

2009 Observing:

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

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

New Moon Date	Sun	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
	Set Rise	Set Rise Dia Mag	Set Rise Dia Mag	Set Rise Dia Mag	Set Rise Dia Mag
Jan 26	1711 0714	S-2107 28" -4.5	R-0635 4" +1.3	R-0712 32" -1.9	R-2042 19" +0.8
Feb 24	1746 0640	S-2100 42" -4.6	R-0553 4" +1.2	R-0539 33" -1.9	R-1839 20" +0.6
Mar 26	1919 0652	S-1936 59" -4.0	R-0557 4" +1.2	R-0500 35" -2.0	S-0623 20" +0.6
Apr 24	1949 0607	R-0433 43" -4.5	R-0455 4" +1.2	R-0316 37" -2.2	S-0425 19" +0.7
May 24	2019 0535	R-0338 27" -4.4	R-0350 5" +1.2	R-0127 41" -2.4	S-0226 18" +0.9
Jun 22	2035 0530	R-0301 20" -4.2	R-0250 5" +1.1	R-2335 45" -2.6	S-0034 17" +1.0
Jul 21	2025 0548	R-0251 16" -4.0	R-0200 5" +1.1	R-2137 48" -2.8	S-2245 17" +1.1
Aug 20	1950 0617	R-0321 13" -4.0	R-0118 6" +1.0	S-0544 49" -2.9	S-2054 16" +1.1
Sep 18	1904 0645	R-0420 12" -3.9	R-0043 6" +0.9	S-0334 47" -2.7	R-0639 16" +1.1
Oct 17	1817 0715	R-0526 11" -3.9	R-0005 7" +0.6	S-0136 43" -2.5	R-0502 16" +1.1
Nov 16	1642 0650	R-0537 10" -3.9	R-2210 9" +0.2	S-2248 39" -2.3	R-0217 17" +1.0
Dec 16	1635 0718	R-0649 10" -3.9	R-2041 11" -0.4	S-2112 36" -2.2	R-0029 17" +1.0

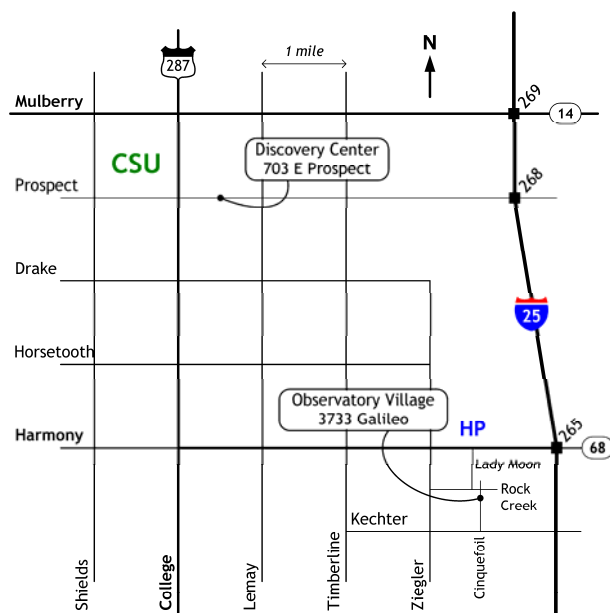
Meteor Showers

Name	Peak	±Days	Moon at Peak	#/hr
Quadrantids	Jan 3	-2,+2	1Q-1, S-0010	120
Lyrids	Apr 22	-6,+3	New-3, R-0500	18
Perseids	Aug 12	-26,+12	LQ-1, R-2255	100
Draconids	Oct 8	-2,+2	Full+4, R-2113	var
Orionids	Oct 21	-19,+17	New+3, S-2014	30
Leonids	Nov 17	-7,+6	New+1, S-1706	100+
Geminids	Dec 14	-7,+3	New-2, R-0646	120

Eclipses/Transits (below horizon)

Date	Event	Start	Max	End
	None noteworthy			

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 2009, public skygazing is scheduled for:

Jan 9, 6:30p	*Sep 25, 8:00p
Jan 30, 6:30p	*Oct 23, 7:00p
Mar 6, 6:30p	*Nov 27, 6:30p
Apr 3, 7:30p	
May 1, 8:00p	* = 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; they are free and open to the public.

Interested people are invited to attend a dinner with the speaker at 6:00p - usually at Carinos in Fort Collins. RSVP to an officer for specifics.

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 encouraged to join the FRAC list - see <http://www.ncastro.org/frac.html>

Current Officers:

Position	Name	@ncastro.org
President	Bob Michael	pres@
Vice President	Dan Laszlo	vp@
Secretary	Chad Moore	sec@
Treasurer	Jon Caldwell	treas@
Newsletter	Dan Laszlo	objview@
Webmasters	Greg Halac	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 2009, "New Moon Fridays" are:
Jan-23 Apr-24 Jul-24 Oct-16
Feb-20 May-22 Aug-21 Nov-13
Mar-27 Jun-19 Sep-18 Dec-18

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).



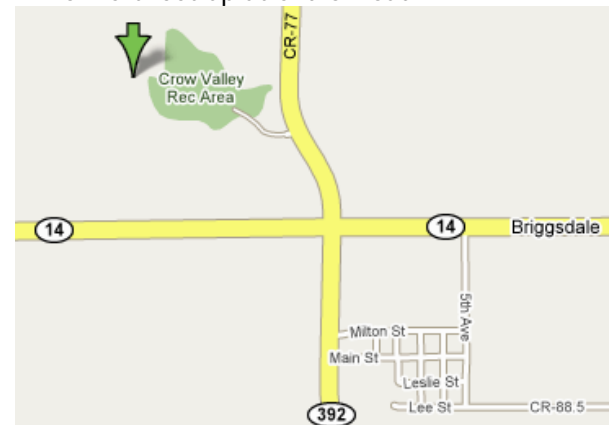
- For 2009, public viewing session dates are:
*June 12, 19, 26
*July 17, 24
*August 14, 21, 28
* = tentative

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.

