Next LAS Meeting November 17th

Quantitative Imaging with a DSLR
By David Elmore

November 17th 7:00 pm
LAS Meeting at IHop, 2040 Ken Pratt, Blvd, Longmont.

November Celestial Highlights

Moon
- First quarter: Nov 7th 12:51 pm
- Full moon: Nov 14th 6:52 am
- Third quarter: Nov 21st 1:33 am
- New moon: Nov 29th 12:13 am

Mercury
- Mercury becomes visible in the morning sky in the constellation Ophiuchus after the 15th. It increases in size from 4.9 to 5.8 arc second and is -0.5 magnitude in brightness.

Venus
- Venus is visible low in the west in the constellation Ophiuchus as the month begins. It moves into Sagitarius on the 9th and then to Ophiuchus on the 24th. It is magnitude -4.1 and is 17 arc sec in apparent size.

Mars
- Mars begins month in the constellation Sagittarius with an apparent brightness of +0.4 and is 7.5 arc sec across. At the end of the month it will be in Capricornus at magnitude +0.7 and be 6.4 arc sec across.

Jupiter
- Jupiter is visible in the morning sky in constellation Virgo. It is magnitude -1.8 in brightness and its disk is 32 arc sec across.

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

November 3rd 6 – 7:30 pm
Hygiene Elementary Star party, Thurs. Nov. 3.

November 10th 6 – 7:30 pm
Prairie Ridge Elementary Star party, Thurs. Nov. 10.

Image Credit: Brian Kimball
**Saturn**

Saturn is in lower part of the constellation Ophiuchus. It is magnitude +0.5 in brightness. Its apparent disk size is 15 arc seconds. It disappears into evening twilight around the 11th this month.

**Uranus**

Uranus is in the constellation Pisces; it is magnitude +5.7 in brightness and its disk is 3.7 arc sec across.

**Neptune**

Neptune is in constellation Aquarius. It is magnitude 7.9 and 2.2 arc sec across.

**Comets**

Sadly there aren’t comets brighter than magnitude 12 this month.
Overhead Sky at 9 pm Nov. 15
Meeting Notes for Oct. 20, 2016 meeting by Joe Hudson

Meeting was opened at 7 pm by Vern Raben, President. Officers in attendance were introduced: Vern Raben President, Gary Garzone Vice President, Mike Fellows Treasurer, Brian Kimball Board Member, Jim Elkins Board Member, Tally O'Donnell Board Member, and Joe Hudson Secretary.

Announcements:
Star Parties
- November 3 Hygiene Elementary 6 p.m.
- November 10 Prairie Ridge Elementary in Firestone 5:30 pm

The next LAS meeting is November 17th and the speaker will be David Elmore.

Software Bisque Presentation
by Dan Bisque, Vice President of Software Bisque

Software Bisque is a software engineering, design, and manufacturing firm located in Golden Colorado, with primary management by members of the Bisque family: brothers Mark, Tom, Steve and Dan, who, with a couple of his children, are with us tonight.

A short background of the company:
- In 1983 Steve Bisque released ‘TheSky’, written in Pascal for Microsoft DOS. He developed and supported the product out of his basement while holding down a day job.
- 1989 Steve Bisque invents “push to” or “software-guided” telescope technology by combining optical encoders with a “serial decoder” (BBox) with TheSky for DOS to drive the telescope.
- 1992 Steve hired Dan and Matt to port Sky from DOS to Windows
- 1996 TheSky Version 4 was released and (in possibly one of the most important decisions the brothers ever made, all manufacturing was moved in house to company facilities in Golden, Colorado.
- 2000 released TheSky version 6
- 2002 Paramount ME begins shipping (April).
- 2004 TheSky Version 6 released

Software Bisque was featured in Timothy Ferris’ “Seeing in the Dark” film.
- 2011 Paramount MX begins shipping.
- 2014 Paramount MYT begins shipping (November).

Software Bisque's business is roughly a 80/20 mix of consumer business versus Higher Education / Government / Military. Software product plans include expanded Unix adoption and continue to control the
Most common devices amateur astronomers need to handle. These include focusers, rotators, domes, heaters, etc. An important aspect of their products is that their mounts are almost always immediately available for delivery. There no waiting for many months or years as there is with some other manufacturers. This is a testament to the efficiency of the manufacturing systems they employ.

Most interesting recent project using Bisque products: “Dragonfly” astronomical observing project consisting of MX mounts holding arrays of twenty four $10,000 Canon f2.8 telephoto lenses. The system is able to detect ultra-faint galaxies which possess high concentrations of dark matter. An object named Dragonfly 44 was measured at 99.99 % dark matter and the requested verification by Keck proved the findings.

Dan closed with confident words for amateur astronomy in general and continued evolution of products to meet evolving amateur needs.

The members of LAS wish to extend their warmest appreciation to Dan (and his kids) for joining us this evening for a very informative and enjoyable presentation.

LAS Business Meeting

Treasurer's report by Mike Fellows was presented by Vern.

Astro League members web site update (functionality likely deployed in the next couple weeks. The website will feature discount coupons, permit members to submit classified ads, members may upload astro images, join forums, subscribe to classified ads, follow and make event announcements, and maintain personal profile information, email preferences, etc. Club officers may use the website to update their own club information, membership rosters, announce club events, and be able to send messages to club members

Telescope Program shows continued progress:
- Longmont Library has 10 people on the wait list (3 weeks to get one)
- The Horkheimer Foundation telescope received from the Astronomical League was modified and delivered on Oct. 7 to the Louisville Public Library

Eclipse Planning
- Members signed up to stay at Ft Robinson State Park Aug 18 to Aug 21, 2017
- 182 people have signed up w/ ~ 60 vehicles
- Letters ready to send to 8 ranchers along center line offering $1000 for viewing site
- Thanks to Leonard for checking possible viewing sites, visiting the area such the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, etc.

Meeting adjourned.