

# Longmont Astronomical Society

## December 2004



*The View From Up Here*  
*Calendar*  
*November Meeting Notes*  
*Classified*  
*The LAS Warehouse*  
*January Sky Map*  
*18th Annual LAS Banquet*

Image on the front page:

This was taken the last couple of nights. Boy was it cold. It is a RRGB = 60:60:60:60 minutes. The Takahashi Sky90 and the SBIG ST2000XM was used. Send me a private e-mail if interested. Brian Kimball.

## The View From Up Here

Dear members and friends,

Here we are in December, at the end of an incredibly successful year for the L.A.S. It cannot be stressed enough how important involvement from the membership is to the success of a volunteer organization. Having said that, I'd first like to thank this year's officers for their hard work and commitment:

Vice President Melinda Diehl: Thank you for all of your contributions, and good luck in the future.

Secretary Mark Propp: Great job getting us on our own server and setting up the mailing list – that is so nice to have, not to mention all of the other secretary functions and no sleep this year!

Treasurer Monica Martens: I am grateful for your organizational skills again this year, and for being such a conscientious trustee of our funds.

Newsletter Editor Philippe Bridenne: That title does not come close to doing you justice for all you continue to do for this organization. Thank you, my friend.

Astronomical League Correspondent Bill Possel: Your very busy schedule may have kept you from a few meetings, but you had the pleasure of presenting several more observing awards this year. Thank you for your dedication to this important position.

Publicity/Fundraising Chair Ray Warren: Ray, what can we say?! Your enthusiasm, energy, and sense of humor, in addition to all of your hard work and presentations has really made the meetings fun to attend this year – thank you so much!

Equipment Chair Leigh Pierson: Thank you yet again for your friendly hospitality this year. I believe the membership is finally getting a feel for the magnitude of the work you and Don Bunker are putting in on the telescope project. And your willingness and patience to mentor and assist all those who come to you is truly an inspiration.

Webmaster Steve Albers: Thank you for providing yet again a consistently high quality web site. And it's great to have you up front at the meetings again sharing your knowledge and adventures with us!

I would like to add honorable mentions to Mike Hotka and Gary Garzone for being members of the board and planning committee; enthusiasm is contagious, and you guys made sure we stayed pumped up! Michelle Lavers – thanks for all of your efforts with the public and school outreach in the Tri-Town area; we are seeing growth from out there due to your efforts. Tim Brown, thanks for your help also with the telescope project and your presentations.

And to all of the rest of you who attend the meetings, provide input, go to the star parties, talk to school kids and co-workers, give presentations, donate money, invite people over and share your time and love of astronomy, I say Thank You Very Much.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be the president of your Society these past two years. I am proud of the progress we have made together as an organization, and even prouder to call you my friends. Here's looking forward to an even brighter future for the L.A.S. Happy Holidays to you all!

With Kindest Regards,

Bob Spohn  
President

## Calendar

December Meeting 16th at Fiske Planetarium  
1st Quarter Party 18th – Public Observing at Flanders Park at dusk

## November meeting notes

Welcome, by President Bob Spohn  
45 people were present at FRCC

- Visitors introduced: Amy, John (from Boulder, with 8" scope)

--- Officer reports:

- no VP report, Melinda doing well in San Diego

- Secretary report: Eliminated spam from mailing list. Send email address change requests directly to me, secretary@longmontastro.org.

- Treasurer report, Monica Martens: Still has leftover calendars, selling at cost, no intent to make money for club.

- Newsletter editor, Philippe Bridenne:

Beautiful newsletter this month, contributions from Gary, Michelle (pictures of kids), description of banquet and sign-up form.

No minutes from last month, still can get them in (on the website) but not tonight. A bit short of copies tonight, random black and white and color. Get from website if you can.

Welcome contributions, this is your newsletter!

- Publicity and fundraising report, Ray Warren:

Andrew winner from last month (62 years old, first thing ever won!)

Sales pitch for planetariums, variety of designs. Two log books remain. Un-bumper stickers. Now have catalog with numbers, filed copies! Remaining Levy videos, only \$2 each!

Corrected bumper sticker speed limit off by 1000! We have order for planespheres, passing out designs to make later. Order for 90 for next April!

Two books to auction, for raffle at banquet: Atlas of the Skies and Patrick Moore Atlas of the Universe. Same deal as before, 1 ticket per \$1 purchase.

Andrew, weekend astronomy camp in June. Offer for 100 planispheres for that event? Michael sent email saying he could pick up some planispheres, Andrew said "cool!"

Another 100 for Astronomy day next year, that's 300 we need to build! After break, Ray show people how to build them, takes about 10 minutes.

- AL Rep, Bill Possell not here, report by Bob Spohn.

Mike Hotka received master observer award from AL! See officers to learn how to get started on observing programs. First Hershel 400 book donated by Mike H, adding to the drawing.

- Web Master, Steve Albers. Tempted to say "no report" but thinking of something! Added another Cassini link, updated astro references and resources link also. New link to Cassini timeline, document outlines orbital parameters for all of the 40 some odd orbital fly-bys, statistics on every Saturn moon flyby, phase angles, so you can anticipate lighting for pictures. Dovetails with planetary maps Steve showed in May(?). Gathering Titan images, approach image sequence, base map, adding high resolution flyby image, we will see how it turns out.

- Equipment report, come back to talk about scopes.

- Fiske Planetarium, Julie Carmen: realized I haven't written any cool reports on our observing sessions. Tonight and tomorrow night, Josh Caldwell giving interesting Cassini presentation, tickets going fast, get your tickets reserved on credit card. Looking forward to getting bigger exhibits into planetarium this summer, add heliscope for sun observing in daytime. Sending out emails to BASS and LAS email list, make sure you are on the mailing list. Our next LAS meeting in Dec. is in planetarium. BASS met last time and showed Hale Bopp presentation and aurora borealis, 30 members showing up. New CU student astro group starting up.

- Old business: last month we voted to make donation to Longmont Christian School, doubled donation from \$250 to \$500, delivered with Roy Martens today, very well received (as you can imagine!)

Update on Berthoud meteorite from Julie: one more search did not turn up anything, possible search this saturday, contact Big Thompson observatory. Probably cancelled if it snows Saturday.

Who did not get a chance to see the lunar eclipse? It was nice to see, especially at Lee's house, with 3 different instruments. Who was in the club when observed last total eclipse at radio telescopes? That one was not very visible, too grey, this one was very visible and red. Thanks to Gary! We had about 60 people at Gary's house, including FRCC and high school students.

Anyone see the aurora? On the web! Steve sent out cool Nebraska observations. Terry wants to know about Aurora chasers (other than Brian White), doing article for the reflector. Want fanatic aurora photographers. David, article from National Geographic 1947, some of the earliest Aurora pictures. Monica, speaking of things going on, Jim Crane email update on Florida events, down there for Deep impact launch. Monica will get details from email (Dec. 28?) Moving equipment from Texas to Florida. Philippe: sounds like a nice article for the newsletter!

As Philippe mentioned, we have banquet signup sheet in newsletter, and also sent to LAS email list server. Same place as last year, Wayside Inn in Berthoud, same menu as last year, several interesting guests we are courting, final name for next month's meeting. Get your checks to Monica, like to get as many as possible prepaid to minimize hassle. Like to see another big turnout.

Last month Ralph Bellamy wanted us to start suggestion box, ideas for more "hands on astronomy". Starting next month, topic on celestial coordinates, RA and Dec. Any topics you don't understand? Send email to [execs@longmontastro.org](mailto:execs@longmontastro.org).

Any other old business? Michelle: only scheduled for 45 minutes, took hour and a half to go through solar system, balls and light, lunar phases, earth seasons. Students wrote paper on what we did, some got it, some spaced out. Pick one favorite to read. Josh was very good, lots of details.

- New business:

Mark and Julie helped out with Burlington Star Lab program. Support was essential for success. Please let us know how we can support LAS! Signed teachers. Nice getting positive feedback.

Upcoming star parties, first quarter party this Saturday at Flanders, Nov 11 at Pawnee, Dec.18 at Flanders again. Next month's meeting at Fiske planetarium in Boulder!

Now nominations for 7 elected offices, taking nominations now and at next month, elections at end of next month (Dec.) meeting. Encourage everyone to consider running. Bob described each of the offices responsibilities.

Pres: Brian Kimball, Gary Garzone (Bob, Ray, Mark declined)  
VP: Michelle Lavers, Dick Mallot, Roy Martens (Monica says "Roy can't!"), Gary Garzone, Julie Carmen  
Sec: Mark Propp  
Treasurer: (Monica declined, wants to be club library), John Peterson, Julie Carmen,  
ALcor: Bob Spohn, (Andrew declined)  
Newsletter editor: Philippe Bridenne,  
Pub and Fundraising: Ray Warren, Mike Hotka,

- Leigh and Don: Report on telescope constructions. Use proceeds from can donations, demonstrated aluminum tubes (irrigation tubes) for 6" scopes, learned to do the mirrors first. Worked on 8" and 6" mirrors, half a dozen done, ready to be coated. Don spends summers in Canada, has a wood shop, in the winter we use his shop to do woodworking. Last year we made the cells, built tooling for the secondaries, built secondary holders, secondary mirrors. Don will talk about how to build mirror cell and foot pads (too keep off the ground). Rocker boxes next, F8 6" Dobsonian scopes. Polyurethane next summer. Woodworking done this summer. We have spiders. So major challenge left is building the rocker boxes. By next fall we should be able to put some of these into schools in Colorado and Sasqatchewan Indian reservation. We have 11 mirrors, trying to complete 6 scopes. Looking for schools, especially rural small schools that don't have access to cool science facilities, get a teacher on board with a curriculum for a year. Terry: what are we doing for eyepieces? donated from people, need some more. Looking for donations. They will have Telrad and focusers, need a few more focusers. Don did some modifications to get focusers to fit. Price about \$35. Focuser was flat, needed wood bezel for mounting. Rack and pinion focuser, not loose like some we have seen, quite a good focuser for \$35. Asking for more club money for additional 5 focusers. Spiders built by Astrosystems. We have all of the spiders. Passing around the parts to members to look at. We have tools for making 8" and 6" scopes. Use belt sander to get tubes smooth, then paint them. Use body hammers to straighten out the tubes as necessary. Gary's 8" scope is an upscale version of the 6" scopes we are making. Gary complimented the scope, very nice. Don: all of the mirrors have slightly different focal length, so we are experimenting where to put the slots. We have another tool for positioning and mounting the cell on the bottom. Kinda nice to be able to drill 3 holes, and know the cell will fit no matter which way you put it, not a custom design. Lee has made some fancy, nice nylon bearings for mounting on the side and for the rocker bearings in the rocker box. Rocker boxes for the 8" were a butt joint, making finger joints this time around. Determining with these components what the balance point is, that will determine the final geometry of the box. We still don't have schedule for completion, aspirations of large amounts of sawdust this winter, apparently this helps us keep our non-profit status, demonstrates our outreach program, providing these scopes

free for the public. Bob: acknowledgment and applause for good job Don and Lee are doing! High quality scopes, been doing this for years. Motion carried to have club pay for banquet for Lee and Don.

BREAK!

Tim Brown, Senior Scientist High Altitude Observatory

At NCAR, smart guy! Recently published article in S&T magazine. Tonight presentation on Extrasolar Planets. Location, Location, Location! New real estate being found in the universe. Interested in stars with planets, how do we find?

Article on this topic in this month's S&T magazine. Belgian amateur with light curve nearly as good as ours. Within reach of amateur equipment, nice that way.

Very interesting, thanks Tim!

### **Classified**

*To sell:*

I am trying to sell 10" Sears Craftsman table saw

Price: \$200 sends email to Brian [bnimball@msn.com](mailto:bnimball@msn.com) or calls him at 303-678-0525

I am trying to sell a Celestron Ultima 9.25. If the deal were local I would expect closer to \$1,600 or so and accept credit cards.

<http://www.astromart.com/viewad.asp?cid=233874>

Jared Workman

Celestron Firstscope 76 3" Newtonian on an equatorial mount. In "like New" condition. Asking \$100. Please contact Jerry Kunselman (friend of Bill Possel) at 303-772-8786.

JMI NGF-DX1 focuser. Has 2 inch to 1 ½ inch adapter. \$150.00. Contact Mike Hotka at [mhotka@yahoo.com](mailto:mhotka@yahoo.com)  
All...

I got a new (800MHz) computer & wish to sell my 3rd computer. It's a 433MHz, 64meg RAM, 9 Gig HD space, 33.6K modem, SoundBlaster sound card, with a 15" monitor, programmable keyboard & MS mouse, with Windows 98 SE for sale. \$180. No problems with it what-so-ever. Will deliver & setup within 30 miles of Ft. Collins. It would be great for a stand-alone application or a kid's computer.

Contact Tom Teters [tomt@starmon.com](mailto:tomt@starmon.com)

*To buy:*

Wanted: Large dob, say 14-15 inches, in good working order, preferably with digital settings circles. Thanks!  
Bill Travis, 303-530-5010, [wtravis@colorado.edu](mailto:wtravis@colorado.edu)

If you have astronomy stuff to buy or to sell, send an email to your newsletter editor  
[philippe\\_bridenne@yahoo.com](mailto:philippe_bridenne@yahoo.com)

### **The LAS warehouse**

LAS logo T-Shirts:

Crewneck, navy blue, 8" white LAS logon on front

\$10 - S, M, L, XL

\$12 - 2XL

\$13 - 3XL

\$14 - 4XL

\$2 - 5" LAS vinyl sticker, black or white

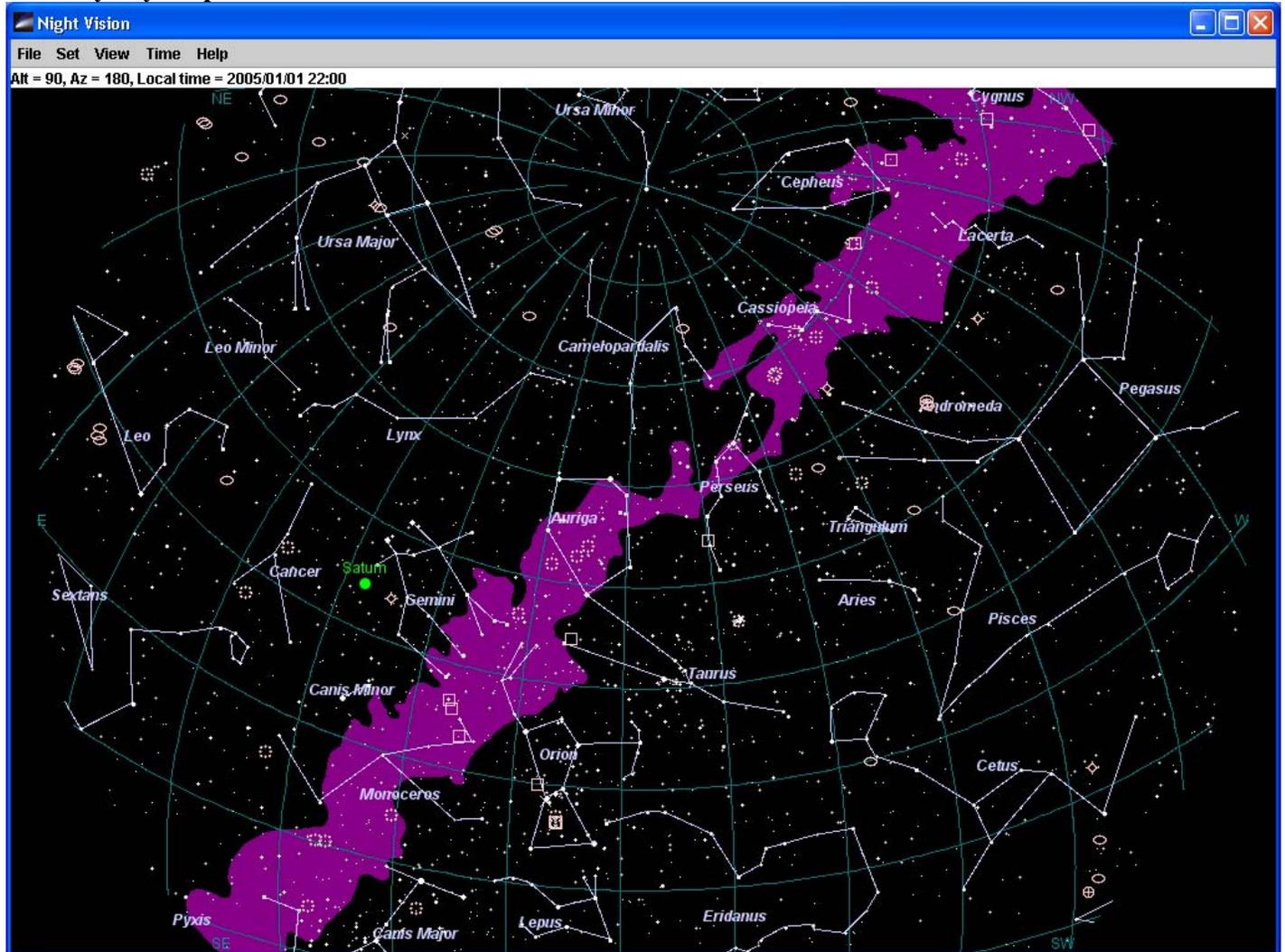
\$5 - 4" LAS embroidered patch

\$5 - VHS tape, "An Evening With David H. Levy", 3 January 2004

\$1 - LAS Planisphere

2/\$1 - LAS un-bumper sticker

# January sky map



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual LAS Banquet

Saturday, January 15th, 2004  
Wayside Inn, 505 Mountain Ave., Berthoud

5:00 Social Hour  
6:00 Dinner  
\$20.00 Per Person

**Entrees:**

Chicken Kiev – Herbed butter rolled up in a chicken breast  
Broiled Salmon Fillet  
12 oz. Rib-eye Steak  
10 oz. Prime Rib of Beef  
Vegetarian Lasagna  
Kid's meal – 2 chicken leg meal – only \$5.00

Includes salad, potato or rice, hot vegetable, drink & dessert. Cash bar available.

Bring your reservations and check to the meeting, or mail them in to:

**Monica Martens**  
161 Oakwood Ct  
Milliken, CO 80543

**\* Please have reservations in by January 8th \*  
Bring a guest(s) and have fun at our big social event of the year!**

**Include number of entrees, potato or rice pilaf and total cost**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entrée</u>	<u>Potato or Rice</u>
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
	<b>Total:</b>	_____