

July 14, 2005

Dear EOSOC Coordinator,

After many attempts to view the various observations needed to complete the requirements of this program, I finished my last observation this morning. I must say, even though this program looks simple at face value, I found it a very difficult and challenging program to complete.

I have learned much from this program. The biggest surprise was that not everything you see going overhead is an electronic satellite of some kind. I was amazed how bright rocket bodies are.

And those daytime Iridium flares. I learned about distance to flare centers, WHERE in a city that heavens-above based their calculations from and how to see these incredibly neat events. I had many attempts to see these without success and finally bagged one, which was very impressive.

I also saw many meteors streak across the sky while waiting for a satellite pass, which is always a cool thing. I also remember waiting for this one satellite to appear from the shadow in the constellation Serpens. I was amazed at how many other satellites started from this same position that night and started their trek across the sky. Finally the one I was waiting for showed up and I bagged that one.

Enclosed are copies of my observations. If you have any questions or comments about what I have done, I have all the supporting heavens-above paperwork to answer your questions. You can contact me at mhotka@yahoo.com, or call me at home (303-438-0097) or at work (303-939-5568).

Please use my name of Michael A. Hotka on my certificate. I am a member of the Longmont Astronomical Society. Please mail my certificate and pin to our clubs' AL representative, Bob Spohn, so he can present my award at a future club meeting. His address is:

Bob Spohn
1342 Garden Place
Longmont, CO 80501

Thank you for a very challenging, entertaining and educational program. I enjoyed doing the observations very much.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Hotka

mhotka@yahoo.com

303-438-0097

Member: Longmont Astronomical Society