



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Vol. 35 Number 12

August 2006

<http://oasut.tripod.com/>

The President's Message

Hi All:

August is here and its time to think about who will be running for office in the coming year. If you have not been contacted by the nominating committee, you soon will be. Please think of running for an office. It's not that bad a job and it would allow you to help in directing the future of OAS.

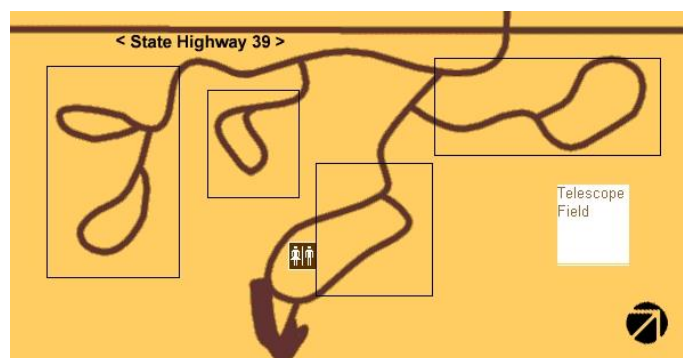
This month we will be at Antelope Island on the 5th. It is a first quarter moon so bring your moon filters. On the 12th we are up at Snow Basin for their full moon party. You will definitely want bring your moon filter. We always have a good crowd up there so come and help out. On the 25th and 26th we have our members only party up at Monte Cristo. Don't forget that we do dinner together on those two nights. Bring your favorite meat for yourself and a side dish or desert to share. We also have a snack lunch that we call the tea party. We eat "Doug Sandwiches" and any other snacks that anyone provides. We visit, discuss astronomy and sometimes even watch an astronomy related movie. Come and join in, you won't be sorry.

Clear Skies
Craig

OAS Minutes, July 2006

No regular meeting was held in July. We did hold informal meetings at Monte Cristo.

David Dunn



Map of Monti Cristo campground. There are more restrooms than noted. You want to try to get in the small loop by the Telescope field. The other loop near the field is also close.

Monte Cristo Report

Our July Monte Cristo was a lot fun. Dale Hooper and I enjoyed great views on Wednesday night. I was using my 16" f/5 reflector. After it finally got dark, I spent most of the night pulling in planetary nebulas and faint galaxies using my Sky Commander. It was working really well, most of the objects were right in the middle of the eyepiece. Some of the Planetaries were very small and hard to pick out from the stars. The sky was really clear. It had rained a little bit in the afternoon. It cleared off early enough to let the sun dry the ground. The air was so clean that you couldn't even see a laser pointer beam. I really enjoyed the blue color that many of the planetaries had. M51 was fantastic. The spiral arms jumped out. I think that this was the best I had ever seen it. The Helix was also very clear. It didn't even need an OIII filter. Thursday night, Dale and I stayed out a bit later. The viewing wasn't quite as good but was still great. I saw M33 through the 16" and saw why it is call the pinwheel, very pretty.

Friday and Saturday, it clouded over quite a bit of the sky and the smoke was real heavy in the rest of

the sky. We did see a few good things but the sky wasn't as good. The most noticeable object that I remember was the Cat's eye. It showed the elongated shape and some detail in BOB.

On Saturday night we finally got to look at the Moon and Jupiter with the new refractor. The images are really nice. It does an excellent job of pulling in the white bands that are right next to the dark bands on Jupiter. I took it to 500 X on the Moon. It focused clear and tracked ok. We need to get our north alignment a little better. The anti fringe filter casts a green tint to everything. That isn't bad when you are viewing something bright. However, as Brent Watson demonstrated to me in St. George at a star party, the use of the filter takes away from the detail that you can see. The detail lost isn't worth getting rid of a little purple glow. Craig and I both really preferred the unfiltered image where we could see so much detail. I can see using the filter the way you would a Moon filter. Use it when the public is viewing and the object is too bright for them to see quickly. If you are viewing and can take the time to get used to the image, you will see a lot better detail.

Hopefully the August star party will have nice clear nights. Monte Cristo is one of the highlights of the year for me. We get to socialize and then if the sky cooperates, we have a great star party. I hope to see all of you up there this month.

Dave