

# Release Notes

## Deepsky Release version 2007.01.03

**2007.01.03 is now shipping. This is a relatively small update from 2007.01.01. The new Saguaro Astronomy Club database version 7.5 is now included in this version along with the SAC Double Star database version 3. If you are a 2006 or 2007 user, you can download this update for free from our website.**

**UPD:** Added ability to sort on column header click on the Nearby Target Object Search screen

**FIX:** Type Mismatch error when search for Collinder 399.

**UPD:** Updated the Equipment database with new scopes from Meade and Celestron

**NEW:** Added Saguaro Astronomy Club Database version 7.5 to Deepsky

**NEW:** Added Saguaro Astronomy Club Double Star database version 3.0 to Deepsky

**UPD:** Magnitude 2 on the spreadsheet screen refers to surface brightness whenever the SAC71 or SAC75 catalogs are being used.

## Deepsky Release version 2007.01.01

**NEW:** Home Menu puts common tasks on one screen.

**NEW:** Star Chart Create Wizard - An easy way to create a star chart with a custom list of objects.

**NEW:** Support for George Kepple AstroCard charts (requires the AstroCard add-on CD)

## AstroCard Features in Deepsky

The screenshot shows the AstroCard software interface. The top part displays a star chart with various constellations labeled, including Aquila, Serpens Capta, Ophiuchus, Scutum, Sagittarius, Scorpius, and Corona Australis. The chart shows several deep sky objects marked with numbers and names like M21, M28, and the Lagoon Nebula. Below the chart is a table with columns for Object ID, Other ID, Type, R.A., Dec., Mag., Size, Const, and Description. The table lists several objects with their respective coordinates and magnitudes.

Object ID	Other ID	Type	R.A.	Dec.	Mag.	Size	Const	Description
1	M13	Gc	18 00 63.0	-23 18 00.0	6.50	2.20	Sgr	Notes: NGC Desc: Size
2	NGC 6440	GCL 77	Gb	17 49 54.0	-23 22 00.0	9.70	1.70	Sgr Notes: +1150 *af NGC
3	NGC 6544	GCL 87	Gb	18 07 18.0	-25 00 00.0	8.30	8.40	Sgr Notes: +1197 NGC Desc
4	NGC 6553	GCL 88	Gb	18 09 18.0	-25 54 00.0	8.30	3.20	Sgr Notes: +1197 NGC Desc
5	NGC 6638	GCL 95	Gb	18 30 54.0	-25 30 00.0	9.20	2.20	Sgr Notes: +1151 NGC Desc
6	NGC 6642	GCL 97	Gb	18 31 54.0	-23 29 00.0	8.80	0.80	Sgr Notes: +1205 * mag: 15
7	NGC 6523	M8 - Lagoon, Hourglass Nebula, Dragon Nebula	C+N	18 03 42.0	-24 23 00.0	5.00	45.00	Sgr Notes: Lagoon Nebula Cl
8	NGC 6514	M20 - Trifid Nebula	C+N	18 02 42.0	-22 58 00.0	6.30	28.00	Sgr Notes: Trifid nebula sev c

Here is a run down on the new functionality that the add-on CD provides:

- 1) You can view an AstroCard from the object details screen
- 2) Added the AstroCard ID to the main spreadsheet screen
- 3) Added **Display AstroCard** to the right click menu to view the AstroCard
- 4) Added **Print AstroCard** to the right click menu to print the AstroCard
- 5) The AstroCard display screen includes other objects cross referenced on the AstroCard.
- 6) You can view images of objects on the AstroCard.
- 7) Includes cross reference to observing notes.

**NEW:** Added telescope tips to the option bar which give an overview of what to look for when buying a telescope.

### **Service Pack 2006.01.01 SP2a – 4/25/06 – No More Activation**

Deepsky no longer requires product activation. Activation is being discontinued along with the download version of Deepsky. Deepsky will now be available only on CD and DVD. This is being done to reduce costs and support issues. Service Pack 2a removes product activation and contains no additional updates since service pack 2.

### **Service Pack 2 – 3/12/06**

**NEW:** Added button to solar system summary screen for changing the date. New summary screen is then recalculated using the new settings.

**NEW:** Added a header and footer to the solar system report print out which displays the date and time on the report.

**UPD:** Added altitude and azimuth to the solar system summary screen

**FIX:** When going to the date preferences from the what's up wizard, if you try to display any window on top of the preference string, you would get an error 401.

**FIX:** Transit time was not calculating correctly if you set the date to anything but today.

**FIX:** When the DVD hires folder was placed under the DSSImages folder, the images would not display.

**FIX:** In some cases, users would get a type mismatch error when starting up Deepsky. The temporary workaround was to delete the LastSpread.ss3 file. This error should not show up anymore.

### **Service Pack 1 – 11/12/05**

**NEW:** Added some configuration options on the chart preferences screen that lets you choose how you want chart labels to be displayed.

**NEW:** Added a clear button to the constellation, object type, and catalog selection screens.

**UPD:** Removed time servers that no longer work from Sync Internet Time

**UPD:** Added download link to the Check for Deepsky Updates program

**UPD:** Made the star chart info window larger

**UPD:** Added a partial FIND option to the star chart find screen that lets you enter part of an object id and Deepsky will still locate the first object it matches.

**FIX:** The minimum altitude filter was not being set to 0 by default in the wizard.

**FIX:** Automation error was occurring in some instances when a chart was being created.

**FIX:** Some of the image links were bad causing some images like those starting with 'PK' to not be found.

**FIX:** Creating a star chart with an asteroid or comet sometimes caused an automation error to occur.

## Deepsky Release Version 2006.01.01

**NEW:** You now have the ability to move any row on the spreadsheet by clicking the row header and dragging it to a new position. This works for the main Deepsky spreadsheet and for observing plans. However these positions will only save for the observing plan if you save the plan after moving any rows.

**NEW:** Spreadsheet Search. In the past you could always search the database, but once a spreadsheet of objects was displayed, there was no easy search mechanism. Now, you can use the right click menu for the column you are on to search for a value. When it's found, the row will be highlighted. You can then hit F3 to search for additional occurrences.

**NEW:** I added a new feature called personal observing journals. Now you can record your observations in a journal format in addition to using the structured Deepsky logbook. You are able to create as many journals as you like, add to existing journals, and perform full text searching over them.

**NEW:** I added a **What's Up Favorites** and a **Show all Favorites** query to the query pull down menu. These queries give you a list of the favorite objects that observer's like to view.

**NEW:** Deepsky will now support your personal blogs hosted at astronomyblogs.com by allowing you to post messages from within Deepsky to your blog and also include pictures. You can even post your observations right from the Deepsky Logbook.

**NEW:** Added a new time screen which shows local time, UTC, Local Sidereal Time, and Greenwich Sidereal Time. I also added a simple stopwatch to time events.

**NEW:** The SHOW PLAN button on the main spreadsheet screen which is now normally GREEN will now glow RED if you have an observing plan open on that tab. This is just a reminder that you have a plan open on that spreadsheet. In the past it was not quite as apparent when an observing plan was open unless you looked down the PLN column and saw an X for an object. Now it is much more visual.

**NEW:** Added an annotated Mars map to Deepsky

**NEW:** I am pleased to announce that I am including a high resolution moon map with over 100 features labeled. The unlabeled moon map comes courtesy of Patrick Chevalley (Virtual Moon

Atlas). Because the moon map is a pretty high resolution image, Deepsky lets you pan around with the mouse to view different parts of it.

**NEW:** Added an icon to the toolbar left of the main spreadsheet for Virtual Moon Atlas.

**NEW:** Added a refresh button on the spreadsheet right click menu that recalculates the calculated fields in the spreadsheet. This includes Altitude, Azimuth, Rise, Transit, and Set if these were selected in the filters.

**NEW:** Visual Plans for Herschel Club 1 and 2, Messier, and Caldwell plans. A visual plan is simply an image showing thumbnail images of all the objects in that plan. This lets you see all of them together on one screen. Since the plans have so many objects, the visual image that loads into Deepsky can be scrolled like in a web browser to see all of them.

**NEW:** Image Manager in the logbook now lets you scan directly into Deepsky's logbook. This saves time so that you do not have to use your own scanning software, save it to disk, and then select it in Deepsky. I also made this screen bigger.

**NEW:** You can now set a default for the thumbnail image which appears in the logbook entry screen. This is useful if you have several images for an observation but want the 2nd or 3rd to appear when you click the image manager button. Also, when you click on the thumbnail and you have multiple images for the observation, then you are taken to the image you selected. Previously you were always taken to the first image.

**NEW:** I changed the search screen to be a two tab screen, one with a fast object id search option and another with a more advanced search. You can now enter something like the word CIGAR and objects with cigar in the Object ID, Other ID, or Object Description will be displayed. You can enter anything you want here like M81, UGC to find all UGC's or UGC 85 to find those starting with UGC 85. To keep this fast and lightweight, the search feature only searches the Saguro Astronomy Club database of 11,000+ objects.

**NEW:** The first time the logbook is opened from the toolbar or pull down menu; a help screen is displayed explaining how you can add an object to the logbook.

**NEW:** In the logbook, you were limited in space on the screen where you could type observing notes. A button next to the notes would always display the notes in a bigger window, but now you can update the notes in this bigger window and your changes will be reflected on the logbook entry screen.

**NEW:** The logbook summary tab now has a new toolbar at the bottom which replaces the old style command buttons. A NEW ENTRY and EDIT EXISTING button appear on this toolbar making it more intuitive to add or edit logbook entries. Also added 2 buttons, one which shows all observations for the selected log type filter, and another which shows all observations in the logbook. Both of these options are restricted by the LIMIT ROWS DISPLAYED dropdown, which shows the **X** most recent observations. This filter is useful when you have hundreds or thousands of observations and you want the display to load quickly.

**NEW:** I added an annotation feature to the Deepsky database that lets you attach personal notes to deep sky objects in the main database. These notes can be set from the object maintenance, object details screen, or spreadsheet right click menu. You will also be able to search for objects with annotations using the Deepsky search option.

**NEW:** A New screen that consolidates all of the filters at the bottom of the spreadsheet screen into one screen has been added.

**NEW:** Added blue labels on the logbook screen to denote that those fields are required fields

meaning you must enter at least those fields before saving the observation.

**NEW:** Added a CLEAR button to the database search screen to easily clear the last search criteria.

**NEW:** Instead of loading up the messier list every time Deepsky starts, Deepsky will save the last spreadsheet you were working on when Deepsky exited. Next time you start up, that spreadsheet is redisplayed. If you had a plan open, then the plan will be redisplayed. The loading for the saved spreadsheet works a little differently than applying filters and getting the list shown. It actually writes the spreadsheet to disk and reloads it when Deepsky starts. This happens much faster than a normal APPLY FILTERS. So if your last spreadsheet had 5000 objects in it, it will load in a 1 to 3 seconds. Also, the calculated fields are updated (i.e. altitude, azimuth, rise, set, etc)

**NEW:** added a new spreadsheet preference that lets you decide on having a row selector for the spreadsheet. This just highlights the entire row so that it is clearly visible. This will now be the default but you can set it back under the spreadsheet preferences.

**NEW:** added a print button to several help screens used in Deepsky. These include Meteors, Database structure, etc.

**NEW:** I have added the following shortcut keys that you can press while on the main spreadsheet screen to quickly run popular functions

- CTRL-A** Apply Filters
- CTRL-B** Observing Plan Manager
- CTRL-F** Search
- CTRL-I** Image Gallery
- CTRL-L** Logbook
- CTRL-M** Moon Map
- CTRL-O** Object Details
- CTRL-R** Print Spreadsheet
- CTRL-Q** Solar System Summary
- CTRL-D** Star Chart
- CTRL-U** Preferences
- CTRL-W** What's Up Wizard?

**NEW:** A link to the Big Bear Solar Observatory's latest images has been added to the Solar System pull down menu.

**NEW:** Added the C-Series Herald-Bobroff Astroatlas chart #'s to the Object Details screen.

**UPD:** Many common star names were added to the Deepsky database enabling you to search for bright stars by several designations (i.e. Mirak, Izar, 36Eps Boo, Mirac). In the past, this didn't work very well.

**UPD:** The object id and other id fields in many catalogs had embedded spaces in them making it fail when searching for an object (i.e. PGC 1 instead of PGC 1). We cleaned the entire database making the most significant cleanup to date for the Deepsky database. This will significantly enhance Deepsky's search capabilities. We also added many new common names to the Other ID field making it easier to spot your favorite objects in the database.

**UPD:** The default font for the main Deepsky spreadsheet and logbook has been changed to Arial, 8. This can be changed in the spreadsheet preferences.

**UPD:** You can now enter for example 23 for the From RA and 2 for the To RA and Deepsky will select objects in the range 23,0,1, and 2. You could always do this via SQL but now you can do

it using the filters.

**UPD:** The objects observed by observing plan report in the past would take forever to run. I made some changes and now it runs almost instantly. I also optimized the existing observing plans like HCLUB1.pln to load faster.

**UPD:** I have updated the General Catalog of Variable Stars (GCVS) and Suspected Variable Stars + supplement (NCSVS) catalogs in Deepsky to the latest version GCVS 4.2. As a result, any observing plans you have that contain any objects in either catalog will have to be redone.

**UPD:** Added a header, footer, and page # to the reports generated by the QUICK SPREADSHEET PRINTOUT option. This report option is selected when you print the main object spreadsheet or the logbook spreadsheet.

**UPD:** The spreadsheet that Deepsky uses has been updated for the first time since 2001. You may notice a few differences when using it. For example, you can now double click the line between columns that is normally used to resize the column, to size the column to fit the widest data. In addition, some of the functionality within the spreadsheet like sorting has been optimized and runs a little faster.

**UPD:** SQL EZ now has a button on the toolbar that lets you toggle read only on or off making it easy to do direct editing of the spreadsheet.

**UPD:** Added a flashing button in the What's Up Wizard if the current PC clock is being used. This lets you know that the PC clock will override the Wizard's date/time settings.

**UPD:** You can now open multiple object detail windows. In the past, only 1 could be open at a time.

**UPD:** Right aligned the text that appears in the object windows of the star chart for the sun, moon, and planets.

**UPD:** I've added two radio buttons that let you pick which way you want the observing plan manager sorted. Deepsky will remember your setting the next time you open Deepsky. The two sort options are 1) observing plan name and 2) date the observing plan was last changed (descending sequence) so that the most recent plan is at the top of the list

**UPD:** In previous versions of Deepsky, there was a 500 object limit per observing plan. I have increased this limit to 1000.

**UPD:** In the past, I came up with my own scales for transparency and seeing. However there are much better ones out there so I added them to the drop down. The new scales include Pickering, Antoniadi, ALPO, Deepsky, and Magnitude. You still have the option to specify a different value so these new ones will just appear in your list. You can use them if you want or stick with the way you do it.

**UPD:** I changed the behavior of the night vision mode slightly by showing a form that gives information as to where red overlays (rubylith) can be purchased on the internet. You can then click a button to use the night vision color scheme or end it.

**UPD:** I have taken out all the tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet that are not needed now because of the new filters screen (general cleanup). In this process I have made the transit feature work like it's supposed to. There is no longer a transit tab and transit will always be displayed now when rise and set are selected to be displayed.

**UPD:** All buttons in Deepsky have been replaced with office 2003 style buttons. This is merely a

cosmetic change designed to make the software look nicer.

**UPD:** The moon icon on the apply filters button has been replaced with higher resolution images that give a much better indication of the phase of the moon for the date you have set.

**UPD:** In this release I have tried to polish the user interface including nicer icons, screen headers, images where appropriate, update text on the screen, and much more. This release has the most screen changes since I have started.

**UPD:** In the last release I added Other ID to the logbook. Unfortunately this was confusing. I had meant for it to be another descriptive name for the object, but I was defaulting it to blanks in all cases. Now, if you access the logbook by going to the right click menu and selecting VIEW/EDIT LOG, if an other ID exists in the spreadsheet it will default into the Other ID field in the log. This only happens if the other id field is empty in the log. So you can use OTHER ID in the log to store any name or thing you want, but if it's empty Deepsky will default the other id from the database.

**UPD:** The 2 quick chart icons to the left of the spreadsheet screen have been removed. These icons were not real useful so I replaced them with an icon for Cartes du Ciel (if it is installed). When you click it, all the objects on the current spreadsheet are sent to Cartes du Ciel where a chart is displayed.

**UPD:** I changed the time entry to allow you to enter the time in either hours or hours and minutes. For example, if you enter 22 then Deepsky will automatically add the :00 for you. I also increased the font size for the time field so it is easier to read.

**UPD:** Changed the message popup window used throughout Deepsky to make it easier to read the messages. I also changed the background graphic.

**UPD:** Renamed the CLEAR button on the logbook entry form to NEW to better describe its purpose. Also, when the NEW button is pressed, focus goes immediately to the object ID textbox.

**UPD:** In the logbook, the NOTES VIEW now displays the correct Other ID for the object.

**UPD:** When tabbing between fields in the logbook, textboxes including the time textboxes now highlight the contents so that you can simply type over them. In the past it was cumbersome to change the time textboxes.

**UPD:** Improved the look and feel of the What's Up Wizard by putting the constellation, object types, and catalog list into multiple columns so that more of the information is shown without having to scroll.

**UPD:** Improved the look and feel of the Select TAB on the main Deepsky spreadsheet by putting the constellation, object types, and catalog list into multiple columns so that more of the information is shown without having to scroll.

**UPD:** Improved the look of the CHECK FOR Deepsky UPDATES screen.

**UPD:** I realized that I had the printer resolution hard coded at 300 dpi which caused images to print small and did not use most of the paper. I changed this so that images will print up to 600 dpi based on your printer settings, which fills a lot more of the paper and generally looks better.

**UPD:** Added the CONTAINS operator to query builder.

**FIX:** When adding a new object to the main database, the error CANNOT FIND TABLE OBJECTIMAGES would be displayed preventing the object from being added.

**FIX:** The Sky rover sketches feature was not working properly. This has been fixed - also 100+ new sketches are now available.

**FIX:** Fixed a problem where the observing planner wasn't loading the correct object information in rare cases when the object ID was the same as is the case for double stars. An example would be the object 18515+1019

**FIX:** The 3-Panel chart would display an error if the object's size was not available in the database.

**FIX:** When trying to delete a log type that has an apostrophe ' in its name, Deepsky would lockup.

**FIX:** When displaying an observing plan, the progress bar at the bottom of the screen was not being displayed.

**FIX:** In past versions, if you had set the image path to say your DVD but did not have the DVD in its drive when you created a chart, you would receive an error or Deepsky would crash. This has been fixed.

**FIX:** A NO CURRENT RECORD error would appear if you selected any IC object from the NGC 2000 catalog when running the PLOT ALL OBJECTS CENTERED ON SELECTED OBJECT.

**FIX:** The Star Hop flag in the logbook was being shown on the My Logbook Report when neither it nor the GOTO flag was specified.

**FIX:** The My Logbook report was showing in some cases a time observed twice. One of the times was incorrect.

**FIX:** Deepsky is supposed to change the name of the spreadsheet tab to the plan name when an observing plan is opened. It did this for the first tab but if you opened additional plans in other tabs, the tab names did not change. Also, when closing a plan, the tabs were not being renamed back to their default name.

**FIX:** When entering a personal observing location, if you set focus to the latitude or longitude text boxes and left them blank by tabbing to the next field, an error would occur forcing you to enter a value before it let you out of the field. Now, you can leave the fields blank, however if you try to save it, it will validate the latitude and longitude requiring you to enter that information before the location is saved.

**FIX:** The seen flag in the logbook spreadsheet was showing as TRUE or FALSE instead of Y or N

**FIX:** When entering a log entry, if you forget to specify catalog, Deepsky complains telling you that it is a required field. However Deepsky would let you go on your way without enforcing it. Now you are put back into that field until you select a catalog.

**FIX:** On the database search screen, if you did not specify any search criteria and ran the search, the query would run a very long time selecting all records in the database. Now a message prevents this from happening.

**FIX:** In the LOGBOOK ENTRY 1 object per page report, an error would occur if you limited the report to a specific object id.

**FIX:** In Version 20050722 of Deepsky, a file not found error will be displayed when you try to activate the full version of Deepsky from an evaluation version when going to HELP--> ACTIVATE/REACTIVATE. This has been fixed for the next release. See our knowledgebase for a

workaround if you are having this trouble right now.

**FIX:** If you try to delete a log entry and there is none on the form, an error would occur.

**FIX:** When launching the logbook from the main Deepsky spreadsheet by right clicking an object and selecting VIEW/EDIT logbook, other information like RA, DEC, etc was not showing up on the log entry screen. Also, when entering a new log entry from scratch, after you select the catalog, other information was not showing up either.

**FIX:** When the What's Up Wizard is run, if you unchecked either magnitude 1 or 2 on the last screen, Deepsky was saving it as a preference even if you told it not to. This caused some people confusion when they went to look up objects in the database and found no objects. Often they would have to RESET preferences to get things back to normal.

**FIX:** When plotting a comet on a chart, if the declination was between 0 and -1 degrees, Deepsky was treating it as between 0 and 1 degree. This is now fixed.

**FIX:** A problem existed that prevented a user from viewing DVD2 images directly from the DVD without first copying it to the hard drive.

**FIX:** When you save an existing plan after you edit it, Deepsky would make you select a filename again to save instead of using the current one. This is now fixed. Also, if you used the CANCEL button, you were still prompted to save the plan.

**FIX:** The Outside Logbook Entry form had several problems which have been corrected including problems with the keyboard commands.