

# Martian Chronicles

Volume 24 Issue 7

July 2006

## Attention!

The next MARS club meeting will be held at MOSI in the Saunders Planetarium on July 14th from **7:00** - 9:00 PM.

**NOTE that is one half hour earlier than normal.**

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**STARCHART** (heavens-above.com) 4

**\*\*Your Article, Story, . . . could be here. This Newsletter is for all M.A.R.S. Club members. Please send your Newsletter contribution to [tanjad@mosi.org](mailto:tanjad@mosi.org) \*\***

## Up Coming Club Events

### July 2006

**14<sup>th</sup> M.A.R.S.**  
7:00 PM Club meeting.

Program: Meteoroid Library Lecture by Jimmy Thomas. Doors open at 6:30.

Open to everyone.

### August 2006

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

**11<sup>th</sup> M.A.R.S. Club Meeting.** 7:30-9:30 PM in Planetarium.



## **The Scope of Things**

**Dennis Farr**

**President M.A.R.S.**

The summer doldrums are certainly well known in this area, and we are only at the beginning of them. One thing for certain, between living in Florida, and being amateur astronomers, we get to become amateur meteorologists as well. Between watching for hurricanes and trying to catch a clear night in the summer, we learn a lot about weather. Unfortunately, knowing about it can't change it.

One positive thing about setting scheduled observation sessions is that even if the weather doesn't cooperate, those who show up still get the opportunity to spend time together. That was the case in June for the scheduled observation session that was completely clouded over. The five people who showed up sat and talked until it was obvious there was no chance of getting even the smallest peek at anything beyond our atmosphere. I enjoyed the evening and didn't even take the equipment out of the car.

This month we have a presentation by Jimmy Thomas, past president of the club, which combines his Library Outreach presentation with our club meeting. The meeting starts one half hour earlier than normal, at 7:00 pm.

Remember, astronomy is looking up.

## **Computers, the Internet and Astronomy**

One of the wildest things to come out on the Internet has been Google Earth. If you have a high bandwidth connection such as DSL, Cable Modem, or FIOS, you should have Google Earth on your PC. Simply go to [earth.google.com](http://earth.google.com) and follow the instructions.

Want to know more about a specific location? Dive right in -- Google Earth combines satellite imagery, maps and the power of Google Search to put the world's geographic information at your fingertips. Google Earth puts a planet's worth of imagery and other geographic information right on your desktop. View exotic locales like Maui and Paris as well as points of interest such as local restaurants, hospitals, schools, and more.

You can 'Fly' from space to your neighborhood. Just type in an address and zoom right in. Tilt and rotate the view to see simulated 3D terrain and buildings. You will find yourself looking up places you have heard about and will actually see them on your screen.

As an added bonus this month, somewhat off topic, but very interesting is:  
<http://www.zillow.com> Check it out; I'll let you figure out what it is.

# Astronomy and Flight-Space History July

## July 2006

- Jul 16 - Giuseppe Piazzi's 260th Birthday (1746)
- Jul 16-23 - 36TH COSPAR Scientific Assembly, Beijing, China
- Jul 17 - Metop-A Soyuz FG-Fregat Launch
- Jul 18 - 40th Anniversary (1966), Gemini 10 Launch (John Young & Michael Collins)
- Jul 19 - Edward Pickering's 160th Birthday (1846)
- Jul 20 - 30th Anniversary (1976), Viking 1, Mars Landing
- Jul 21 - 45th Anniversary (1961), Mercury 4 Launch (Gus Grissom, Liberty Bell 7)
- Jul 22-29 - International Astronomy Week, Arosa, Switzerland
- Jul 26 - 35th Anniversary (1971), Apollo 15 Launch (4th Manned Moon Landing)
- Jul 27 - George Airy's 205th Birthday (1801)
- Jul 30 - 5th Anniversary (2001), MAP, Moon Flyby

## StarHopping For Beginners: July 2006

Tanja Diederich

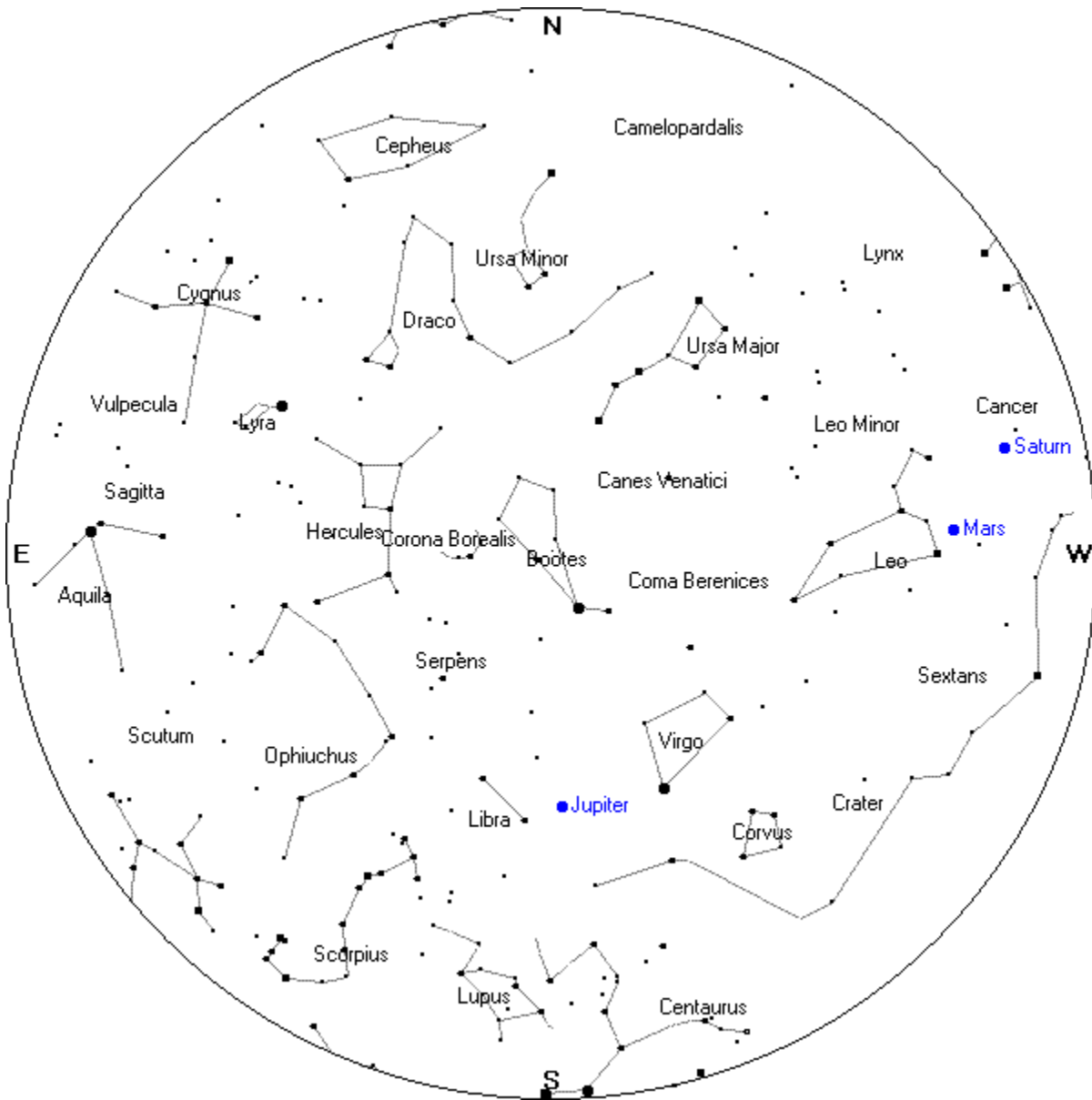
Jupiter is certainly the show for July 2006. Watch for him to blaze brightly after sundown in the south. Only the Moon outshines Jupiter before midnight. If you have a good set of binoculars, you can see three or four of Jupiter's moons, and with a small telescope look for the cloud bands. I like to slowly change my focus to watch different bands become more apparent. If you are lucky you may see changes in the Giant Red Spot.

Make sure if you find a dark sky to look for the Ring Nebula in Lyra the Harp with a telescope. It's a planetary nebula that formed when a small sun like our own star died. The globular cluster in Hercules is also worth a look.

One of my favorite star hops is starting at the handle of the Big Dipper. Use the handle to "arc" to Arcturus (the bright yellow star in Bootes), take a "hike-a" to Spica (the bright blue star in Virgo) and flow to the Crow Corvus. Look for Scorpius and Sagittarius this month as well as the Summer Triangle formed by the brightest stars in Lyra, Aquila, and Cygnus (Vega, Altair and Deneb respectively.)

On July 14, during our meeting, there will be a decent Iridium Flare (satellite) at 8:57 PM, 26 degrees above the horizon, in the North Northwest. The flare may reach a magnitude of -7.

Think about those Perseids (Perseid Meteor Shower) in August. ☺ Happy StarHopping!



Courtesy of heavens-above.com July 15 at 8:30 PM in Tampa, Florida.

## 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)**

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at a meeting or event or mailed to the Club Membership/  
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