



**September 15, 2005**

**Star Party  
for Girl Scouts at College's  
Dr. Alex Shlanta Observatory**

A star party was coordinated through Lisa Fuller for Brownie age Girl Scouts and held at the Cerro Coso College Observatory on Friday, August 12, 2005. There were about 40 Brownies and parents attending the event and they were a real enthusiastic group.

everyone was walked through a model of the solar system with stakes in the ground spaced to represent the relative distances between planets. The scale for the model was 8 ft/AU (AU = Astronomical Unit = 93,000,000 miles). When we stopped at each stake they were told some of the characteristics for that planet. The principal constellations in the night sky were pointed out also to the scouts using a laser pointer. After that everyone was free to wander between the telescope stations to see the celestial sights on the telescopes.



Jupiter

The star party commenced with passing out star charts for the August evening sky. Then

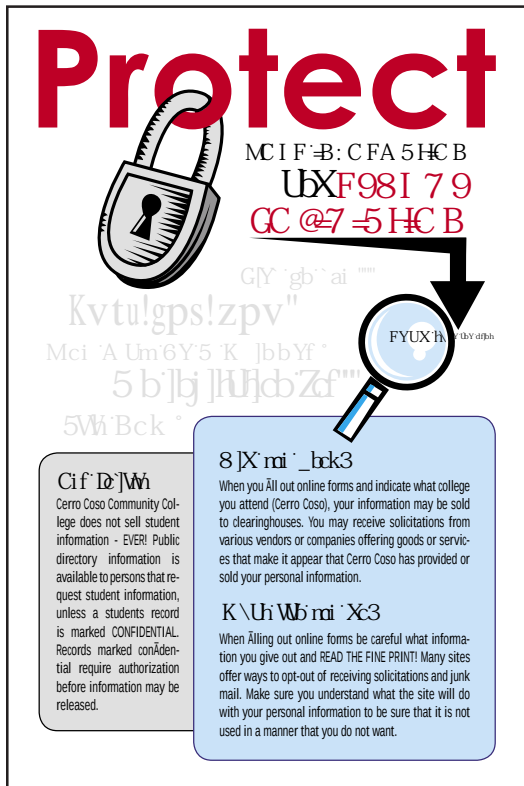


Moon

Assisting me with this star party and manning the telescope stations were China Lake Astro-

nomical Society (CLAS) members Neal Barry, Roger Brower, Peter Eisenloh, Kiran Mehra, Chuck Morgan, and Ken Pringle. The people attending the star party were able to see the Moon, Jupiter, double stars Albireo, Mizar, & Polaris, Globular Clusters M13 & M22, the Wild Duck Open Cluster M11, Planetary Nebula M57 (Ring Nebula) & M27 (Dumbbell Nebula), and the China Lake fire. A particular hit for the participants was being able to view real time, on a TV screen, an image of the quarter phase waxing Moon. To generate the image an Orion Electronic Imaging Eyepiece was used in a f/5.0 120mm diameter refracting telescope. The Brownies enjoyed particularly being able to identify "their crater" on the TV screen image.

## Educating Students about Protecting Their Personal Information



use of student-provided information for mail solicitation. In some of these mailings Cerro Coso College is mentioned or made to appear to be in support of the product or service being sold. Students contacted Cerro Coso fearing that the college sold or provided their information to these companies without their knowledge.

The reality is that the information was unknowingly provided by the *student themselves*. Some students fill out online forms that include questions such as what college they attend, not knowing that some sites will share or sell information to clearinghouses that then use the information submitted by the student to send solicitations. To make the solicitations more personal they use the information the student provided in ways that made some students think that Cerro Coso was providing student directory information.

In response to these concerns from students, Cerro Coso recently produced an informational poster in the hopes of helping to educate students about the "need to read the fine print" when filling out online forms and to be aware of how their information may be used. It also explains that many sites have opt-out options to prevent information from being shared with clearinghouses. The poster further explains that Cerro Coso *does not sell* student information and that public information not listed as confidential is only available upon request. It is our hope that the poster will help students to understand that Cerro Coso does not participate in selling student information, and that it will help educate them on ways to protect their information when providing it online.

With more and more students going online and filling out online forms (such as applying for scholarships) there has been an increase in the

## Cerro Coso College Announces New Drama Classes and Auditions



The Cerro Coso Drama Department is offering a new class this fall entitled Community Collaborative Theatre Production. Members of the class will work with the local Elks Lodge to produce the murder mystery All Over But The Shooting. The one unit class will begin August 30<sup>th</sup> and end November 18<sup>th</sup>. Auditions will be held the first week of class. No experience is necessary. Students will not only act in the production but also work on technical elements such as set design, lighting, and costuming. The performance of the play will take place at the Elks Lodge. Members of the Elks Lodge 9+6 are organizing a dinner to accompany the production. Profits from the murder mystery dinner theatre production will benefit both local and national charities. Sign up for Drama 199 to be a part of the production.

The Drama Department is also offering classes in Acting, Improv, and Play Reading. Four levels of acting classes will be offered to suit the needs of beginning as well as advanced actors. Students who sign up for Improv will become part of the "Who Said What Now?" Improv Troupe. Troupe members work on

games and scenes in class to prepare for the troupe's public Improv shows. The college is offering its first ever online Drama class this fall! Introduction to Play Reading is a new online class that will familiarize students with a variety of plays. The Theatre Production and Technical Theatre classes will work together to produce the college's mainstage production of Lanford Wilson's award winning play The Rimers of Eldritch. For more information, please contact Melinda Fogle in the Cerro Coso Drama Department at 384-6114.

## CERRO COSO TO HOST RENOWNED NATIONAL BESTSELLER AUTHOR STEVEN JOHNSON



The couch potato path to a higher I.Q. is acclaimed author Steven Johnson's mantra in his new book titled "Everything Bad Is Good For You: Why Pop Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter.." Worried about how much time your children spend playing video games? Don't be, advises Johnson..."not only are they learning

valuable problem-solving skills, they'd probably do better on an IQ test than you or your parents could at their age." In his book *Everything Bad is Good For You*...he argues that videogames and television—with their multiple plotlines and problem-solving demands—are toughening young minds rather than degrading them. Steven Johnson makes neuroscience fun and entertaining. Come hear the national best selling author conducting a community presentation and book signing at Cerro Coso Community College on Thursday, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. in the College Lecture Center and CCCC Faculty will be hearing Mr. Johnson on Sept. 2, Faculty Flex Day from 9 to 11 a.m.

Johnson is renowned for his ability to explain complicated and counterintuitive ideas cleverly without overwhelming the reader. He is the author of several books including: *Mind Wide Open: Your Brain and the Neuroscience of Everyday Life*; and "Interface Culture and Emergence: The Connected Lives of Ants, Brains, Cities and Software". The later of which was on four prestigious "Best Book of the Year" lists and was named a New York Times Notable Book.

Johnson is currently a contributing editor for *Wired* and a monthly columnist for *Discover* magazine, writing about politics, media, science, and technology. His work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Nation*, and many others. Johnson was the cofounder and editor-in-chief of *FEED*, the revolutionary Internet magazine that managed to blend technology, science, and culture. He was named by *Newsweek* as one of the "Fifty People Who Matter Most on the Internet." Johnson is an avid speaker and has keynoted dozens of conferences and corporate retreats. He has spoken to the Homeland Security Department about the war on terror, the BBC interactive division about the promise of new media, and delivered a keynote speech about

the brain at Esther Dyson's PC Forum. The evening will conclude with a question and answer period and a book signing reception. The public is cordially invited to attend free of charge.

## CCCC Special Events Calendar August/September 2005

August 8, 2005	Preschool Enrollment at Child Care Center
August 29, 2005	2005 Fall Classes Begin
August 29 – October 12	Drivers Education Class @ IWV Campus
August 29, 2005	Orchestra Class Begins @ KRV
August 30, 2005	Auditions begin for <u>All Over but the Shooting</u>
Sept. 7,8& 9, 2005	Ridgecrest Fall Fair @ the Fairgrounds

