

RMOSA

Rocky Mountain Section of the Optical Society of America

Joint RMOSA/IEEE-LEOS Seminar & Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 2008

Refreshments: 7:00 p.m. :: Seminar: 7:30 p.m.

[BUS 340 Leeds Business, CU, Boulder](#)

The Hubble Space Telescope Dr. Dennis Ebbets, Ball Aerospace



Abstract: I will present a talk and slide show about NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp., in Boulder, Colorado, has been a key manufacturer of scientific instruments for Hubble and other space astronomy missions for over twenty years. I plan to discuss briefly the design and construction of the hardware, its launch into orbit, and its use by astronomers here on Earth. Because it plans to support a twenty year mission NASA conducts service missions every few years to make repairs and to install updated equipment. Astronauts visited the telescope in 1993, 1997, 1999 and 2002. The last servicing mission is currently planned for February, 2009. We will see slides of the astronauts' pre-launch training and extra-vehicular activities during the missions. We will describe the repairs and upgrades which were made, and how they have enhanced the capabilities of the observatory. We will also discuss some of the important scientific results obtained with Hubble over the last few years. Examples will include planets in our solar system, the formation of new stars and possibly solar systems in the process of forming around very young stars. Debris from exploding stars and infant galaxies in the far reaches of the universe have also been photographed by Hubble. Discussion and questions about the telescope and its scientific program will be welcomed.

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