

FEBRUARY
2006

New moon: 27th;
Full moon: 12th

NIGHTFALL

Huachuca Astronomy Club of Southeastern Arizona



HAC Welcomes the following new members: Barry Nelson (Sierra Vista), Tony & Debbie Selover (Sierra Vista), Dean Salman (Tucson), and Paul & Dorothy Dybvig (Huachuca City). We are star-struck to have you all as members!

>> **HAC MEETING: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006** <<

7 pm, Cochise College, Sierra Vista, Rm. 305

Guest Speaker: Mr. Hal Povenmire

Topic: Meteorites, Tektites, and Lunar Grazing Occultations

PLUS: Show-n-Tell, Night Sky Network, Door Prize, Latest Astro-News

TEN OF THE FINEST WINTER NGC OBJECTS

If you have been observing just the winter Messier objects such as M1, the Crab, or M42, the Orion Nebula, it's time to take a look at some equivalent celestial objects that Charles missed putting in his catalog. These ten objects are all in the NGC (New General Catalog) compiled by J. L. E. Dreyer in 1887. Of course, we all know that this catalog consists of 7,840 celestial objects, and selecting ten that are visible mainly in the Winter skies, and which are not Messier objects is rather easy. But the objects themselves are not so challenging with a good telescope under relatively dark skies and they rival many of the 'M' items in the 'WOW' factor. Print out this list and view them before the season ends! (NSOG = Night Sky Observer's Guide); PA (Position Angle) degrees measured CCW from north.

NGC 1514, Planetary Nebula, Tau, Mag. 10.9, Size about 2 arcminutes, RA 4h 09m, Dec. +30d 47m, mag. 9.4 central star, located about 8 degrees NNE (PA 34.7) from the Pleiades. NSOG V1, pg. 381

NGC 1931, Emission/Ref. Nebula, Aur, nebulosity surrounding 4 close stars, Size 4' x 4', RA 5h 31.4m, Dec. +34d 15m, located 1 degree W (PA 275) from open cluster M36. NSOG V1, pg. 59

NGC 1788, Reflection Nebula, Ori, fairly bright but diffused, Size 5' x 3' (arcminutes), RA 5h 06.9m, Dec. -03d 21m, located 5.2 degrees NNW (PA 338) from Rigel, NSOG V1, pg. 264

NGC 2371 / 2372, Planetary Nebula, Gem, faintish and double-lobed, Mag. 11.3, Size 55" (arcseconds), RA 7h 25.6m, Dec. +29d 29m, use O-III filter, located 3.1 degrees SW (PA 220) of Castor, NSOG V1, pg. 212

NGC 2392, Planetary Nebula, Gem, Clown Face / Eskimo Nebula, Mag. 9.2, Size >15", RA 7h 29.2m, Dec. +20d 55m, located 8 degrees SSW (PA 208) from Pollux, NSOG V1, pg. 214

NGC 2237+, Emission Nebula, Mon, Rosette Nebula, very large, use filter, Size 80' x 60', RA 6h 32.3m, Dec. +5d 03m, located 9.4 degrees E (PA 104) from Betelgeuse. NSOG V1, pg. 243

NGC 2261, Emission/Ref. Nebula, Mon, Hubble's Variable Nebula, comet shaped, Mag. Variable, Size 3.5' x 1.5', RA 6h 39.2m, Dec. +8d 44m, located 11 degrees E (PA 82) from Betelgeuse. NSOG V1, pg. 247

NGC 2359, Emission Nebula, CMa, Duck Nebula / Thor's Helmet / Gum 4, bright and rather large, Size 9' x 6', RA 7h 18.6m, Dec. -13d 12m, located 8.8 degrees ENE (PA 67) from Sirius. NSOG V1, pg. 96

NGC 2403, Spiral Galaxy, Cam, lovely galaxy with bright core, Mag. 8.5 with low surface brightness, Size 26' x 13', RA 7h 36.9m, Dec. +65d 36m, located 27.2 degrees NNE (PA 31) from Capella. NSOG V1, pg. 73

NGC 2655, Galaxy, Cam, face-on spiral, Mag. 10.1, Size 6.0' x 5.3', RA 8h 55.6m, Dec. +78d 13m. NSOG V1, pg. 74

Star Party Corner—Keith Mullen, Star Party Coordinator (520)366-0049; repogazer@outb.com

"More party-less tardy" ("More Stars –Less TV") seems to have gotten off to a good start in January with the inaugural Full Moon Telescope Workshop held at Desert Coyote Observatory, Thanks Gary, everyone left having learned something new about telescope collimation. Dave Healy hosted the Public star party at JBO on the 20th, we had another good member participation night, 7 scopes showed, something is happening within the HAC ranks.

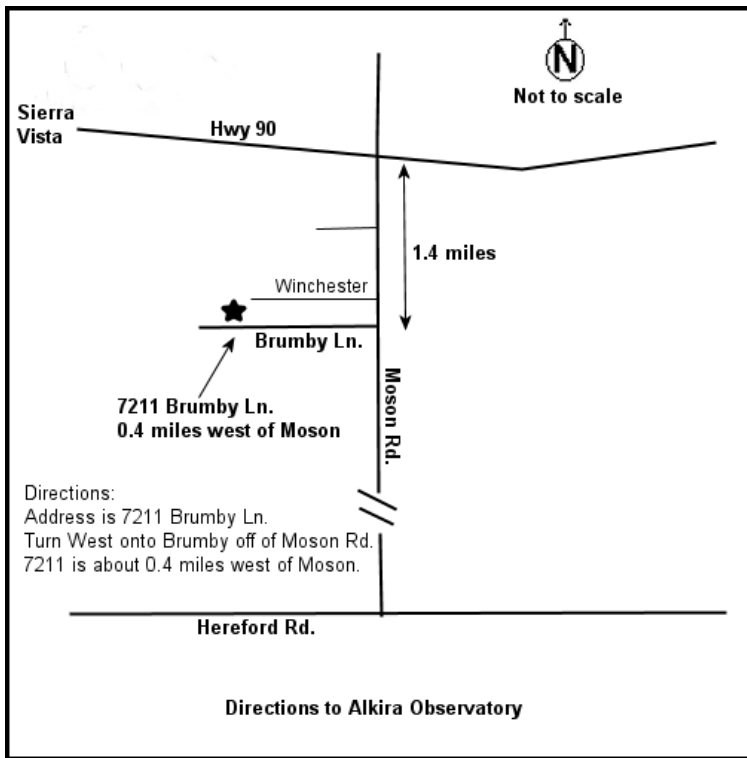
January's Member Star Party landed us at Glen and Deanna Sanner's Discovery Observatory West where 29 members and guests were treated to Saturn approaching the Beehive Cluster (M-44). Neal Galt brought out the 4 1/2" Astroblaster and his grandson, Zachary Daschke age 5, for his First Light, a look at Sirius and then Saturn and the Orion Nebula, quite an experience for both of them. Only thing that caused me some concern was a lack of scopes, Bob Kepple had his 16" Dob and Eric Sundius brought out the 8" GPS while I had the Stellarvue 80 fired up; WE simply need to see more Member participation especially in the telescope dept! Oh Yea, as usual, the Sanner chili was great.

February's Star Party Schedule:

Saturday, February 18th: Public Star Party at Dave Healy's JBO, come out and please bring a scope.

Friday, February 24th: Members Star Party will be our first visit and "First Light" to Hans Clahsen's newly finished Alkira Observatory, refreshments and munchies will be available along with a warm house for all you club wives. Let's make Hans's First Light a memorable one, get out there and bring a scope. See the Map right below for directions.

There is no Full moon Telescope workshop scheduled this month. If you would like to host one, please give Keith a call 366-0049 to see what's available. The next one is planned for Saturday, March 18 at Bob Kepple's DSO.



HELP us with youth group science camp viewing on Feb. 22nd (Wed.) and March 1 (Wed.). From 7 pm to 8 pm. Huachuca Oaks Camp Ground in Hereford. Contact Jeanne at 366- 5690. HAC Notes...if you're interested in a stylish HAC sweat-shirt or T- shirt, contact Doug Snyder! He has a few sizes left and wants to order some more. Its time to renew memberships if you haven't done so— Contact Treasurer Tim!...

Huachuca Astronomy Club
P.O. Box 922
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636
<http://c3po.cochise.edu/astro> email hac@palominas.com
Yearly Membership: Individual: \$25; Family: \$35; Military: \$20; student:\$10 (with conditions)
President: Doug Snyder (520) 366-5788 (starhaven@palominas.com); Vice President: Wayne Johnson; Treasurer: Tim Doyle 378-5121;
Secretary: Jeanne Herbert; Star Party Coordinator: Keith Mullen 366-0049;
Public Events Coordinator: Jeanne Herbert(jeanne_hrbt@yahoo.com) 366-5690 (early evenings)