



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Vol. 36 Number 8

April 2007

<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

## President's Message

We want to thank everyone for supporting the Brigham City Jr. High School Star Party. It was a great success. Les Bitton has printed off a few copies of his Star Chart. They will be available at the April meeting. The April meeting will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the Ott Planetarium. We will be watching a couple of lectures by Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson that we purchased.

Star Party reminders.

Dead Horse Point Star Party on 4/12 – 4/14.

Adams Elementary on 4/19.

Antelope Elementary on 4/20.

Antelope Island on 4/21. This will be our Astronomy Day activity. You are encouraged to come out early. We will be using our solar filters to show visitors the Sun. We will also be giving presentations using our Night Sky Network materials. We will hold the star party at the Visitor's Center.

We know this will make for a busy week for everyone. We hope you will all be able to come out and support these Star Parties. The schools are giving a donation and they really enjoy having us share the sky with the students.

Mike Klein

## OAS Minutes, March 2007

The Monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on March 8th at the Ott Planetarium. President Mike Klein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. The Dead Horse Point star party is scheduled for 4/11 through 4/15. This is the week after the big Moab safari 4X4 event. There is a star party at Brigham City Jr. High School on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We also have Star Parties at Antelope

Elementary (4/20) and Adams Elementary (4/19). Mike met with Antelope Island and has signed an agreement for our star parties there. There will be six of them this year, April to October, skipping July. The first Star Party is April 21<sup>st</sup>. We will hold this one at the Visitors Center. This is Astronomy day, so we want to set up where we will run into a lot of people. We will show them the Sun through our filters and have various members give "Night Sky Network" presentations. One of the things that Mike would like to do is support Antelope Island in the building of an observatory. He has a couple of options that were discussed in the meeting. One is that he would work with local companies to get them to donate supplies for the building. The other is that we would donate time to help with the building. We also discussed that, if needed, we would collect some financial donations as well. The members present liked the idea of helping build the observatory. After the business, David Dunn tried to show off Red Shift 3. His laptop wouldn't read the disk so he gave a short discussion about the Messier Marathon. The meeting adjourned with some of the club members going to Village Inn for dinner.

David Dunn.

## For Sale

I need to reduce my stock of telescopes for a move this year.

Ceravolo HD145 5.7" Mak-Newt with 2" and 1 1/4" eyepiece adapters, tube rings, dew shield, premium coatings. Good condition - there are a few chips in the paint on the tube and the dew shield; cosmetic only. Excellent optics! Asking \$3000.

Losmandy GM8 GEM with polar scope. Good tracker. Has the usual scrapes from use. Asking \$1,000.

Both the above for \$3,750 in a package. I will not sell the GM8 before the HD145.

JMI 12.5" NGT split ring Newt with JMI max computer, polar scope, wheels and handle, shroud.. This is a wonderful star party scope - it tracks well with simple alignment and the rotating upper cage makes it easy for people of all heights to reach the eyepiece. Beautiful views. Asking \$3,000.

Jim Seargeant  
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## Messier Marathon Star Party

We had great weather for the Messier Marathon this year. It was held on March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> about 10 miles west of Golden Spike. There were 5 of us observing both nights. Friday night started off with quite a bit of clouds. It cleared off soon after dark. I spent most of the night looking at the Messier objects through BOB. Doug was busily checking them off as he saw them. I think the only object he missed in the early part of the marathon was M74. It was a little too cloudy while it was up. M51, M101, M64, M99 and M104 were especially nice. The sky was really steady while we were viewing them. They showed a lot of detail. M64 showed the "black eye" with averted vision. The dust lane in M104 was really nice. After we finished Virgo, we had to wait a while for more objects to come up. We went in Lee & Carol's RV and had some stew and warmed up. It was about 45 F at about 1:30am when we came back out. We started viewing again but caught up to the sky within about 30 minutes. We finally got tired of waiting and went to bed.

On Saturday, it was clear and warm. After messing around for part of the day, Lee, Carol, Craig and I took a ride down to the Spiral Jetty. Saturday night was clear. Doug had gone home but Tom Watson had arrived so we had the same number of observers. Tom and I were both able to see M74. It is very difficult to see this low in the sky. We also had a Zodiacal Light that lit the part of the sky that M74 is in. The only way I was able to pick it up was to center it in the telescope and then wiggle the scope. The dim fuzzy patch seemed to move appropriately.

We once again observed all the objects up through Virgo and went in to have some stew. I lasted a little longer this night but still got so tired that I fell asleep in my chair. I finally put every thing away and went to bed. I had seen 79 of Messier's objects. Somehow I need to get more sleep so that I can stay up to finish next time. The other option is for someone to build a remote control that will speed up the spin of the Earth and then allow us to pause just before dawn to observe.

David Dunn



Sunset Friday night – David Dunn



Telescopes set up for observing Saturday night – Lee Priest



Sunset Saturday night – Lee Priest



Promontory Reflection – Red Water – David Dunn



The Spiral Jetty – Lee Priest



Little Spiral Jetty – David Dunn