



Snake River Skies

February 2005

Volume 6 Issue 2

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

Deep Impact a Tremendous Success at the Herrett Center

Sunday night July 3 and the early hours of July 4, 2005 mark another historic event from the innovative staff at the Herrett Center. Chris Anderson gave an excellent program describing NASA's Deep Impact project. Phil Hafer than did a presentation including video clips from NASA. The real fun began however in the Faulkner Planetarium. I live video

feed from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California showed the excited anticipation of the of the Deep impact Probe as it crashed into comet Temple 1. The raw images from the impactor and parent spacecraft were indeed impressive. The JPL narrator exclaimed "Imagine we are being paid to have this much fun." Some 80 people witnessed the even

from our own Twin Falls facility. That is pretty amazing since this was a holiday weekend and was at a time most people turn in for bed.

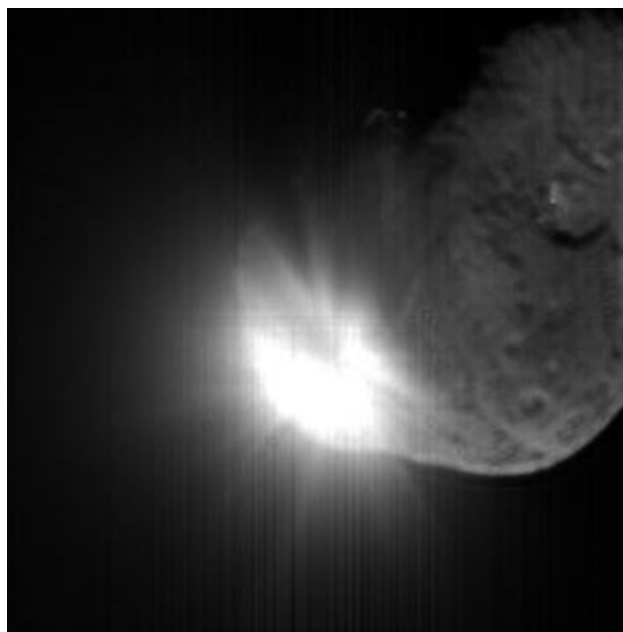
Congratulations to Herrett Center Administrator Jim Woods, and Chris Anderson for organizing this event. Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped.

This month's meeting at the Rick Allen Room Herrett Center will feature Rick Widmer who will give us a run-down on the SHARE system. Meeting starts at 7:00 PM this Saturday July 9, 2005. Also we will make arrangements for August's meeting and the August balloon launch. Weather and smoke permitting (this is the range/forest fire season) public viewing will follow.

Astronomy Picture of the Day

Discover the cosmos! Each day a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe is featured, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer.

2005 July 5



Thirteen Seconds After Impact

Credit: Univ. Maryland, JPL-Caltech, NASA

Explanation: Fireworks came early on July 4th when, at 1:52am EDT, the Deep Impact spacecraft's probe smashed into the surface of Comet Tempel 1's nucleus at ten kilometers per *second*. The well-targeted impactor probe was vaporized as it blasted out an expanding cloud of material, seen here 13 seconds after the collision. The image is part of a stunning series of frames documenting the event from the high resolution camera onboard the flyby spacecraft. Tempel 1's potato-shaped nucleus is approximately 5 kilometers across as seen from this perspective. Cameras onboard the impactor probe were also able to image the nucleus and impact site up-close ... until about 3 seconds before the impact. Of course, telescopes nearer to planet Earth followed the event, detecting a significant brightening of comet Tempel 1.

From one of my favorite links: <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod>

We now have the SHARE system thanks to the brave exploit of Terry Woford and a group of generous donors

Learn what the system consists of and how we will be able to utilize it in our future public events. This Saturday July 9th at 7:00 pm Rick Allen room.



Stay tuned for the Great Debate on Astrology. Is it science or psuedoscience? Is it worthy of study or a complete waste of resources. Chris Anderson is the skeptic, but Tom Gilbertson sees some merit in this ancient practice. Be sure to make our August 13, 2005 meeting and find out for yourself. Sky charts predict this will be an informative and fun event.

There will be a balloon launch earlier the same day from Paul Verhage's group of balloon launchers and trackers.

What is up in the Sky for July 2005

I hope you were able to see the Mercury/Venus/Saturn evening planet dance last month. Mercury will start to fade fast as it speeds around the sun. Venus will continue to show off in the early evening western sky. Oddly enough it will get brighter as its phase wanes. Be sure to view its phases thru your telescope.

Jupiter is still shining brightly and makes an excellent telescope target for barbeques and picnics that last into twilight.

Unfortunately the nights are short, but fortunately the weather is very pleasant for nighttime viewing this time of year. The jewels of Scorpius, globular cluster M4 and open clus-

ters M6 and M7. and Sagittarius (too many to name) are a real treat this time of year. The mysterious looking ring nebula is located in Lyra also home of summer triangle star Vega. The other summer triangle stars Deneb in Cygnus and Altair in Aquila give beginning star gazers some very good reference points for this part of the sky.

Mars is really shining in the morning sky and this month will start to be a good telescope target.

Take advantage of the clear skies this time of year and hope the fire season does not get out of hand and smoke things up for sky viewing.