



Denver Astronomical Society

**PRESS RELEASE**

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[www.denverastro.org](http://www.denverastro.org)

**Contact Information:**

**Denver Astronomical Society:**

Rod Pinkney: 303-467-9093

Wayne Green: [dxwayne@gmail.com](mailto:dxwayne@gmail.com)

**University of Denver:**

Dr. Robert Stencel, 303-871-2135

## **Space Companies Join 2008 Celebration of Colorado Astronomy Day and 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Telescope**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Colorado Astronomy Day, Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, promises to provide fun and educational activities for the entire family. The event is co-sponsored by the Denver Astronomical Society (DAS), the University of Denver's historic Chamberlin Observatory, and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. For the first time, aerospace companies Ball Aerospace, and Lockheed-Martin will join the celebration, exhibiting projects that will update the Hubble Space Telescope and carry humans back to the moon.

Daytime activities will begin at the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science**, where visitors can take in a presentation by astronaut Bruce McCandless on the Manned Maneuvering Unit (MMU) being developed by Lockheed-Martin; help make a model of Ball Aerospace's new camera for the venerable Hubble Space Telescope; watch an explorer walk on the surface of Mars; and participate in exciting, educational activities at Space Odyssey. In recognition of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of the telescope, DAS and DU volunteers will help visitors learn how telescopes work and how to select the best telescope for various types of observing. On the West Patio, visitors can view the Sun from 11 am to 3 pm through safely filtered telescopes operated by DAS members.

Speakers at the DMNS will provide exciting multimedia shows and informative lectures on astronomical research.

At **S&S Optika 6579 S. Broadway in Littleton (303-789-1089)**, telescope optics expert and noted astronomer Jack Eastman will discuss the 400-year evolution of the telescope and demonstrate a replica of Johannes Kepler's 1613 refractor.

Activities outside Denver include a full day and evening of observing at the **Brighton City Park (22<sup>nd</sup> & Bromley Lane, Brighton, Colorado, 303-655-7996)**, conducted by the Brighton Astronomy Group.

Beginning at 6 p.m., join us at the recently renovated **Chamberlin Observatory, 2930 E. Warren Ave., Denver (303-871-5172)**, for viewing of the crescent moon, Jupiter and its 4 Galilean moons, and favorite deep sky objects such as star clusters and nebulae through the 114 year-old, 26-foot long Clark/Saegmuller refractor, one of the few large telescopes of its type. We will also have over 30 amateur telescopes of various sizes and types for viewing in Observatory Park, along with astronomy-related activities and displays of meteorites. DAS members will show deep space images they have produced. Viewing with the Clark/Saegmuller telescope is \$1.00 per person. All other activities at Chamberlin are free. There is no need for reservations.

The Denver Astronomical Society is a group of amateur and professional astronomers that share a mutual interest in the heavens and provide public outreach activities in the Denver metro area, including support for public nights and open houses at DU's historic Chamberlin Observatory since 1949. The society's Web site is [www.denverastro.org](http://www.denverastro.org).

**For additional information and a detailed, up-to-date schedule of events taking place on Colorado Astronomy Day, please visit the event Web site at [www.coloradoastronomyday.org](http://www.coloradoastronomyday.org).**

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