The Home Planet Stellar Views
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Hey Astronomers, It sure has been a tuff month to be an astronomer. The skies were cloudy for many nights when it usually clears after dark for normal summer nights here in Colorado, then a week later we get the monsoons. The monsoon type rains for a week or so was very much needed and overdue for us, the grasses and fields were looking like end of summer brown. Glad to see things green up again. My sister Karen and brother in law John were visiting and one night he was sitting outside watching it rain from under the roof awning, and said to me “I am enjoying watching your drought here”. Pretty good line indeed, after a week of trying to show them some of The Home Planet Stellar Views, never did it clear one night for their 10 day visit. Maybe next time?  The heat wave is going on now, so it stays hot till after midnight sometimes before it cools down nicely here in Colorado. Bring the bug spray, they are back.

Vern Raben and I really did try to see and record the Asteroid 2004 XP14 that Monday night from my yard here in Niwot. He stayed till 3:00 am or so and I went to bed at 4:00 am. I looked out again at 5:00 am when dawn was already breaking and still cloudy. Weather reports showed some chance for clearing but all my positive thinking did not work that night. I was totally convinced it would clear. Vern gets the die hard of the month award for enduring with me. We are never smart enough to give up sometimes, that's usually when it does clear, when you go home you know how it works?? I will be out tonight with clear sky views. Moon comes up late now, so small window of almost darkness from my yard here in Niwot.

I was working in Glenwood Springs for an electrical job and did a night with 8 inch scope at some guys house with several kids and two of my fellow workers about ten miles up Mountain Canyon. They were all amazed with the views from the high and dark area we were in. We had pretty good views till moon came up around 11:30 or so.

The Home Planet Stellar Views will get better you guys, do not sell that scope yet. WUTS is coming up this weekend so be there if you can. It's our favorite Dark Sky place, put on by our friends Marty and Marcy Curran, from CAS, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and LASSO, Robert Roten and the rest of their gang. Hopefully weather will be good. I will be giving a full report when we get back. I plan to be there Thursday to Sunday for best chance at least a few good nights.

Clarta Wente, Astronomy teacher from Westminster College needs our help again for another Star party in parking lot of her Campus. Dates are Wednesday August 16th, 8 to 10 PM or so. Email me or let her know if you are interested to do a short local fun star party. I have done these before and will probably be there again. I am busy as most in summer months, but I still try to find the best stellar views I can, even yard views will do some nights. Hope to see you all at WUTS, we are so lucky to have such a great place to view from. Maybe see you in the Dark? Later, Gary

Calendar

| Jul: | New Moon: | 20th, 21st, and 22nd – Fox Park Weekend under the Stars |
| 1st qtr: | 1st – Flanders Park – This is July 4th timeframe |
| Meeting: | 20th – Topics: Mark Bagdy Nigh Sky Network Material review |
| Aug: | New Moon: | 21st to 23rd – WUTS at Fox Park (check date and insert web site) |
| 1st qtr: | 5th – Flanders Park |
| Meeting: | 17th – Topics: Video imaging presentation by Vern Raben |
| Sep: | New Moon: | 23rd – Pawnee |
| 1st qtr: | 2nd – Flanders Park. This is Labor Day weekend. |
| Meeting: | 21st – Topics: Andrew Planck? |
| 1st qtr: | 30th – Flanders Park |
| Oct: | New Moon: | 21st- Pawnee |
| 1st qtr: | 28th – Flanders Park |
| Meeting: | 18th – Topics: Solar presentation? |
Nov:  
New Moon:  18th - Pawnee  
1st qtr:  25th – Flanders Park. This is Thanksgiving weekend.  
Meeting:  16th – Swap Meet/Nominations  

Dec:  
New Moon:  23rd - Pawnee  
1st qtr:  30th – Flanders Park  
Meeting:  21st – Topics: Elections

**June 2006 Meeting notes**
Our apologies, but we did not capture meeting notes.

**Meadow Sweet Farm Community Star Party by Philippe Bridenne**
On Friday June 16th, the Meadow Sweet Farm had its second annual Star Party. Despite waves of clouds, rain and thunder storms all afternoon, the weather cleared up just when we started to setup our scopes around 8:30 pm. Thanks to Marc, Vern, Jeff and others who came with their telescopes. At one point of time, I counted up to 8 telescopes. We started with Jupiter, then, later we pointed our telescopes towards Saturn and Mars. With our smaller telescopes we were able to see Saturn and Mars in the same field of view. Lower on the horizon we also had Mercury visible for a long time. That evening, a total of four planets were visible with the naked eye. Still later, were able to see multiple Iridium flares as well as the International Space Station (ISS) fly right over our heads. As the skies were getting darker, we went on looking at M44, M13, Sombrero Galaxy, Whirlpool Galaxy, Cor Caroli and many other celestial objects. Since the event was announced in the local Erie Review newspaper, we had quite a few local people joining our Star Party. We had also few neighbors, and some of them brought their own telescopes.

**Camp Jack Star Party report by Marty Curran**
We had a pretty decent crowd at Camp Jack this weekend. We had no views on Saturday night but Friday night was pretty good until Gary made the clouds mad by shining his laser in their eyes. I don't think I have ever seen clouds roll in that fast in my life. 5 minutes from horizon to zenith and for some reason, Gary couldn't find the blinking planetary through it. All in all it was a pretty fun weekend. No injuries or flipped over instruments to report. Mike did step off of Gary's ladder two steps early but he appears to be experienced at it. It was a very nice tuck and roll. Thanks to all for coming up. You are always invited. We usually stop going up there in September because of the threat of weather but we run May through August every year.

**Fox Park Star Party report by John Figoski**
I was at Fox Park all weekend and had a great time all by myself! (Maybe it pays to check e-mail before heading out - but by the look of all the chatter, maybe it was best just to ignore.) The fire was to the north and slightly east, but was well down and only minimal smoke during the day driving in (Friday), and nary a sight or scent of it all weekend. I did see the big fire camp about 5 miles north of Fox Park. There were no Ham operators and only two other ATV campers in RV's that had everything off by midnight. I had a great time - logged over 60 galaxies in the Virgo cluster with my 12-inch (some near 12.5 - 13th magnitude) and had a majestic view of the Milky Way all night long (though it sure takes a long time to get dark nowadays.)
However, it did get cold. Luckily I was somewhat prepared, but there was thin ice by early morning. Brrr...
I hear that next month is a "regional"? Star party at Fox Park. Anyone know about this? It's worth going back.

**Camp Jack Star Party Report by Vern Raben**
Yes, it is indeed always worth going back to Fox Park! We have all had fabulous views there. The regional party at Fox Park is next month, I'm sure we'll be there in force.

Congrats on the great views, we're all envious. As you said, we “wimped out” of going to Fox Park because of the fire reports. We figured smoke would be a real problem. Deciding where to go is always a crap shoot, following weather reports and news doesn't always pan out.

Camp Jack was a great alternative, however. It was the first time I've been there and it is beautiful site, quite dark skies (better than Pawnee) and only about half hour further. Special thanks to Marty and Marv for hosting us! Great views through Gary's 30 Friday night, he always amazes me how many he knows from memory. The Crescent Nebula, Trifid, and Veil were my favorites out of the many he kindly showed us. Clouds closed in on us about 1:15am. I've never seen the sky get covered so fast, from being excellent to totally obscure in 4 or 5 minutes. We were socked in Saturday evening with some rain and wind until 12 or so and then poor transparency and sucker holes till dawn.

See you and many others next month at Fox Park next month for sure.

**Rocky Mountain Star Stare Star Party Report by Bernie Poskus**
I spent the weekend at the Rocky Mountain Star Stare. More people attending than WUTS usually has (about 375 registered), and more spread out, but the site has significant light pollution to the southeast (Colorado Springs) and to the northeast (Denver). Once you get about 20-30 degrees up in elevation, though, the skies are pretty dark.

Thursday and Saturday nights were cut short about an hour after full darkness by clouds (Saturday night had significant lightening storms and some rain). However, Friday night was clear, good seeing (I could split the Double Double in my 16" dob) and excellent transparency. I too saw some pretty dim galaxies in Virgo, and also in Canes Venatici (I doubt that I am spelling that right, and can't pronounce it either). It made the star party worth it, though the people were also fun.
My motto: "Will observe for food."

**July Night Sky Network Newsletter**
TELECON JULY 27th: "Searching for Habitable New Worlds and for Life in the Universe"

Join the Night Sky Network and award winning scientist Dr. Geoff Marcy for a teleconference sure to open up a world of possibilities.

Dr. Geoff Marcy is one of the "heavy-hitter" scientists of the astronomy community with several awards to his name: The Shaw Prize (2005), Discover Magazine: Space Scientist of the Year (2003), NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement (2003), California Scientist of the Year (2000) to name only a few. Perhaps his greatest distinction is the fact that he and his team have discovered more than half of all the extrasolar planets discovered so far!

This is your opportunity to participate in a teleconference with one of the most knowledgeable and accomplished scientists in the field of astronomy and physics today.

Teleconference: "Searching for Habitable New Worlds and for Life in the Universe"
Universe" by Dr. Geoff Marcy

Thursday, July 27th 6:00 pm Pacific (9:00 pm Eastern)

Toll-free conference call line: 1-877-917-1549. Call anytime after 5:45 pm the evening of the teleconference. An operator will answer and:

- You will be asked for the passcode: NIGHT SKY NETWORK
- You might be asked for the call leader: MICHAEL GREENE
- You will be asked to give your NAME and the CLUB you belong to, and number of people listening with you.

If you have any questions or are having any difficulties logging into the Night Sky Network, send an email to nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org

QUARTERLY DRAWING WINNERS

Last quarter Night Sky Network member clubs logged over 600 events helping the Night Sky Network reach an all-time total of more than 300,000 people! The Night Sky Network is succeeding because of your hard work and we like to say thank you. One of the ways we like to show our appreciation for our members' hard work is with our quarterly prize drawings.

This quarters five winners had their events drawn from a pool of over 600 outreach events held between April 1st and June 30th. For this quarter the prize was the ever popular Solarscope and the complete list of winning clubs is:

Central Arkansas Astronomical Society - Little Rock, AR
Springfield Astronomical Society - Billings, MO
Barnard Astronomical Society - Chattanooga, TN
Central Florida Astronomical Society - Winter Springs, FL
Westminster Astronomical Society - Westminster, MD

All awards were donated by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Congratulations to all of the lucky winners!

CLUBS THAT RECEIVED NEW TOOLKITS THIS QUARTER

There have been a lot of busy folks this quarter and their clubs are now the lucky recipients of new toolkits (and a few banners). Would you like to see what's in the next toolkit? Log those events to find out!

***Black Hole Toolkit***
Calumet Astronomical Society
Everett Astronomical Society
Warner Springs Ranch Star Gazing
Phoenix Astronomical Society Sangamon Astronomical Society
StarGarden Foundation

***Our Galaxy, Our Universe Toolkit***
Museum Astronomical Resource Society
Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society
H. J. Fowler Observatory
Lake County Astronomical Society
Prairie Astronomy Club
The Quahadi Society, Inc.
Tri-State Astronomers

***Telescope Toolkit***
Blue Ridge Astronomy Club
Brazosport Astronomy Club
Carolina Skies Astronomy Club
Eastside Astronomical Society
El Paso Astronomy Club
Latin School Sidewalk Astronomy Club
Longmont Astronomical Society
National Capital Astronomers
New Hampshire Astronomical Society
Northern Sky Astronomical Society
Sirius Lookers Sedona Astronomy Club
St. Petersburg Astronomy Club
Student Astronomical Society at the University of Michigan

***Night Sky Network Banners***
Calumet Astronomical Society
Everett Astronomical Society
Warner Springs Ranch Star Gazing
Museum Astronomical Resource Society

SHADOWS & SILHOUETTES TOOLKIT SHIPS IN SEPTEMBER!

Covering the topics of phases, eclipse, and transits, the upcoming Shadows & Silhouettes ToolKit features NASA's Kepler Mission. The Kepler Mission, due for launch in 2008, is NASA's first mission dedicated to detecting transits of Earth-size planets in the habitable zones of Sun-like stars.

The Summer Triangle has a wealth of visual and telescopic sights, including the area the Kepler Mission will be monitoring for transits of planets around distant stars.

Just in time for the Mercury Transit in November, this ToolKit provides activities to make the Transit come alive and spark imaginations about faraway worlds possibly like our own.

The ToolKit will also provide hands-on explanations to prepare for the lunar eclipse next March. Accompanied by activities to demonstrate moon phases and why eclipses don't happen every month, the ToolKit can be used at almost any star party.

ADDED BONUS: Any club that has logged at least two events since receiving their last ToolKit will receive Shadows & Silhouettes in September.

SNEAK PREVIEW at ALCON 2006 in Arlington, Texas on August 4: If you are attending ALCON this year, Marni Berendsen of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific will be presenting some of the activities in the ToolKit. Get a sneak preview!

SEE THE NEW NIGHT SKY NETWORK VIDEO!

Want your club members to have a better understanding of what the Night
Sky Network is all about? Do you know of clubs who might want to join and would like an overview of the NSN?

View or download the new Night Sky Network video from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific website: http://www.astrosociety.org/education/NSN/NSN.html

The video will be on the NSN website in a few weeks. We wanted you to have the first preview!

>NIGHT SKY NETWORK MAKEOVER

The Night Sky Network has lots of new things for you to experience: a new toolkit, new videos and even the Night Sky Network website is getting a new look and feel! Watch for the announcement of the unveiling of the Night Sky Network website make-over and keep logging those events!

Clear Skies!

Marni Berendsen & Dawn Baird
Astronomical Society of the Pacific

Fiske Planetarium schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Show:</th>
<th>Live Talks &amp; Starshows:</th>
<th>Friday Laser Shows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5 Adult</td>
<td>$6 Adult</td>
<td>$5 All ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>$3.50 Child/Senior</td>
<td>$5 Student with valid ID</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3.50 Child/Senior</td>
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18 July – 21 July 2006 Events

**Family Matinees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, July 17</th>
<th>10:00 am</th>
<th>Peter and the Wolf Laser Show</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 18</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Space Storm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 19</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Kids in Space</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 19</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>The Great Space Chase Laser Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 20</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Space Odyssey Laser Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 20</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Adventures Beyond the Solar System</td>
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**Live Astronomer Talks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday, July 20</th>
<th>8:00 pm</th>
<th>Colorado Skies: Extraterrestrial Life</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Matt Benjamin</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Enjoy this guide to the night sky under the Fiske Planetarium dome! Come for a current look at Colorado's skies with a special focus on the possibility of life elsewhere in the solar system.</td>
</tr>
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**Star Shows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, July 21</th>
<th>8:00 pm</th>
<th>Searching for Distant Worlds</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>People have been searching the night skies for centuries, but only now have we begun to discover planets circling the distant stars. Come learn why it is so difficult to find these distant worlds, and explore recent developments in our search for planets beyond our own solar system.</td>
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**Laser Shows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, July 21</th>
<th>10:00 pm</th>
<th>Laser Dave Matthews Band</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enjoy the soulful sounds of DMB with live lasers and special effects in this dazzling multimedia presentation!</td>
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25 July – 28 July 2006 Events
Family Matinees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 25</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Moons &amp; Lasers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 25</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Stars &amp; Lasers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 26</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Perseus &amp; Andromeda Laser Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 26</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Deep Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 27</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Kids in Space</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 27</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Peter and the Wolf Laser Show</td>
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Live Astronomer Talks

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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 27</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Update from the Red Planet</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr, Brian Hynek</td>
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<td>Challenging the idea that oceans of water once covered Mars, Dr. Hynek (LASP) provides a bold view of the red planet. Investigate the conditions for life on Mars now and in the past with one of planetary geology's leading researchers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 28</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Update from the Red Planet</td>
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<td>Dr, Brian Hynek</td>
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Laser Shows

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, July 28</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Experience Pink Floyd’s epic album with stunning laser visuals, staggering multimedia and intense sound at Fiske Planetarium.</td>
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1 August – 4 August 2006 Events

Family Matinees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 1</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Symphony of the Stars Laser Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 1</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Moons &amp; Lasers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 2</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Space Primer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 2</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>The Great Space Chase Laser Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 3</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Perseus &amp; Andromeda Laser Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 3</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Kids in Space</td>
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Live Astronomer Talks

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<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 3</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Colorado Skies: Cassini Mission Update</td>
</tr>
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<td>Matt Benjamin</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Enjoy this guide to the night sky under the Fiske Planetarium dome! Come for a current look at Colorado's skies with a special focus on the ongoing Cassini mission to Saturn.</td>
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Star Shows

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<td>Friday, August 4</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Deep Impact</td>
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<td>On July 4, it was one year since the Deep Impact mission peered inside a comet for the very first time. How was the mission designed and what did we hope to learn?</td>
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Laser Shows

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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 4</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>Laser Grateful Dead</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enjoy this multimedia laser show in memory of the great Jerry Garcia and experience some of the band’s greatest hits.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more info, please visit our website at [http://fiske.colorado.edu](http://fiske.colorado.edu)
To buy:

To sell:
New, never used Celestron NexStar 8i for sale. What’s included besides the scope?
Steel carrying case for scope
Set of Plossi eyepieces
Set of color filters – eyepieces and filters come packed in a sturdy steel carrying case
All of this for $1,800. Please contact Bob Reece at 303-229-8319 or send an email to bobhistory@comcast.net

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

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, and 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

I have an ORION SKYVIEW 4.5" Reflector telescope with finder scope; equatorial mount tripod, with 9mm and 25mm lenses, 1.25 mm Barlow and extra filters. The telescope is in great condition, just toooo advanced for my amateur status. All for $500!
Contact Anna Vayr at 303-776-7167 or via email at anna.vayr@spot.colorado.edu

I own an Orion SkyView 8" EQ reflecting telescope (in excellent condition) with an AccuTrack SVD motor to keep the scope aligned with an object. My husband and I have decided to sell it for $500, due to space and budget constraints during our current home remodel.
We want to sell the telescope to someone who can "do it justice", which is why I'm grateful if you wouldn't mind getting the word out to other keen astronomers who may be interested in buying it. I can be contacted by this email address or home tel. 970.577.0417 or Jennifer_Taylor@psdr3.k12.co.us

I have a Meade LX200 10” Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope
Includes: 10” optical tube assembly with EMC super multi-coatings; heavy-duty fork mount, with 4”-dia. sealed polar ball bearing, quartz-microprocessor-controlled 5.75” worm gears on both axes, and multi-function power panel display on the drive base; manual and electric slow-motion controls on both axes; setting circles in RA and DEC; handheld keypad Electronic Command Center with digital readout display, PPEC Smart Drive, 9-speed drive control on both axes, GO TO controller, High-Precision Pointing, and 64,340-object onboard celestial software library; 25 ft. power cord and adapter for telescope operation from 115v.AC; 8 x 50mm viewfinder; eyepiece-holder and diagonal prism (1.25”); variable-height field tripod.

It comes with the following items:
- Meade super wide angle 18mm (1.25”)
- Meade super wide Plossl 26mm (1.25”)
- Televue Nagler 4.8 mm (1.25”)

or call (303) 492-5001 (automated line).
• Televue Nagler 9 mm (1.25”/2”)
• Televue Panoptic 22 mm (1.25”/2”)
• Meade 2x Apochromatic Barlow (1.25”)
• Televue 1.8x Barlow (1.25”)
• Meade Variable Polarizer (1.25”)
• Solar filter
• Assorted filters

Call, Chuck Peterson 303 442 2524 asking 3, 000 dollars, seldom used, like brand new in Boxes.

To give:
FREE: Monitor, HP D1195A 15" CRT, will display 1024x768. Clean, like new, works. Contact: Bob Noble nobler@att.net

If you have astronomy stuff to buy or to sell, send an email to your newsletter editor 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

Light blue with the lapel logo and Dobsonian telescope.

$1 LAS un-bumper stickers
$5 LAS Observing Log Book
$1 LAS Whizzy Wheel (astronomy calculator)
$2 - 5" LAS vinyl sticker, black or white
$5 - 4" LAS embroidered patch
$1 - LAS Planisphere