

2008 Observing:

Ft Collins local time: MST=UTC-7hr *MDT=UTC-6hr*

New Moon and Planet Info (<15° from Sun)

New Moon Date	Sun Set Rise	Venus Dia Mag	Mars Set Rise Dia Mag	Jupiter Set Rise Dia Mag	Saturn Set Rise Dia Mag
Jan 8	1649 0724	R-0436 14" -3.9	S-0631 15" -1.3	R-0636 32" -1.8	R-2100 19" +0.5
Feb 6	1724 0704	R-0525 12" -3.7	S-0410 11" -0.4	R-0502 33" -1.8	R-1848 20" +0.3
Mar 7	1759 0622	R-0530 11" -3.7	S-0241 9" +0.4	R-0326 35" -2.0	S-0604 20" +0.3
Apr 5	1930 0635	R-0605 10" -3.6	S-0234 7" +0.9	R-0246 38" -2.2	S-0505 19" +0.5
May 5	2000 0554	R-0535 10" -3.7	S-0128 6" +1.3	R-0054 42" -2.4	S-0305 18" +0.6
Jun 3	2027 0530	R-0528 10" -3.8	S-0022 5" +1.5	R-2257 45" -2.6	S-0113 18" +0.7
Jul 2	2035 0535	S-2101 10" -3.8	S-2312 4" +1.7	R-2052 47" -2.7	S-2324 17" +0.8
Aug 1	2016 0558	S-2100 10" -3.7	S-2156 4" +1.7	S-0355 47" -2.7	S-2134 16" +0.8
Aug 30	1935 0627	S-2029 11" -3.6	S-2041 4" +1.7	S-0148 43" -2.5	S-1945 16" +0.8
Sep 29	1847 0655	S-1955 12" -3.6	S-1931 4" +1.6	S-2357 40" -2.3	R-0504 17" +0.9
Oct 28	1801 0728	S-1945 14" -3.7	S-1829 4" +1.5	S-2218 37" -2.1	R-0323 17" +1.1
Nov 27	1635 0701	S-1921 16" -3.9	S-1638 4" +1.4	S-1945 34" -2.0	R-0037 17" +1.1
Dec 27	1640 0723	S-2022 21" -4.2	R-0702 4" +1.3	S-1819 33" -1.9	R-2243 18" +1.0

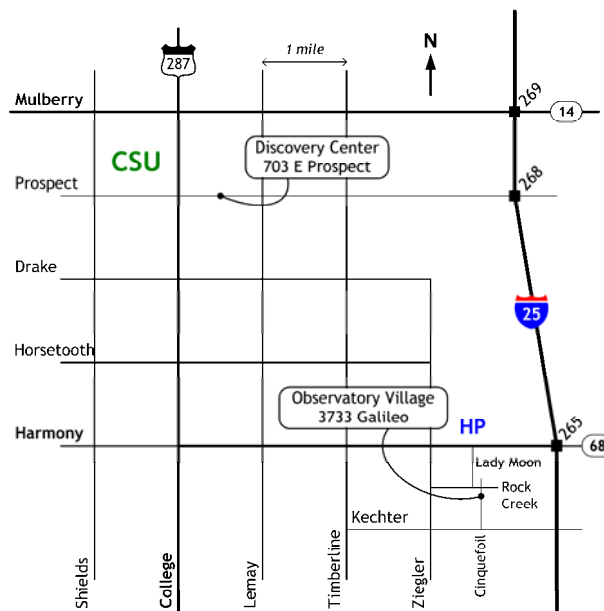
Meteor Showers

Name	Peak	±Days	Moon at Peak	#/hr
Quadrantids	Jan 4	-3,+1	New-4, R-0421	120
Lyrids	Apr 22	-6,+3	Full+2, R-2235	18
Perseids	Aug 12	-26,+12	Full-4, S-0140	100
Draconids	Oct 8	±2	1Q+1, S-0119	var
Orionids	Oct 21	-19,+17	LQ, R-2337	30
Leonids	Nov 17	-7,+6	LQ-2, R-2126	20+
Geminids	Dec 13	-6,+4	Full+1, R-1744	120

Eclipses/Transits (below horizon)

Date	Event	Start	Max	End
Feb 20	Total Lunar (R-1753)	1843	2026	2209

In-Town Locations



Discovery Center Science Museum:

- Follow map above to the Discovery Center, on the south side of Prospect. The NCAS meetings are held in the classroom on the northeast corner of the west wing of the building. Public skygazing sessions are held in the parking lot on the south side of the building.
- For 2008, public skygazing is scheduled for:

Jan 12, 5:15p	Sep 5, 7:30p
Feb 20, 6:30p	Oct 10, 7:00p
Mar 14, 7:30p	Nov 7, 6:30p
Apr 11, 8:00p	*Dec 5, 6:30p
May 9, 8:15p	* = tentative

Observatory Village:

- Follow map above to the observatory, on the southwest corner of Cinquefoil and Galileo. The observatory houses a Celestron 14" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope, operated by the astronomy staff at Front Range Community College. Club members set up in the parking lot and/or pool area on the west side of the building.

Northern Colorado Astronomical Society

The purpose of our organization is to encourage the understanding & interest in the science & hobby of astronomy. We meet the first Thursday of each month & discuss our interests & share our experience in the universal world of astronomy.



<http://www.ncastro.org>

Membership Info

Meetings:

Club meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at the Discovery Center in Fort Collins. Any club business is discussed starting at 7:15p, followed by a presentation at 7:30. Talks are given by club members or experts from the northern Colorado region, and typically finish by ~8:45p. Talks are free to the public.

Interested people are invited to dinner with the speaker at 6:00p - usually at Johnny Carino's in Ft Collins. RSVP to an officer for details.

Dues:

\$15 annual dues are payable in January.

Subscriptions:

Members receive a subscription to the *Reflector*, the quarterly newsletter of the Astronomical League. Discounts of ~\$10 on subscriptions to *Sky and Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazines (currently \$32.95 and \$34, respectively) are available if ordered through NCAS.

Club Equipment:

NCAS has a variety of equipment (telescopes, binoculars) and library materials available for loan to members in good standing. Contact an officer for further information.

Email/Webspace:

Members are provided an email address. Email account storage and server space for a personal webpage is available upon request. Members and interested parties are included on the email list "club-news"; see the website for details. Everyone is advised to join the FRAC list - see <http://www.ncastro.org/frac.html>

Current Officers:

Position	Name	@ncastro.org
President	Nate Perkins	pres@
Vice President	Greg Halac	vp@
Secretary	Dave Chamness	sec@
Treasurer	Bob Michael	treas@
Newsletter	Dan Laszlo	objview@
Webmasters	Halac+Perkins	webmaster@

Main Dark Sky Observing Sites:

"Roland's Astro Corral" (Pawnee National Grasslands):

- Take CO-14 east from I-25 32.5mi to Weld Co Rd 69 (at mile marker 172). Turn north and follow dirt road 3mi. Turn east on Weld Co Rd96; drive 0.7mi to "corral" on north side of road. This PRIVATE PROPERTY site is made available to Northern Colorado astronomers through the generosity of Roland and Leonard Ball.



- For 2008, "New Moon Fridays" are:
Jan 4, 11 May 2 Aug 1 Oct 31
Feb 8 May 30 Aug 29 Nov 28
Mar 7 Jul 4 Sep 26 Dec 26
Apr 4

Beaver Meadows (Rocky Mtn Nat'l Park):

- Enter RMNP at main entrance on US-36. At first hairpin curve which turns back east (~0.6mi from entrance), take the dirt road to the west towards the Upper Beaver Meadows trailhead. Take the road to the end (~2mi).



- For 2008, public viewing session dates are:
June 13, 27
July 11, 25
August 8, 22

Other Dark Sky Observing Sites:

Crow Valley Campground (Briggsdale):

- More developed alternative to Pawnee when officially "closed" for the winter - the ranger has opened it for astronomers. Campfires and headlights can be a problem from ~Mar to ~Nov.
- Take CO-14 east from I-25 37mi to Briggsdale. Turn N and go 0.3mi to campground entrance on left. Set up at end of road.



Foxpark, WY (Medicine Bow Nat'l Forest):

- Site of annual *Weekend Under the Stars* (Jul 31 - Aug 2, 2008). Great skies at 9100', but snow/cold make it readily accessible only ~Jun to ~Sep
- From Laramie, take WY-230 ~35mi west (9 mi past Woods Landing) to Forest Svc Rd 512. Turn N and follow dirt road 2mi to Foxpark. At town gate, turn W and go ~0.4mi to open field thru trees on right.

