

Naked Eye Astronomy Retreat

June 16, 17, 18, 2007 – Valley of the Gods, Utah

Join astrologer, historian, and star lore expert Ed Kohout in mystical Valley of the Gods for three nights of viewing pristine night skies without light pollution -- as the ancients would have.

This is a rare opportunity to see Venus and Jupiter at their brightest at the same time under favorable conditions. Mars even makes an appearance each morning for about an hour. You will also witness the new crescent moon each night as it moves quickly by Venus and Saturn.

Each night, Ed will identify key features of the heavens during this summer's most spectacular displays. Learn about ancient star lore, constellations and heavenly motion under North America's most pristine viewing conditions while surrounded by the timeless beauty of Utah's giant sandstone formations.

No telescopes will be used; each participant is urged to use only their own eyes and imagination to re-discover the whole of the night sky – just as the pioneering astrologers of ancient civilizations did. Of course, anyone is free to supply their own telescope, and binoculars are also a great idea, but the point of all this is to embrace the immense beauty and wonderment of the heavens without filters.

A high-profile vehicle is recommended to access the off-road location for this event. There is no cell phone service, and the caution should be used as this is a wild, rugged setting. Valley of the Gods is not part of the Navajo Nation, but the area is protected by the Bureau of Land Management.

\$30.00 cost includes star maps, lore guides, and personal instruction. Camping is encouraged, but accommodations in nearby towns *Blanding* or *Mexican Hat* can be arranged.

Travel to this remote location takes two days from Southern California, so plan on leaving by at least the early morning on the 15th of June. Nighttime is only ~8 hours long during midsummer, and this leaves ample time for getting some sleep in during the day and also doing some local sightseeing.

Questions can be directed to Ed: (760) 644-5461

Itinerary:

Saturday, June 16, 2007

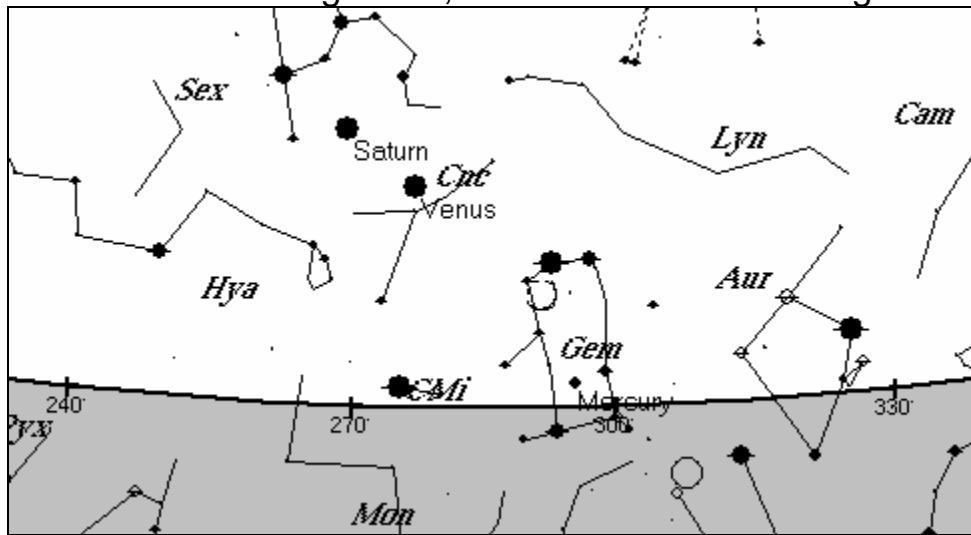
Check-in at the “Seven Sisters” junction from 4 PM to 7 PM, MDT.

Twilight begins at about 9:30 PM MDT.

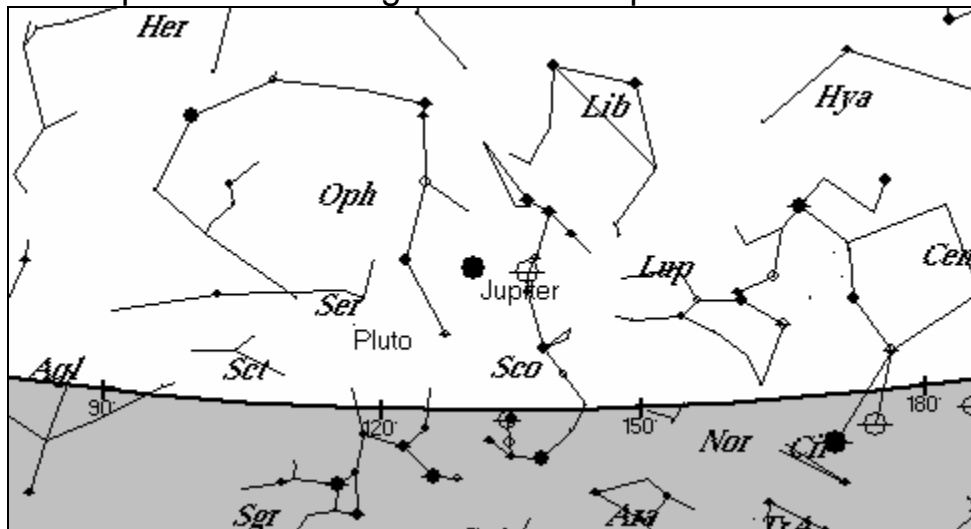
First visible lunar crescent appears near Castor and Pollux in Gemini;

Venus at -4.5 Magnitude, in Cancer

Saturn at 0.5 Magnitude, between Venus and Regulus



Jupiter at -2.6 Magnitude in Scorpio near Antares

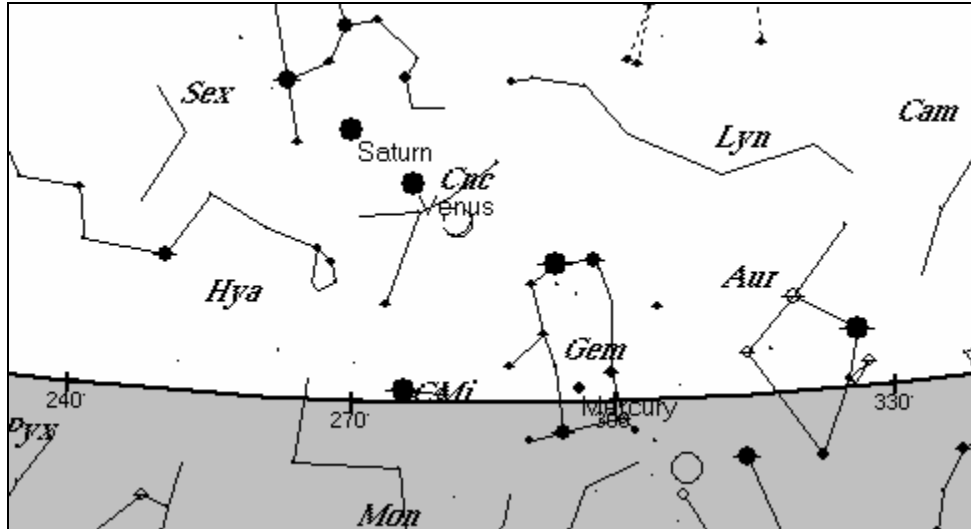


Sunday, June 17, 2007

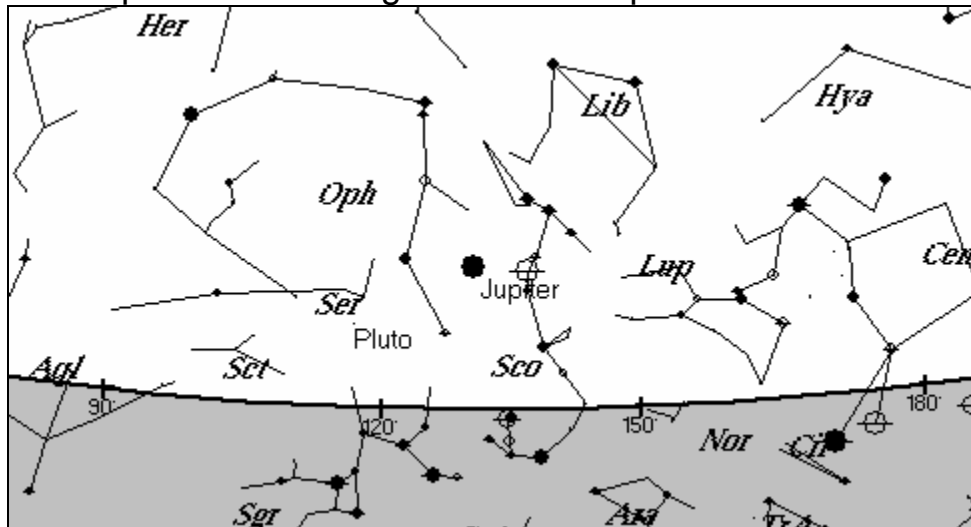
Check-in at the “Seven Sisters” junction from 4 PM to 7 PM, MDT.

Twilight begins at about 9:30 PM MDT.

Lunar crescent moves closer to Venus;



Jupiter at -2.6 Magnitude in Scorpio near Antares

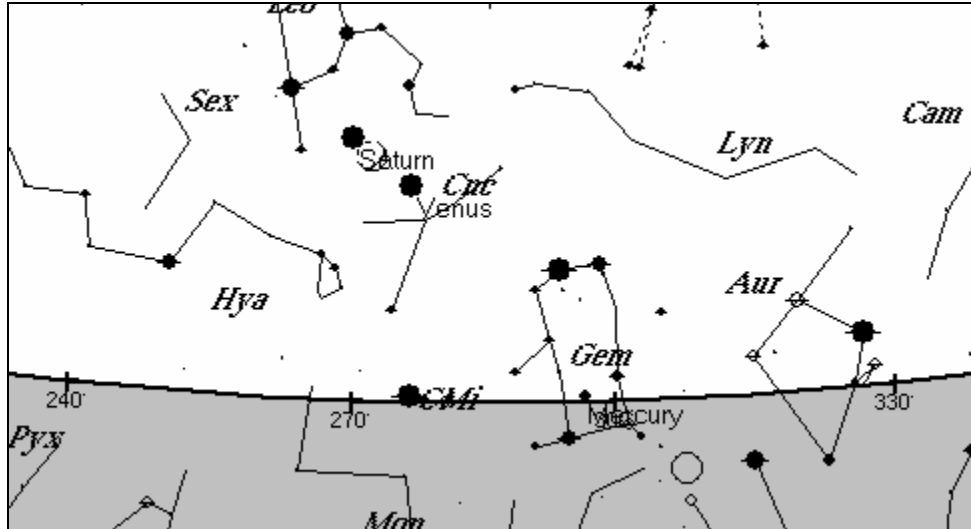


Monday, June 18, 2007

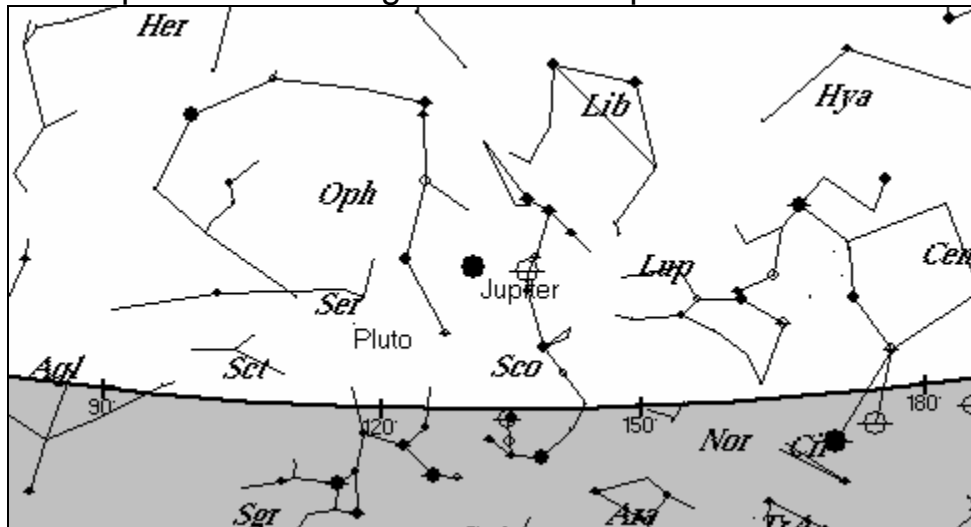
Check-in at the “Seven Sisters” junction from 4 PM to 7 PM, MDT.

Twilight begins at about 9:30 PM MDT.

Lunar crescent moves between Venus and Saturn;



Jupiter at -2.6 Magnitude in Scorpio near Antares



Events for Saturday night, June 16/17, 2007

PM:	20:41	Sun sets
	21:12	End of civil twilight
	21:41	Mercury sets
	21:51	End of nautical twilight
	22:34	End of astronomical twilight
	22:43	Moon sets
	23:39	Venus sets
AM:	00:06	Saturn sets
	00:28	Jupiter transits the meridian
	02:44	Mars rises
	04:06	Start of astronomical twilight
	04:49	Start of nautical twilight
	05:28	Start of civil twilight
	05:59	Sun rises

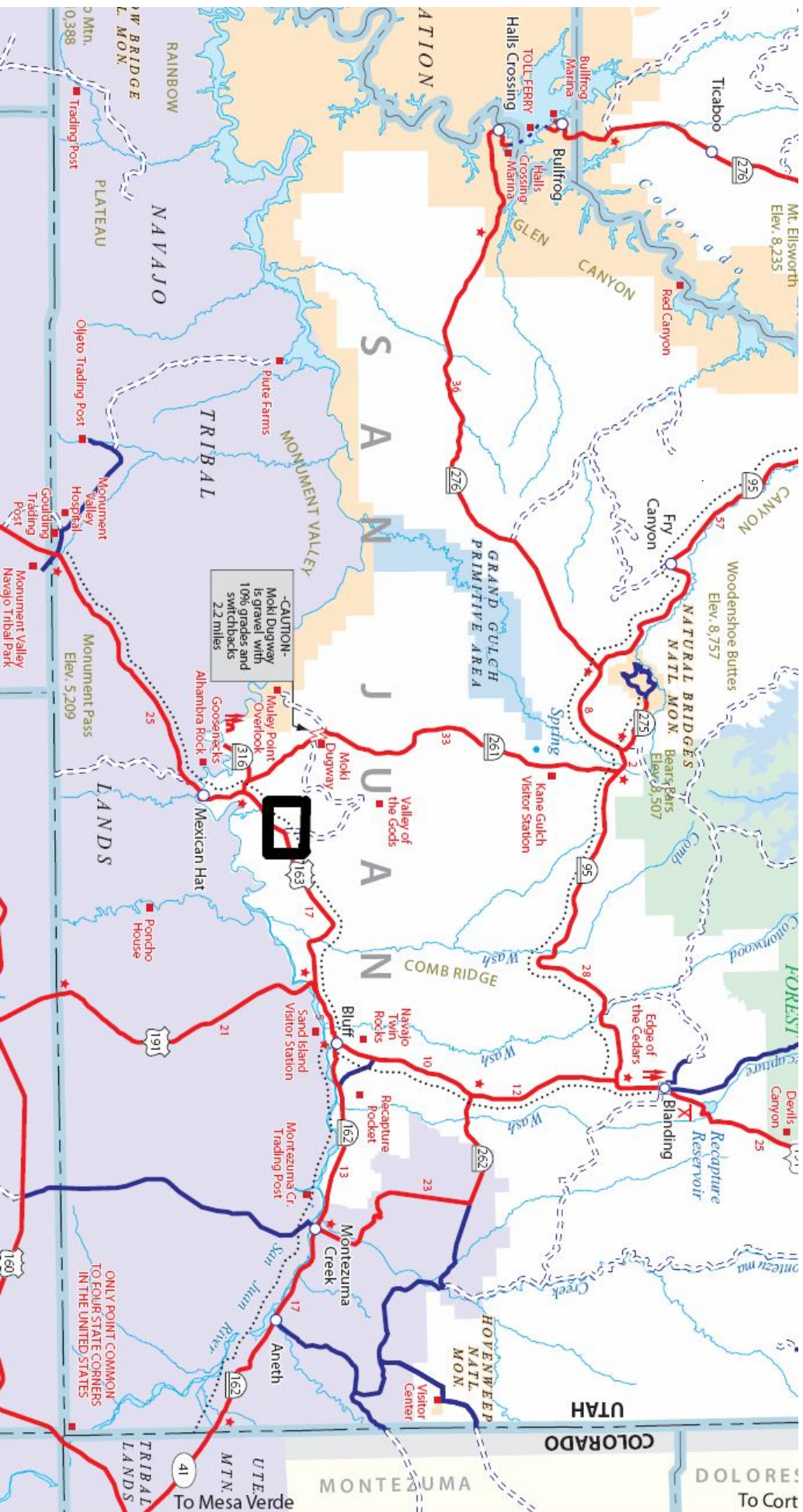
Events for Sunday night, June 17/18, 2007

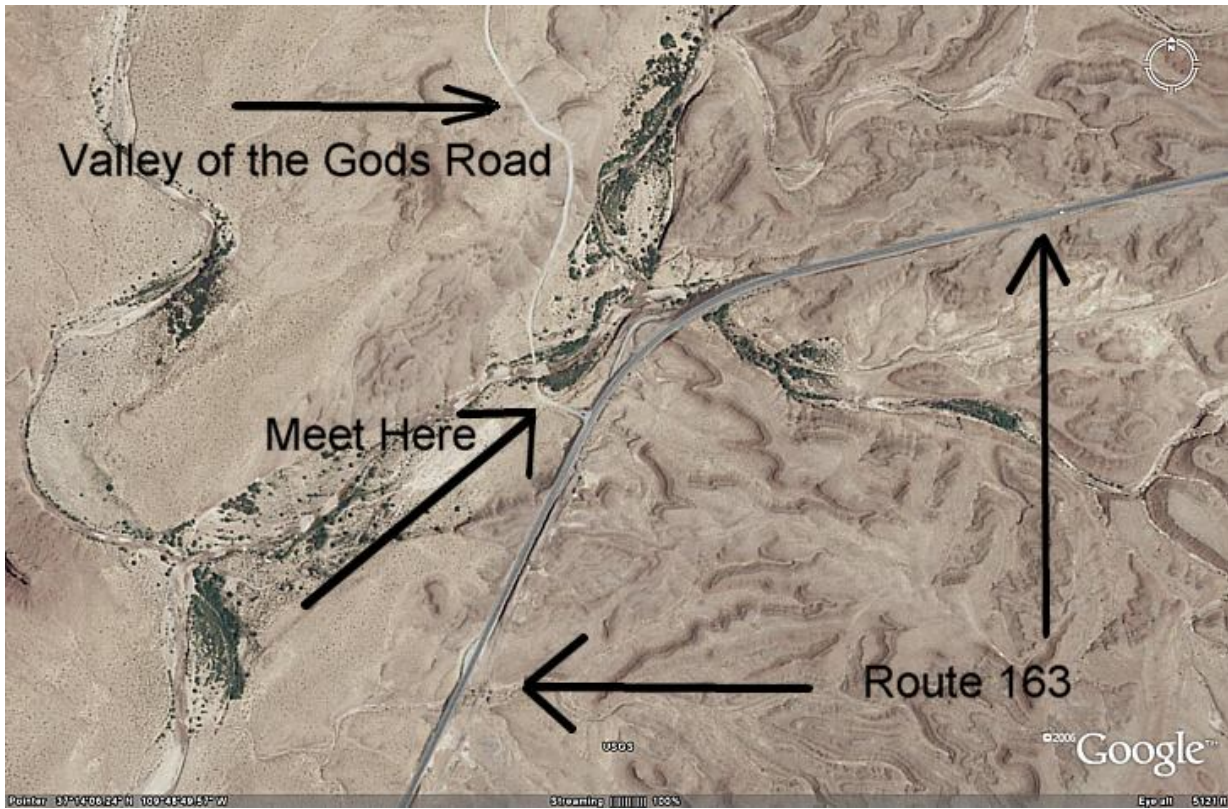
PM:	20:42	Sun sets
	21:13	End of civil twilight
	21:36	Mercury sets
	21:51	End of nautical twilight
	22:35	End of astronomical twilight
	23:22	Moon sets
	23:38	Venus sets
AM:	00:03	Saturn sets
	00:23	Jupiter transits the meridian
	02:42	Mars rises
	04:06	Start of astronomical twilight
	04:49	Start of nautical twilight
	05:15	Jupiter sets
	05:28	Start of civil twilight
	05:59	Sun rises

Events for Monday night, June 18/19, 2007

PM:	20:42	Sun sets
	21:13	End of civil twilight
	21:30	Mercury sets
	21:52	End of nautical twilight
	22:35	End of astronomical twilight
	23:36	Venus sets
	23:56	Moon sets
	23:59	Saturn sets
AM:	00:19	Jupiter transits the meridian
	02:40	Mars rises
	04:06	Start of astronomical twilight
	04:49	Start of nautical twilight
	05:11	Jupiter sets
	05:28	Start of civil twilight
	05:59	Sun rises

Map of Southeast Utah, Valley of the Gods, and surrounding areas





Satellite Image of Meeting Location.

Lodging and Accommodations:

Valley of the Gods, UT:

Valley of the Gods Bed & Breakfast
PO Box 310307, Mexican Hat, UT 84531 1-970-749-1164

Blanding, UT:

Cliff Palace Motel	132 South Main	1-435-678-2264
Four Corners Inn	131 East Center	1-800-574-3150
Gateway Motel	88 East Center	1-435-678-2278
Grayson Country Inn	118 East 300 South	1-435-678-2388
Prospector Motor Lodge	591 South Highway 191	1-435-678-3231
Rodger's House B&B	412 S. Main	1-800-355-3932
Sunset Inn	88 West Center	1-435-678-3323

Bluff, UT:

Cadillac Ranch RV Prk	Highway 191	1-800-538-6195
Calabre B&B	127 4th West	1-435-672-2252
Calf Canyon B&B	7th E. at Blk Locust	1-888-922-2470
Desert Rose Inn	701 W. Highway 191	1-435-672-2303
Far Out	7th and Mulberry	1-435-672-2294
Mokee Motel	5th W. Highway 191	1-435-672-2242
Pioneer House B&B	189 3rd East	1-888-637-2582
Recapture Lodge	P.O. Box 309	1-435-672-2281
Thai House	100 N. 200 W.	1-435-672-2355
Wayside Cabins	P.O. Box 6	1-435-672-2287

Mexican Hat, UT:

Canyonlands Motel	Highway 163	1-435-683-2230
Hat Rock Inn	Highway 163	1-435-683-2221
Mexican Hat Lodge	Highway 163	1-435-683-2222
San Juan Inn	Highway 163	1-800-447-2022

Chaco Canyon Solstice

June 20, 21, 22, 2007 – Chaco Canyon, New Mexico

The Chaco Canyon half of this outing is unstructured. I have never been to this place, and so I can offer no instruction or guidance. It is exploratory and adventurous, and there's more than enough to explore.

The Chacoan culture built a vast complex of sacred sites around their measurements of the Sun and Moon. The summer solstice was central to the measures of this amazing place, and 2007 offers a somewhat rare chance to observe the solar "standstill" near high noon at this locale.

Thus, we will be here during daylight hours, observing the ruins, and learning about this amazing culture. Camping is available, as is lodging in Farmington to the north and Gallup to the South.

If possible, I hope to meet up with attendees at the Visitor's Center at 10:00 AM on the 20th. From there, we can decide on a plan of action for the 21st.

Please visit the park's website before attending:

<http://www.nps.gov/chcu/index.htm>

A roadmap is downloadable at:

http://www.newmexico.org/MEDIA/PDF/MAPS/road_map.pdf

Directions are as follows:

Chaco Canyon is located in northwestern New Mexico. The preferred and recommended access route to the park is from the north, via US 550 (formerly NM 44) and County Road (CR) 7900, and CR 7950.

From the north, turn off US 550 at CR 7900--3 miles southeast of Nageezi and approximately 50 miles west of Cuba (at mile 112.5). This route is clearly signed from US 550 to the park boundary (21 miles). The route includes 8 miles of paved road (CR 7900) and 13 miles of rough dirt road (CR7950).

From the south, two routes access Chaco from Highway 9, which runs between Crownpoint, Pueblo Pintado, and Cuba. Both routes can vary from very rough to impassable. Not recommended for RVs. If you are traveling from the south, please call ahead for the latest conditions.

Via Hwy 57(Hwy 14 on some maps): This turnoff is located on Highway 9, 13 miles east of Highway 371, at the former Seven Lakes Trading Post. (20 miles of dirt)

Via Pueblo Pintado: At the community of Pueblo Pintado, turn north on Navajo 46 for 10 miles (rough dirt). Turn left on County Road 7900 for 7 miles (some rough dirt). Turn left on County Road 7950, and follow the signs 16 miles to the park entrance (3 miles paved and 13 of rough dirt road).

The northern and southern routes include 13, 20, and 33 miles of dirt roads, respectively. These sections of road are infrequently maintained, and they can become impassable during inclement weather. If you have an RV and are not planning on camping in the park, you may want to leave the RV and drive a car into the park. Call the park (505-786-7014) for current road conditions.