



# Snake River Skies

February 2005

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**Change in Plans. Please plan to meet at the Herrett Center this Saturday at 7:00 pm at the Library to discuss SHARE**

### Club Officers

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Yearly membership is \$20 per person or family and \$10 per student. Sponsor memberships are \$100.

We had planned this month to take a field trip month to the Bruneau Sand Dunes, but uncertain weather and a pressing matter regarding the SHARE system have influenced us to make a change in plans.

As you may recall from the last newsletter SHARE stands for System for Handicap Accessibility, Recreation, and Education. We can get this system from the North shore Astronomical

Society. The only minor problem is that they are located in Boston Massachusetts. The lowest estimated for the shipping we have received so far is \$1,400.00. The opportunity to receive this equipment is limited and we need to discuss ways to raise funds for the shipping.

Please come with your ideas and we will discuss the matter. Also Paul Verhage will be coming down to discuss a future balloon launch.



We need to update our records  
Please fill in and bring or send the following form  
to us

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Electronic Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Magazine subscription discounts are available for members for  
Sky & Telescope and Astronomy Magazine do you wish to sub-  
scribe? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level: single or family \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

student \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Questionnaire: Do you own a telescope? \_\_\_\_\_

What programs would you like to see at our meetings?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to help with school sky viewing events? \_\_\_\_\_

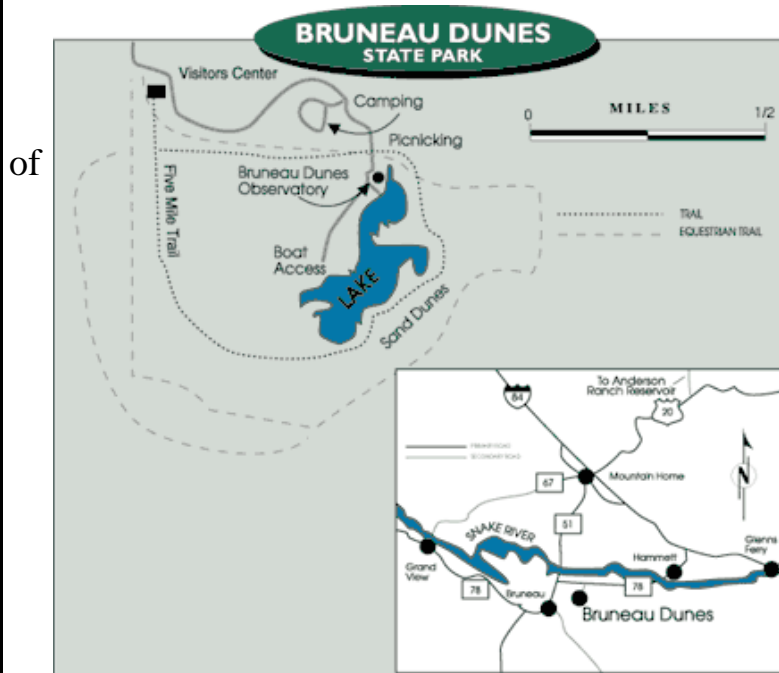
Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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# Coming Events

For those of you who had already made plans to visit Bruneau here is a map. Information can be found at [www.idahoparks.org/parks/bruneaudunes.html](http://www.idahoparks.org/parks/bruneaudunes.html). This is certainly a worth-

while place to visit and there evening programs are well worth seeing. Programs are held at the auditorium by the observatory and will be run irregardless the weather. If there are clear skies be sure to check out the "Big Eyes." A Battleship Binocular with 120 mm objectives. The 24" Dobsonian brings in some very impressive views and a number of volunteers are on hand to show views from a number of the observatories telescopes.

Plan to make a visit there at least once this season.



of June is the month of the first Craters of the Moon Star Party. It will be held Friday night June 10 and Saturday night June 11. This is the same weekend as our scheduled June Meeting so we will probably have it at Craters. This is always a fun event at a very picturesque site.



Viewers at a previous Craters event

## What is up in the Sky for May 2005

The Twins Castor and Pollux still show up high in the Western sky shortly after sun down. This may be your last chance to see Saturn for a few months as it makes its way behind the sun for most of the summer. Faint Cancer with the impressive beehive cluster sits between the Twins and mighty Leo. Most impressive this month is Virgo with the Giant Planet Jupiter shining like a jewel in her necklace.

Venus will be starting to make its next move as the evening star in the west right about twilight. In the morning sky Mars is losing its race with us around the sun. It will make a

noble effort to stay ahead for the next couple of months and will still be visible in the morning sky. It is currently in Aquarius, the water bearer, maybe the reason for the incredible rain we have been having recently.

This is a good time of year to observe the night sky especially after storm fronts have cleared the air. When things do dry out we will have to contend with some dirt from the fields that are being worked, but the wet spring should keep the fire danger down this year.