Meetings first Thursday of each month

**Next Meeting:**  May 2  7:30 PM

**Eta Carinae and High Mass Stars**

By John Morse

**Meeting directions**

**Discovery Center Science Museum**

703 East Prospect Rd, Fort Collins

[http://www.desm.org/index.html](http://www.desm.org/index.html)

In Fort Collins, from the intersection of College Ave and Prospect Rd, head East about 1/2 mile. See the Discovery Center sign to the South. Enter the West Wing at the NE corner. From I-25, take Exit 268, West to Lemay Ave, continue West 1/2 mile, see Discovery Center on the left.

**NCAS Public Starwatch at Discovery Center**

Bring a scope of binoculars to share on Friday nights near First Quarter Moon. Set up in the South parking lot. Contact Dan Laszlo with questions: djlaszlo@aol.com  498 9226

May 17  8 PM

**NCAS Star Party Dates**

May 3, 4, 10, 11

Cactus Flats site is on undeveloped parcel of prairie about 6 miles West of Briggsdale. Take Colo Hwy 14 East from I-25 (Exit 269). Go 19 miles East to Ault. Continue 18 miles East of Ault. At County Rd 65 (Milepost 170), turn North, go one mile. Site is through the wire gate on the right, no road, close gate and set up. Beware of the cactus. Our standard nights are the weekend of the New Moon, sometimes a weekend before and after. The site is now officially wheelchair accessible, but there are no facilities so bring essentials. Call Tom Teters, tomt@jymis.com, with questions about star party status or dates, 482-5702 or 482-0807.

May 17  8 PM

**Longmont Astronomical Society 1st Quarter Moon Public Viewing Nights**

May 18, June 15, July 13, August 17, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 7
was finishing up the Herschel 1 list, but the clouds were not friendly and by 10:30 the had eroded so that all that was visible was U. Maj. & Leo and those were quite hazy. Most folks left by midnight and even waking up at 3:30 didn't see the dispersal of cloud cover. So we hardy souls talked the sun up, packed up with the morning up and hope for clearer nights in the future. I hope you folks at Sterling had clearer skies.

I did get a couple of good Ikeya-Zhang CCD shots.

http://starmon.com/ikeyazhang.html

Tom Teters

11 second exposure, Stellarvue 80mm refractor, Tom Teters

Student Telescope Network, from Brad J

I thought some of you might be interested in this article about the Student Telescope Network that appeared today on the CNN Web site:


Bob Stencel and Software Bisque figure prominently in the story.

Comet Ikeya-Zhang, April 13, 2002.  3° x 5°
Dan Laszlo, f/1.5 8” Schmidt Camera, 5 min, ISO 100
Kodak Elitechrome slide scan by Gerry Reynolds
More comet images:  http://encke.jpl.nasa.gov/

A short write up of the events at North Sterling Reservoir this past weekend... from Dave D

Saturday nights public star party was a huge success, unfortunately for the large group of astronomers who attended it was also the only good observing time either night. Fri. evening started out promising as the _very_ steady conditions were providing great views of Jupiter and Saturn. By 9:00 p.m. a light layer of haze blanketed the sky stopping all observing. Acquaintances were renewed as most waited for the skies to break. As I headed in at midnight the field was quiet, though reports had it clearing around 3:00 am. Saturday morning provided some of the best conditions for Solar observing I have had in quite a while. Add to that some great Sunspot groups and the large number of Prominences around the limb most of the
day was spent at the eyepiece. By late in the afternoon it was obvious that there would be enough telescopes on hand to support the expected 100+ public crowd that evening. The skies stays clear for the duration of the public event and as if on cue rolled in around 11:30 as the last guests were heading home. Sunday morning everyone seemed to be leisurely packing up for the trip home. Randy C. took some good natured ribbing for the conditions (first light for the 32") I did get to talk to Bob Lomis the Park Ranger before leaving. If you don't hear it directly he really appreciates the time and effort everyone puts in to making this event happen. I did say my only complaint besides the clouds was the vehicle traffic thru the field during the public party. He will solve that problem for next year. As before there are pics at ... http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DarkSkyMarines/ look in the "photos" section in the folder marked "Sterling 4-02". This is the last warm weather party for the Marines till this fall as we head up to Wyoming next month for the 4th annual "May Frolic in Fox Park". For those of you who crave truly dark skies and don't mind a little cold I'll see ya there! DD

NASA Art Train Visits Greeley, from Andy Goris

NCASTROFOLK,

I checked out the Nasa Art Train in Greeley today, and definitely recommend it for anyone looking for something to do Sunday afternoon. This is a traveling art show, housed in 4 specially outfitted train cars, which travels across the country bringing art that would otherwise only be available in places like the Smithsonian, Kennedy Space Center, etc. This show is dedicated to space art, and includes sketches, oils, watercolors, fiber art, and other media. There's about 75 pieces in all. There are originals by Andy Warhol, Peter Max, and Norman Rockwell, although I thought the best pieces were from other artists. Several paintings far surpass anything you could ever capture with a photo - those were the gems for me. Many bring back the excitement of the space program of the 60s. Definitely read the captions that go with the pictures! It takes about 30 minutes, and is free. When I called Friday, they said if you didn't get a pre-event ticket, to just show up any time. (The purpose for the tickets was to spread the visitors out evenly over the weekend). They recommended 3:30 on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, as they thought the crowds would be less at these times.

My 10-year old daughter wanted to study each painting, and read every caption and description in the entire train. It took us over an hour and a half to get through, but I didn't rush her - I let her take it all in. She loves space (got that from me) and she loves art (got that from her mother), so this was heaven for her. My other daughter went kicking and screaming, but after about halfway through the first car, she got into it, and at the end thanked me for taking her. We drove over an hour to get there, and an hour to get home. I'd be interested in anyone else's opinions that saw the exhibit.

-Andy Goris

H-alpha Solar Images by Steve Lynch

There was a huge bridge type prom on the limb today. Stayed there for hours. Took a picture and posted it at http://photos.groups.yahoo.com/group/DarkSkyMarines/lst

Later, Solarmon

Images Collected by Dave Larison

Steve,

I have resurrected my old FRAC Images webpage as http://hometown.aol.com/ddlar/astro-images.html

I thought it would be good have a page where the best recent photos of local astrophotographers could be displayed together.

Regards,
Dave L.

Sky Images Wanted for Online Magazine

The new www.coloradomagazineonline.com is interested in publishing amateur star pics in an ongoing column, "What's New In The Universe." Contact me if you are interested in submitting pics - with brief descriptive captions that describe the shot and telescopes used.

Mel Fenson, Editor   tiger@indra.com

From: Dan Laszlo
2001 S Shields St  Building H
Fort Collins  CO  80526

TO:
### International Space Station Passes for Fort Collins/Loveland May 2002

Some low, faint passes are not shown. See www.heavens-above.com for more.

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