



**Image Credit:  
Gary Garzone**

**Longmont Astronomical  
Society Newsletter  
January 2017**

## LAS Annual Banquet Meeting January 19<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm



### Location:

The meeting will be at Pinocchio's, 210 Ken Pratt Blvd #260, Longmont, CO 80501. Event to begin at 6 pm. Agenda for the evening is officer nominations and elections for 2017.

### Upcoming Events

#### February 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Astronomy Night at Sandstone at the Sand Ranch Visitor Center. Presentation followed by star party for the City of Longmont Recreation Dept. Begins at 6:30 pm.

#### LAS Meeting February 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Dr. Adam Kowalski – Life in Orbit around Proxima Centauri.

### January Celestial Highlights

#### *Moon*

First quarter: Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 12:47 pm

Full moon: Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 4:34 am

Third quarter: Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 3:13 pm

New moon: Jan 27<sup>th</sup> 5:07 pm

#### *Mercury*

Mercury is visible in constellation Sagittarius low in the southeastern sky around 6 am. It decreases in size from 9.6 to 5.4 arc second and increases brightness from 2.2 to -0.2 magnitude this month.

#### *Venus*

Venus is blazingly obvious in the southwestern evening sky around 6:30 pm. It increases in brightness from magnitude -4.3 to -4.6 and increases in apparent size from 22 to 33 arc sec this month.

#### *Mars*

Believe it or not, Mars is still visible until ~9 pm in constellation Aquarius not too far east of Venus. It moves to constellation Pisces on the 20<sup>th</sup>. It decreases in brightness from +0.9 to 1.1 and its apparent size decreases from 5.6 to 5.0 arc sec this month.

## Jupiter

Jupiter rises just after midnight in constellation Virgo. It is magnitude -2.1 in brightness and its disk is 38 arc sec across.



GRS mid transit times this month  
(Based on GRS longitude of 264°)

See <http://jupos.privat.t-online.de/rGrs.htm>

Date	Time	Altitude	Date	Time	Altitude
Jan 17	4:09 am	28°	Jan 26	6:33 am	40°
Jan 19	5:47 am	44°	Jan 27	2:24 am	32°
Jan 20	1:38 am	21°	Jan 29	4:03 am	42°
Jan 22	3:17 am	36°	Jan 31	5:41 am	42°
Jan 24	4:55 am	44°	Feb 1	1:32 am	27°

## Saturn

Saturn is visible low in southeast morning sky after 6 am. It is magnitude 0.6 in brightness and disk is 15 arc sec in apparent size.

## Uranus

Uranus is in the constellation Pisces in the early evening; it is magnitude +5.8 in brightness and its disk is 3.5 arc sec across

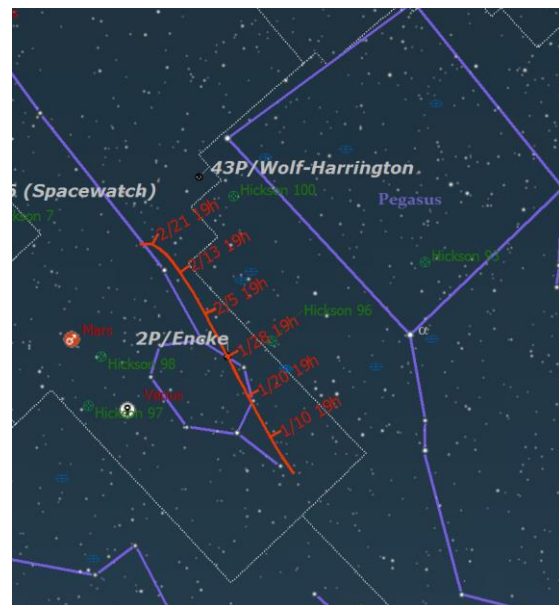
## Neptune

Neptune is in constellation Aquarius in the early evening as well. It is magnitude 7.9 and 2.2 arc sec across.

## Comets

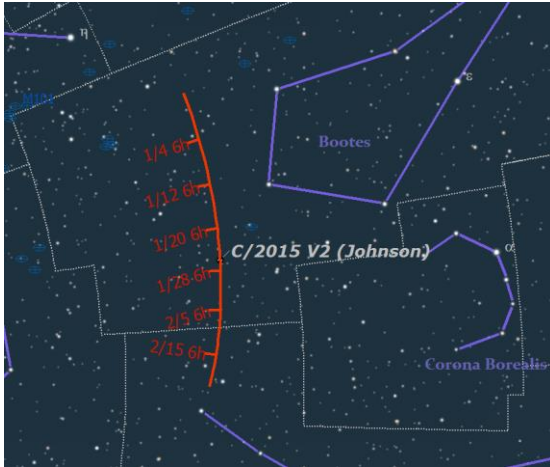
### Comet 2P (Enke)

Comet 2P (Enke) is in constellation Pisces; it is magnitude 11.8 and expected to brighten to magnitude 10.8 by the end of the month. The coma is 5.5 arc min in size.



### Comet C/2015 V2 (Johnson)

Comet C/2015 V2 (Johnson) is in constellation Bootes. It is magnitude 10.2 in brightness and the coma is 2.7 arc min in size. It is expected to brighten to magnitude 9.6 at the end of this month.



### Comet C/2015 ER61 (PANSTARRS)

Comet C/2015 ER61 (PANSTARRS) is in constellation Scorpius. It is magnitude 12.5 and coma is 1.6 arc min. It brightens to magnitude 11.9 by the end of the month.



M81 by Gary Garzone Dec 27

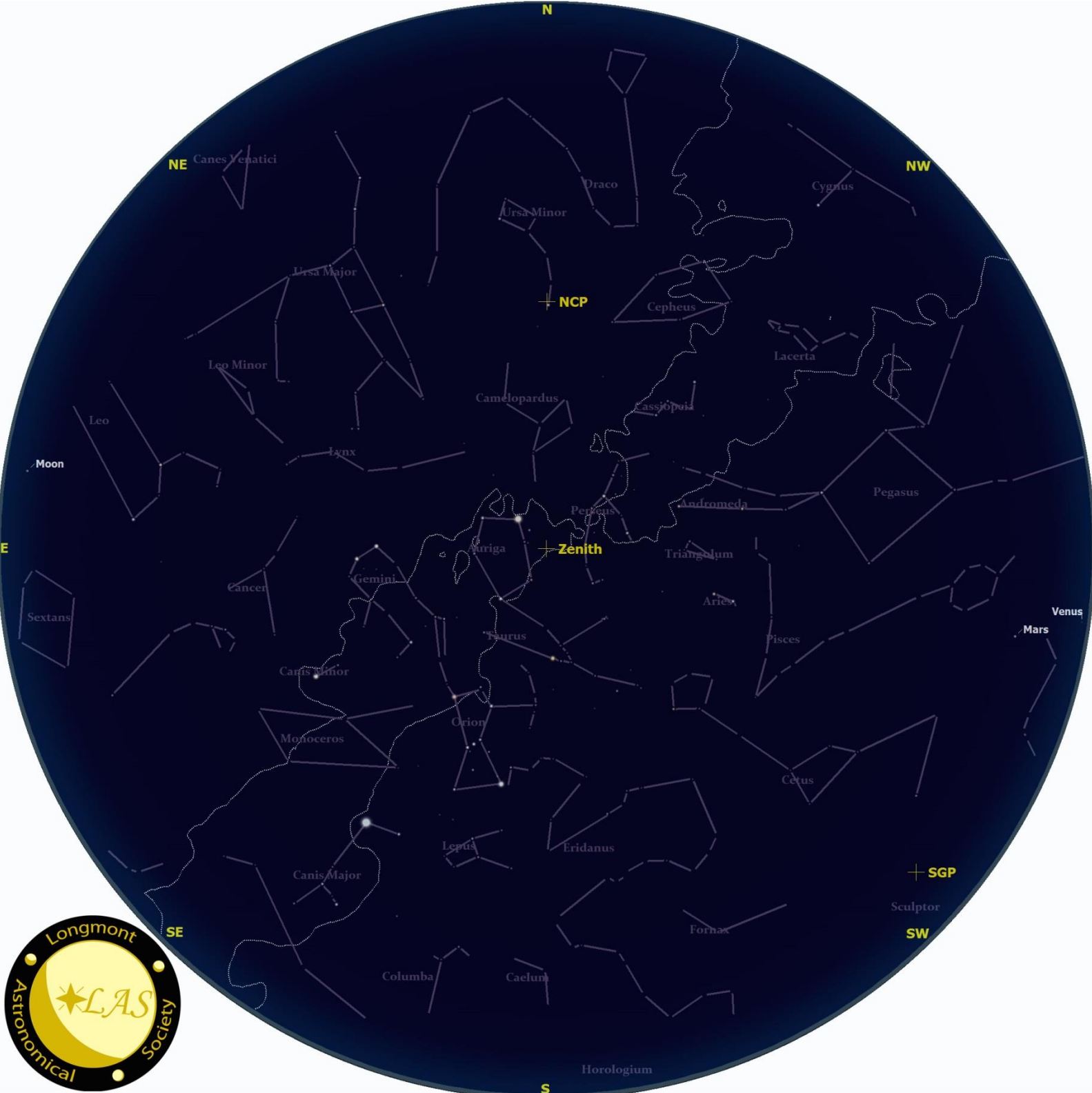


Cynus David Elmore Dec 3



NGC 2392 Gary Garzone Dec 27

# Overhead Sky at 9 pm Jan. 15



# Year in Review

## Star Parties scheduled in 2016

- Jan 16 City of Longmont Recreation 30
- Feb 17 Space Foundation Community Night 100
- Mar 3 Hygiene Elementary Hawk Air Voyage to Pluto (cancelled)
- Mar 16 Meade High School Astronomy Class
- Mar 18 Skyline High School Astronomy Class (cancelled)
- Mar 31 Skyline High School Astronomy Class (cancelled)
- Apr 1 Northridge Elementary STEM Night (cancelled)
- Apr 15 Imagine Charter School Firestone (cancelled)
- Apr 16 Majestic View Nature Center Arvada (cancelled)
- May 5 Prairie Ridge Elementary
- May 13 Imagine Charter School Firestone (cancelled)
- May 14 Majestic View Nature Center
- June 1 Louisville Public Library Under the Stars
- June 11 City of Longmont Recreation
- June 25 Boulder Co Open Space Astronomy: Our Planetary Neighbors
- Jul 8 Longmont Library Rythym on the River
- July 9 Longmont Library Rythym on the River
- Jul 14 High Plains Regional Library
- Aug 12 Superior Summer Star Party
- Sep 23 Boulder County Astronomy: All Things Begin Equal
- Oct 7 Louisville Public Library
- Oct 10 Lyons Elementary (cancelled)

- Nov 3 Hygiene Elementary
- Nov 10 Prairie Ridge Elementary
- Nov 29 Trail Ridge Elementary (cancelled)

2016 Scheduled: 25      Cancelled: 9  
2015 Scheduled: 22      Canceled: 9  
2014 Scheduled: 8      Canceled: 2  
2013 Scheduled : 7      Cancelled: 1  
2012 Scheduled: 19      Cancelled: 5?

## Library Telescope Program

- 2016 Louisville Public Library: 3
- 2015 Longmont Public Library: 6

## Monthly Meetings

- January Annual Banquet
- Feb 18 – John Bally “Observations of Orion”
- Mar 17 – Fran Bagenal “Pluto the Pugnacious Planet”
- Apr 21 – Tim Brown “Time Domain Astro & Las Cumbres Observatory”
- May 19 – Dan Baker “Particles & Fields throughout Solar System”
- Jun 16 – Steve Albers “Ray Tracing Simulations of Earth, Moon, & Sky”
- Jul 21 – Open forum
- Aug 18 – Open forum
- Sep 15 – Robert Arn “Planning the shot”
- Oct 20 – Danierl Bisque “Software Bisque”
- Nov 17 – David Elmore “Quantitative Imaging with DSLR”