



December's Dinner & Presentation:

Pot Luck Dinner

Hosted by: Larry Owens, Steve Bieger, Clevis Jones

What's Up

Take a look at Steve's Supplement to this month's "What's Up"

"Mars Rose Bowl"

A lecture about this year's apparition of the planet Mars

Dr. Richard Schmude

Some images from the dinner and presentation:

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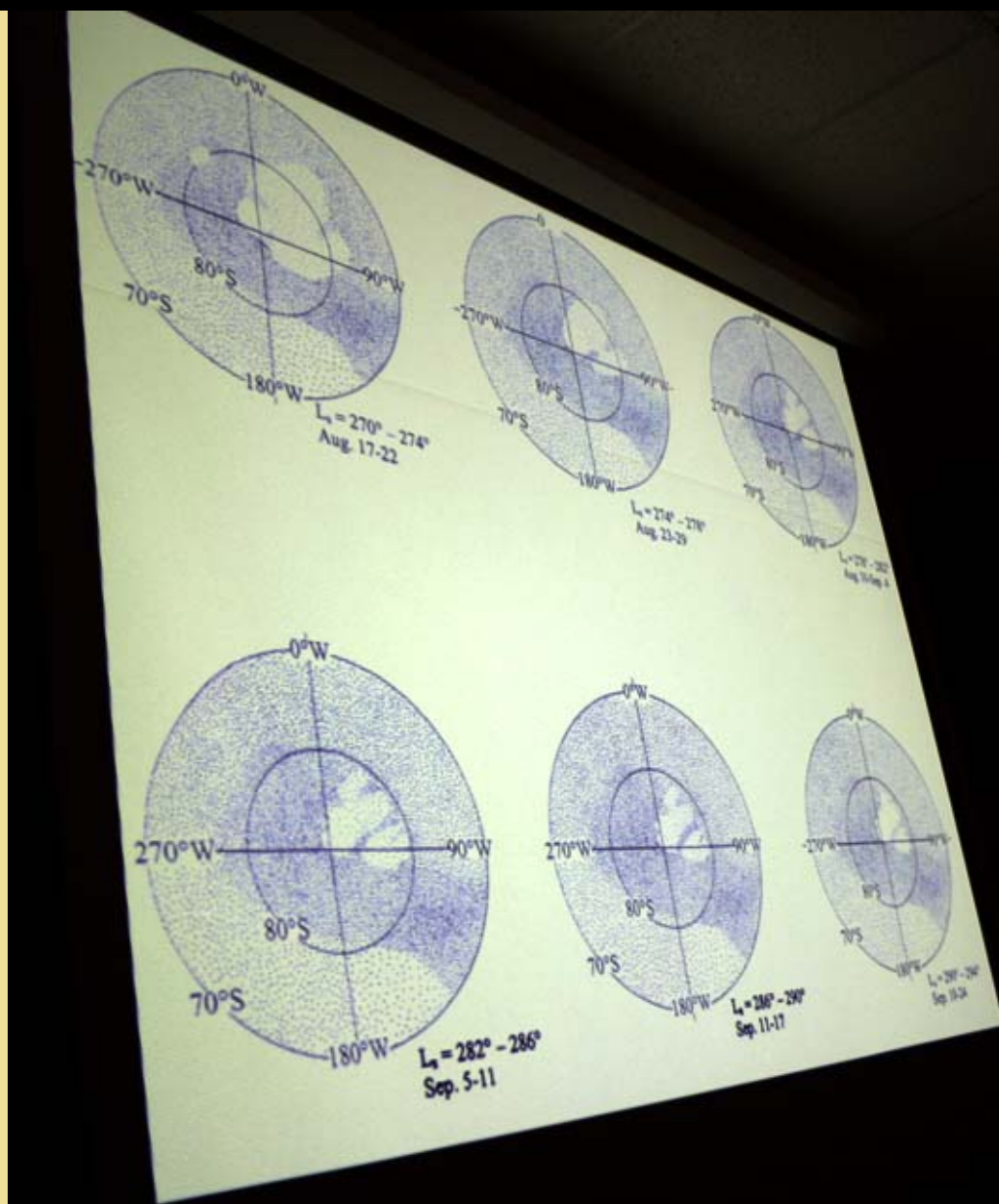


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December "What's Up" Supplement by Stephen Bieger

Astronomy, The Winter Solstice and the Art of Observing the Sky Supplement to the December What's Up

Mankind's fascination with the movement of the sun goes back to prehistoric times. Observation of the sun (and moon) has long been important to understand the seasons, but it's also been the stuff of lore and religion. In a very basic sense however, the observations and the resulting calendars stemming from them are indeed a very basic form of science. Observation, hypothesis, more observation, prediction, theory. Repeat. In short, science. Follow this look at thousands of years of observing the sky in search of meaning and relevance.

Here are several links on the topic of Winter Solstice from this month's What's Up. You can find additional material by searching the Internet but this will get you started. I welcome you comments and I hope you enjoy the journey back in time.

Caveat: As with all web sites, there is always a chance that material will contain inaccuracies. So use the links for your enjoyment and for further edification.

Steve Bieger

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS: Christmas, Saturnalia, Yule, the Long Night, etc.

http://www.religioustolerance.org/winter_solstice.htm

Astronomy in the Muslim world (series of articles)

<http://www.muslimheritage.com/topics/default.cfm?TaxonomyTypeID=18&TaxonomySubTypeID=107>

Star of Bethlehem - encyclopedia entry with more useful links at the end

If you have a planetarium program, try going back to year 7AD and see what's in the sky.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_of_Bethlehem

The Chinese Calendar and Solar Cycles

<http://www.friesian.com/chinacal.htm>

More historical perspectives

<http://www.candlegrove.com/solstice.html>

More history

http://www.equinox-and-solstice.com/html/winter_solstice.html

Stonehenge

http://www.tivas.org.uk/stonehenge/stone_ast.html

Mythical Ireland

<http://www.mythicalireland.com/astronomy/starstones/starstones.html>

Diagrams on the seasons

<http://www.astronomynotes.com/nakedeye/s5.htm>

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