



Mr. and Mrs. George T. Hansen **PLANETARIUM**, Space Science Library, and Museum
15 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 - Telephone 364-3611

Mark Littmann, Ph.D., Director

NEWS RELEASE

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SUMMER STAR PARTIES

This summer the Hansen Planetarium and Salt Lake Astronomical Society will again jointly sponsor public star parties every clear Friday evening.

Star parties are held to give everyone the opportunity to view the sights of the summer sky through a telescope, and to learn the constellations. Amateur astronomers and Hansen Planetarium staff members turn their telescopes to selected objects and describe what is being viewed, conducting an informal tour of the night sky. Among the objects that will be examined are Saturn, the moon and the many star clusters and nebulae in the Milky Way.

With the completion of the Society's new observatory in Stansbury Park, Tooele, the public will have an opportunity to view the sky through a large 16-inch Newtonian telescope. This telescope provides detailed views unobtainable in smaller instruments. The Stansbury Park observatory can be reached by taking I-80 west to the Stansbury / Tooele exit, and then south 3 miles to Stansbury Park. The observatory is located at the north end of the Park, next to the playground. One-way travel time from downtown Salt Lake City is 30 minutes. Star parties will be held there on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Friday evening of each month, beginning at dark.

Little Mountain will be the site of star parties on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. The Little Mountain site is located between Emigration and Parley's Canyons, about 1,000 feet south on a dirt road leading from the summit, and can be reached from either canyon highway, a 30-minute drive from downtown Salt Lake City.

If the weather is bad, activities are postponed until the following Friday. There is no charge for viewing.

For more information, call Pat Wiggins at the Hansen Planetarium (364-3611).