

# Martian Chronicles

Volume 25 Issue 2

February 2007

## Attention!

Next M.A.R.S. Club meeting  
February 8 at 7:30 PM.

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**\*\*Your Article, Story, . . . could be here. This Newsletter is for all M.A.R.S. Club members. Please send your Newsletter contribution to [newsletter@marsastro.org](mailto:newsletter@marsastro.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month \*\***

## Up Coming Club Events



### February 2007

8<sup>th</sup> M.A.R.S. Club meeting at 7:30 PM in the Saunders Planetarium. Astrology and Astronomy by Dick Gage.

24<sup>th</sup> SkyWatch at MOSI Sundown to 10 PM

### March 2007

3<sup>rd</sup> Lunar Eclipse  
10<sup>th</sup> Star party and club meeting at the FarrOut Observatory, and...  
11<sup>th</sup> 2 AM Time Change  
31<sup>st</sup> SkyWatch at MOSI Sundown to 10 PM



# The Scope of things

## Dennis Farr

Lots going on this time of year for our club and for astronomy.

The weather has been cooperating a lot with the cold fronts going through and leaving us with very clear skies. I hope you have had the opportunity to do some observing the last few months.

In March, the second annual M.A.R.S. starparty is scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup>. This will take the place of our regular meeting and will be held at the Farrout observatory in Dade City. There will be more information at this month's meeting and in the next newsletter. Hopefully the weather will cooperate, and we will get some good eyepiece time. There will be a potluck dinner on Saturday evening so be thinking about what you want to bring. If you want to spend the night camping, facilities are available or if not, there are motels within five miles of the property. I'm looking forward to it. I hope you are, too.

April 21 is Astronomy Day. We have space reserved at MOSI to set up displays. Our biggest task is to get the word out, so people know we are there. If you have access to any local news letters or other clubs, please either let them know, or have someone get in touch with me for more information.

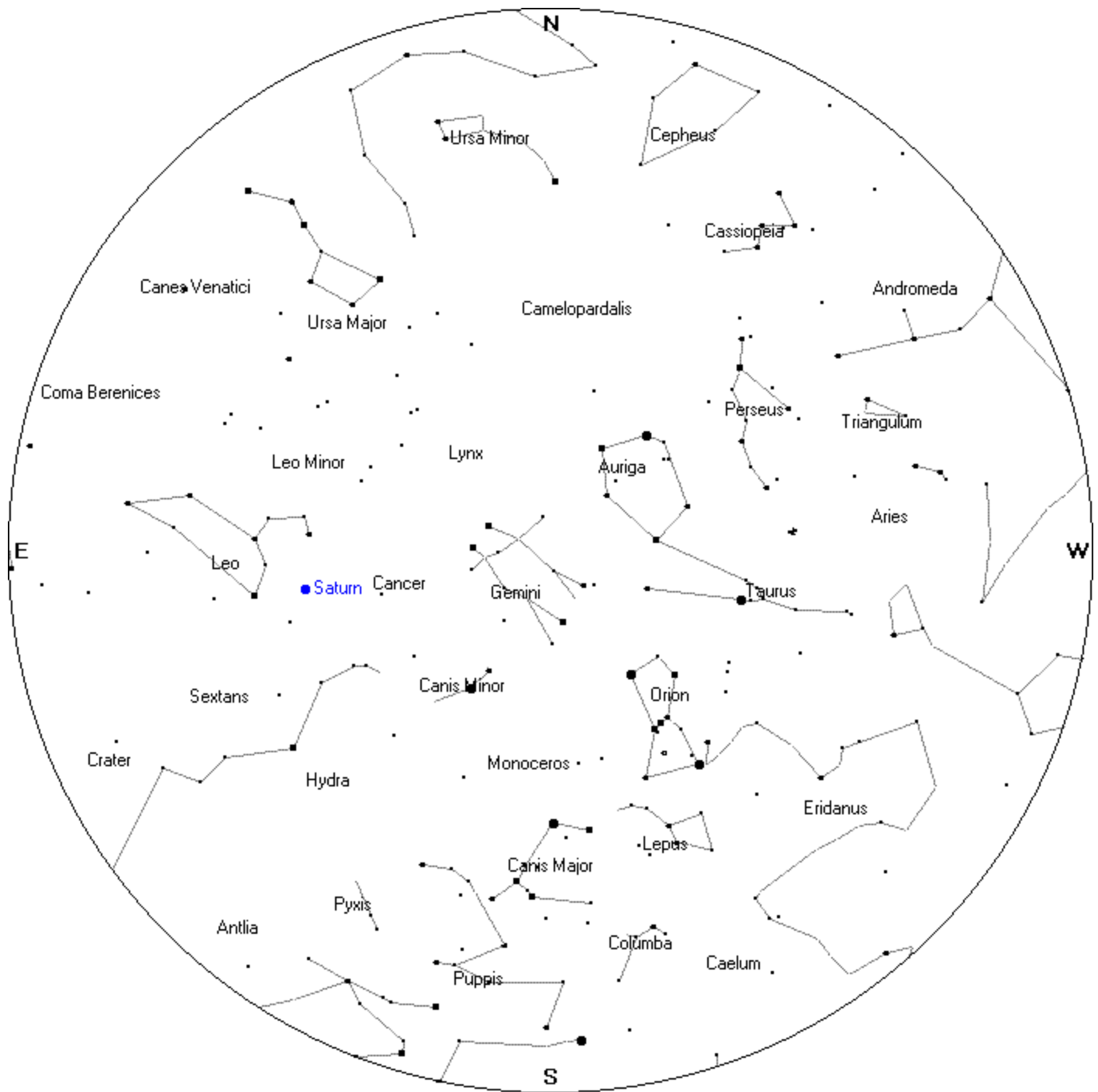
This month's presentation is on Astrology and Astronomy. Richard Gage has made arrangements with a highly experienced astrologer. Before telescopes, all astronomy was naked eye. Astrology preceded the science of Astronomy.

Remember, astronomy is looking up!

Note from the editor: Dick Gage's discussion of Astrology and Astrology will explain many concepts in Astronomy. It is not intended to debunk Astrology, but to show the contributions of Astrology to Astronomy.

If you have an article to submit, please feel free. I will find space. ☺ Make sure you send it to my home address: [newsletter@marsastro.org](mailto:newsletter@marsastro.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before it is to appear. I apologize if I missed anyone this month. Tanja.

The night sky, February 8, 2007 at 2200 in Tampa.



Courtesy of heavens-above.com

## **Minutes of January meeting:**

James Zachory officially announced that the Homeland site will not let us go there this year, without liability insurance. Due to that, the star party will be held at the FarrOut Observatory in Dade City.

Right now, the date remains the same, March 10. The moon will be in the last quarter and won't come up before about 4am. Saturn and Orion will be high in the sky at about 11pm so it should make for some good viewing.

Al Pesche said that the contract for the new planetarium should be let this week, and hopefully will be open by August.

Frances said we have \$1400 in the bank account (I think, right Frances?).

Dennis told Al that the club would donate \$250 to get our name on something in the new planetarium. He said he would see what we could have named for that.

Richard Gage asked for input from the membership on specific topics they would like answered next month when he and a guest present 'Astronomy and Astrology'.

Dennis asked the members to start thinking about Astronomy day. The date is April 21. He will be contacting Tanja and finding what MOSI is prepared to offer us for the event.

# Total Lunar Eclipse of 2007 Mar 03

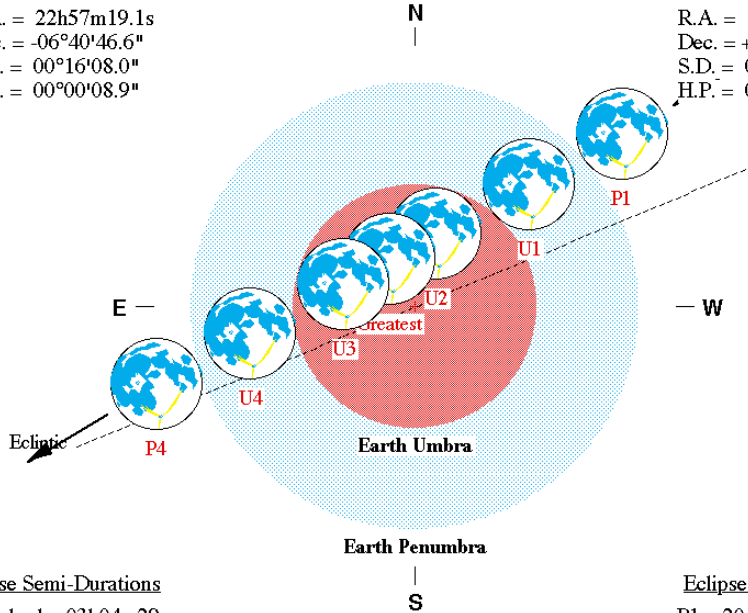
Geocentric Conjunction = 23:00:47.6 UT    J.D. = 2454163.45888  
 Greatest Eclipse = 23:20:55.8 UT    J.D. = 2454163.47287  
 Penumbral Magnitude = 2.3452    P. Radius = 1.2020°    Gamma = 0.3174  
 Umbral Magnitude = 1.2375    U. Radius = 0.6535°    Axis = 0.2883°  
 Saros Series = 123    Member = 52 of 73

**Sun at Greatest Eclipse**  
(Geocentric Coordinates)

R.A. = 22h57m19.1s  
 Dec. = -06°40'46.6"  
 S.D. = 00°16'08.0"  
 H.P. = 00°00'08.9"

**Moon at Greatest Eclipse**  
(Geocentric Coordinates)

R.A. = 10h57m52.2s  
 Dec. = +06°56'00.6"  
 S.D. = 00°14'51.3"  
 H.P. = 00°54'31.1"



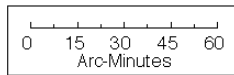
**Eclipse Semi-Durations**

Penumbral = 03h04m29s  
 Umbral = 01h50m51s  
 Total = 00h37m06s

Eph. = Newcomb/ILE  
 ΔT = 65.0 s

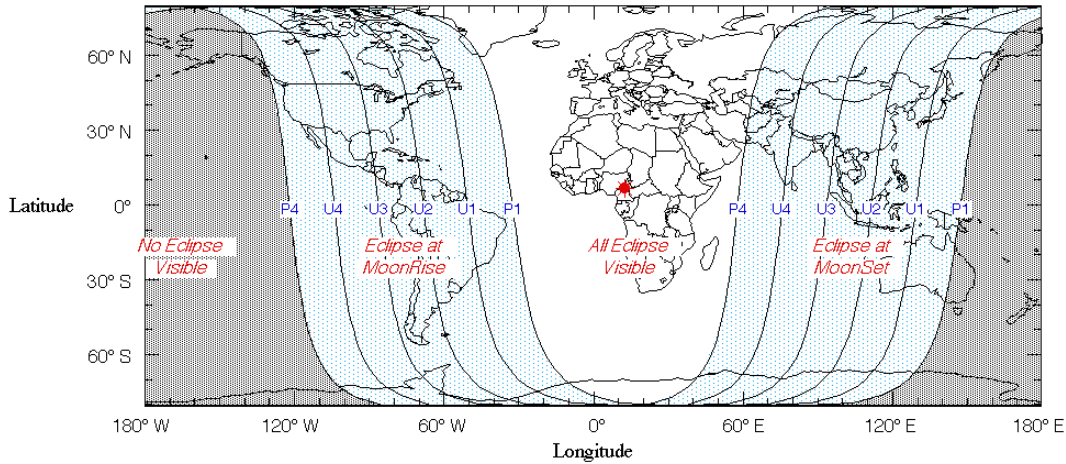
**Eclipse Contacts**

P1 = 20:16:29 UT  
 U1 = 21:30:04 UT  
 U2 = 22:43:49 UT  
 U3 = 23:58:01 UT  
 U4 = 01:11:46 UT  
 P4 = 02:25:27 UT



F. Espenak, NASA's GSFC - 2004 Jul 07

<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/eclipse.html>



## NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM ASTRONOMY RESOURCE SOCIETY ASTRONOMY CLUB

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**M.A.R.S. Club's Website**  
**[www.marsastro.org](http://www.marsastro.org)**

*Newsletter of the Museum Astronomical Resource Society  
Martian Chronicles is published monthly by the Museum  
Astronomical Resource Society (also known as M.A.R.S.  
Astronomy Club), to provide club news and other items of  
interest to its member. MARS is sponsored by MOSI Tampa  
Florida. Annual club membership dues are \$15.00 single  
and \$20.00 for families. Dues can be paid to any club officer  
at a meeting or event or mailed to the Club Membership/  
Renewal Address listed below. Newsletters are available to  
nonmembers by requesting a complimentary issue. Please  
send all inquiries, comments and newsletter contributions to  
the address below. The deadline for submitted contributions  
is the 25th of the month prior to the next issue. Contribution  
may be delayed in publication due to available space.*

*Membership/Renewal  
Make checks payable to: Frances Ferguson, (Club Treasurer)  
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