Next LAS Meeting August 18th

Open Forum

The August 18th meeting will be another open forum show and tell night. Talk about a trip you’ve taken, your newest eyepiece, the first image you took with your new camera, something you have built, you are planning on building, doing, or have done. Your talk can be pretty much about anything that interests you but please avoid controversial topics. Try to keep your talk from 10 to 15 minutes in length.

Location:
The meeting will be at the IHOP Restaurant, 2040 Ken Pratt Boulevard, Longmont. Please join us for coffee, dinner, or just desert around 6 pm; the general meeting and presentation will begin at 7 pm.

Upcoming Events

Aug 12th – 8:30 pm
City of Superior Recreation summer star party event at Coalton Trailhead, Superior.

Aug 18th 7 – 9:00 pm
LAS meeting at IHop, 2400 Ken Pratt Blvd, Longmont. Open forum.

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August Celestial Highlights

Moon
New moon: Aug 2nd 2:46 pm
First quarter: Aug 10th 12:22 pm
Full moon: Aug 18th 3:28 am
Third quarter: Aug 24th 9:42 pm

Mercury
Mercury is visible in evening twilight low in west-northwest as month begins. It is 0.2 magnitude in brightness and 5.8 arc sec in apparent size.

Venus
Venus is visible very low in the west-northwest evening twilight sky as well. It is -3.9 magnitude and is 10 arc sec in apparent size.

Mars
Mars begins the month with an apparent brightness of -0.8 and is 13 arc sec across. At the end of the month it will be magnitude -0.3 and will be 11 arc sec across. It moves into constellation Scorpio on the 3rd.

Jupiter
Jupiter begins the month at -1.8 magnitude and apparent size of 32 arc seconds. It sets about 10 pm By the end of the month it will be -1.7 magnitude and in bright twilight and near the horizon in the west. Last evening views of Jupiter for a while.
Saturn

Saturn is in lower part of the constellation Ophiuchus. It is magnitude +0.4 in brightness as month begins and +0.5 magnitude on Aug 31st. Its disk size is 17 arc seconds this month.

Uranus

Uranus is in the constellation Pisces; it is magnitude +5.8 in brightness and its disk is 3.6 arc sec across. It rises about 11:15 pm in early August.

Neptune

Neptune is in constellation Aquarius. It is magnitude 7.8 and 2.3 arc sec across. It rises about 9:30 pm in early August.

Comet C/2013 X1 (PANSTARRS) is visible this month in constellation Centaurus at magnitude 9 with a 3.3 arc min coma.

Meteor Showers

The Perseids peak on the evening of Aug 12th at 1:28 am. Moonset is at 1:04 am so circumstance is good. Normally we should expect to see about 80 meteors per hour from a dark sky location. This year NASA meteor expert predicting that we’ll pass through more debris than usual from comet Swift-Tuttle. They think rates will be about twice as many as usualerhaps 150-200 per hour. The radiant is at RA 3h 04' and Decl. +58°.
Overhead Sky at 10 pm Aug 15
LAS Meeting on July 21
by Joe Hudson

Vern Raben, President opens and moderates:

Introduction of Officers in attendance:
Vern Raben president, Gary Garzone vice president, Mike Fellows treasurer, Brian Kimball board, Jim Elkins board (out), Tally O'Donnel board, and Joe Hudson secretary

Agenda
Announcements:

- City of Superior Summer Star Party
  August 12 8:00 – 10 p.m.
  http://superiorcolorado.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/617/19

  Location – Coalton trailhead at corner of Coalton Road and South McCaslin Blvd.
  http://www.bouldercounty.org/docs/parks/coaltontrailmap.pdf

  This is the same evening as the peak Perseid's night with only ¼ moon and it sets ~ midnight local time.

- The next LAS Meeting will be on August 18 @ 7:00 p.m. Local. It will be an Open Forum as tonight's is.

- Vern put in a request with the Astronomical League for a telescope for Louisville Public Library

- Vern volunteered LAS to begin testing of new software and website for the Astronomical League. Site capabilities include create user accounts for all 16 thousand AL members, classified ad submission, display of personal observing awards, forums for participation, upload images. Club officers will be able to maintain their club’s information and update / broadcast emails, content submission / articles, etc. Site launch should be around end of July.

- Eclipse update: some Casper area hotel availability but likely to be pricey... check daily if that is your chosen viewing plan.

- Ref the group and eclipse planning, logistics/ plans remain same but no update.

Business Meeting
Treasurer’s report was presented by Mike Fellows.

Vern introduced idea of additional telescopes for the Library in Firestone.
Gary formally motioned that LAS provide 3 scopes to the library in Firestone, Nancy Ramstall seconds the motion; group voted, all yes with no objections. Motion carried. Vern will contact library and initiate acquisition of scopes.

Open Forum night

Nancy Ramstall introduced herself and told us about her interest in astronomy. She shared Sky and Telescope's Eclipse Road Atlas that includes an eclipse path boundary and centerline map for the path across the United States.

Other items of note:
Tim Brown showed us his home made folded light path telescope scope (an F18 Scheifspiegler). It uses an unobstructed design (no spider or secondary). It must track at this magnification, very nice images but he has design improvements he is considering.

The off axis reflections of the design generates astigmatism. His plan is to remove the retention spring that 'warps' the toroidal secondary mirror and introduce a very weak 'cylinder' lens to correct the astigmatism. Tim will keep the group informed as to progress / results.

Gary Garzone shared a recent Fox Park imaging report. He showed several images taken by him and favorites from other LAS members.

Tally described his new interest in narrow band imaging, a mechanism that allows excellent imaging results from light polluted areas by rejecting / filtering out the majority of optical wavelengths, leaving only those necessary to image the object of interest (of course, only in the emission wavelengths allowed to 'pass'). Common bandpass filters include:

- Hydrogen-Alpha - 656.3nm
- Hydrogen-Beta - 486.1nm
- Oxygen-III - 500.7nm
- Sulfur-II - 672.4nm
- Nitrogen-II - 658.4nm

Meeting adjourns.