory)

**1:00-1:45 p.m.**

**Bryan White**

**TITLE: "Nitescapes 3D."**

**2:00-2:45 p.m.**

**Dr. John Bally**

(University of Colorado in Boulder, Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences Department)

**TITLE: "The Revolution in Astronomy: Our Changing View of The Universe."**

#### **Chamberlin Observatory** **Beginning at 7:00 p.m.**

- **Star Party (weather permitting)**
- **Stroll through the many available displays including stellar photos, meteorites, and childrens' books.**
- **Kids! Make your own constellation finders.**
- **Free star maps (while supplies last).**
- **Astronomical Vendors**

#### **ASTRO-QUIZ!!**

Q. Who first proposed that comets are "dirty snowballs"?

## President's Corner, October 2003

Have you joined the DAS Yahoo! group yet? If not, you may be missing important information about club events, astronomy-related news, CCD imaging tips, purchasing equipment or how to get the most out of what you have, recent observations, and recent pictures taken by club members. Follow the directions below to stay in touch with club members who share your interests.

1. Go to [www.yahogroups.com](http://www.yahogroups.com).
2. On the left side of the page there is an area to sign in or register, click on register initially. After your account is set up, you will click on sign in.
3. Complete your information and be sure to uncheck the box about promotional advertisements, etc.
4. Click on the submit button at the bottom of the page.
5. Once you have registered, click the link that will take you to [yahogroups.com](http://yahogroups.com).
6. Under the heading 'Join a group' search for Denver Astronomical Society. There are two groups to select from; you can choose one or both of them:
  - a. Denver Observer group – this group will enable you to receive the monthly newsletter online instead of in the mail
  - b. Denverastro group – this group will allow you to receive emails about club events, news, equipment and observation reports
7. Click on the link to the group you want to select and it will then take you to another page, from there you can choose to officially join the group.
8. You will receive an email from Yahoo! after you join, providing a verification number that you will need to enter prior to joining a group.

Once you have joined the Denverastro group you will see several links to the right side of the page (start a group, my groups, account info, or sign out). These links will also appear after you have registered and sign in at a later time. Under the link 'My Account Information' you can select your preferences (i.e. if you would like all emails sent to you individually; grouped together daily; or if you would prefer not to receive the emails, you can sign in at your leisure and read messages that have been posted).

If you have any trouble with the process, there is a link to the Help menu at the top right of each page.

Once you are a member of the site, you can sign in and view messages, files, photos and links (they will be listed on the left-side of the page).

If you have any additional questions, you can email me at [csastrogirl@aol.com](mailto:csastrogirl@aol.com) for more information.

On another note, special thanks to Norm Rosling for donating an orange filter we can use with club telescopes during public nights and open house events. Hope to see everyone at Colorado Astronomy Day! ~ Carla Swartz

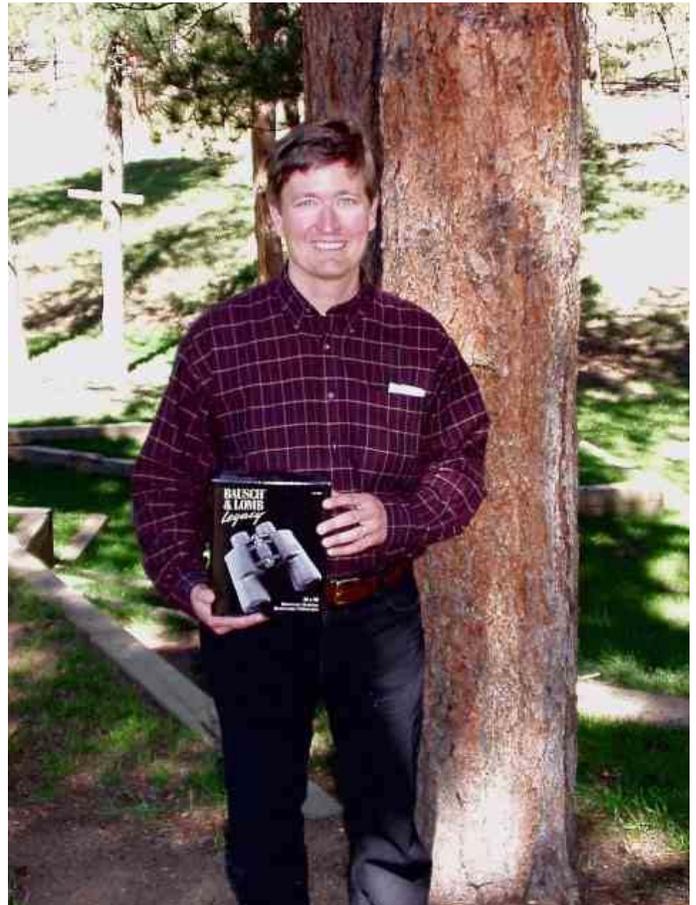
## DAS Participation Prize Winner

Congratulations to Roger Hassell, 3rd quarter DAS Participation Prize Winner.

Roger is a newcomer to the DAS, joining only this last Spring. His interest in Astronomy goes back to his high school days when he purchased his first telescope, a 6" reflector, in 1973. After his school years, his participation in astronomy lay dormant until 1977 when he became a charter subscriber to Astronomy Magazine. Although he has kept every issue since it was first published, he did not resume his active observing of the skies until a few years ago when he purchased his Celestron GPS-11.

Two prizes were awarded to Roger at the September DAS meeting when his name was drawn from those members who had filled out "Participation Slips" during the last three months. A pair of 10 X 50 Bausch & Lomb Binoculars and a one year subscription to Sky and Telescope Magazine.

You can also become eligible for a participation prize by volunteering for public nights, open houses, school star parties, clean up days at Chamberlin, or work days at the Edmond G Kline Dark Site. Just ask an E-Board Member for a participation slip and their signature, and you could be the next winner.  
Frank T Mancini



Roger Hassell with his DAS Participation Prize Binoculars

# DAS ANNUAL AUCTION!!

*Lots of Great Stuff!*

*Fantastic Deals!*

*Once in a Lifetime Finds!*

(although that's a guess, but we can always hope)

**The bidding starts at 1 pm. If you are selling, you can start coming in at 11 am to Chamberlin Observatory to process your items.**

## 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:*

Carla Swartz (303) 246-6926

*Csastrogirl@aol.com*

*Vice President:*

Frank Mancini (303) 414-0300

*Frank.mancini@lpl.com*

*Secretary:*

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jack Eastman Bill Ormsby

Joe Gafford Sandy Shaw

Ivan Geisler David Shouldice

Ron Mickle Steve Solon

*ALCor: (Astronomical League Regional Correspondent)*

Sandy Shaw; m6m7@earthlink.net

**DAS INFORMATION LINE:**

303-871-5172

**DAS CORRESPONDENCE:**

Denver Astronomical Society

Chamberlin Observatory

C/O Carla Swartz

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Denver, Colorado 80208

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Denver Astronomical Society Website:

[WWW.DENVERASTROSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.DENVERASTROSOCIETY.ORG)

## SCHEDULE

### OCTOBER

3 8:00 PM E- Board meeting.

4 **Colorado Astronomy Day!!**

11 **Annual DAS Auction at Chamberlin**

**Observatory** Set-up begins at 11 am., the Auction itself begins at 1 pm. Please bring in your items so that they can be processed before the Auction itself begins.

25-26 Dark Sky Site Weekend.

### NOVEMBER

7 8:00 PM E- Board meeting

8 **Special Open House at Chamberlin Observatory; 5 pm!! Total Lunar Eclipse at 6:06 pm.!!!!**

begins at 7:30. Mars opposition.

14 **General Meeting at Olin Hall, DU, begins at 7:30. Show-N-Tell Night!!**

22-23 Dark Sky Site Weekend.

27 Thanksgiving. No Public Night!

## ASTRO-QUIZ Answers

A. In March 1950, Fred Whipple revolutionized the science of cometary astronomy by proposing that comets were not, as was currently thought, gravel banks flying through space. His theory, known as the "dirty snowball" model, proposed that comets have solid nuclei consisting of ices such as water, ammonia, methane, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide mixed with meteoritic particles. The model stated that as a comet approaches perihelion, solar radiation heats the frozen gases, forming the comet's coma and sometimes a magnificent tail; the erupting gases could explain peculiarities in observed orbital motions of the comet. Some comets, such as Encke and Halley, had long been observed to arrive at slightly different times than predicted by Newton's theory of gravitation. The "dirty snowball" model was confirmed in 1986 when the European Space Agency's Giotto spacecraft flew by Comet Halley. Giotto's dramatic images of the comet's dark, potato-shaped nucleus affirmed Whipple's reputation as "Dr. Comet".

*AstroQuiz is contributed by Sandy Shaw.*

## 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 Science and Nature 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/\$29.95  
 \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Van Nattan Scholarship Fund \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chamberlin Restoration Fund \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amount Paid \*\*\*\*\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail Dark Sky Site donations to: DAS Treasurer, Chuck Carlson, at the address below. (Make checks payable to the Dark Sky Site Fund).  
***Please complete this form, or a copy, and mail it with your check or money order payable to:***  
**The Denver Astronomical Society: DAS Treasurer, Chuck Carlson; 1521 So. Vine St.; Denver, CO 80210**



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