



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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### *The President's Message*

I would like to thank everyone that helped with the Telescope Buying Workshop. Cliff Peterson gave a great talk on telescope differences along with a Power Point show. We had several different scopes on display and people got a first hand look at them. Although we didn't have a big turnout, it was very helpful to the people that were there. I think this has been a worthwhile program and I hope we can continue it. I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Thanks for all your support.

Lee Priest  
President  
Ogden Astronomical Society

Postscript - one of my co-workers came up to me after the workshop and was very complimentary of the presentation.. He's going to go ahead and buy a telescope ( a Dob, I think) based on what he learned. It worked! Now we'll have to get the "how to use your new 'scope" workshop going after Christmas.

Jim Sgt

### **OAS Minutes, 13 Nov 03**

Before the meeting started, Doug Say had Astronomy Calendars, and Year in Space planners for sale at \$10.00 each.

President Lee Priest brought the meeting to order at 7:32 PM and started with Announcements.

We have a telescope-buying workshop scheduled for November 21, 2003 at 7:30PM in room 121 of the Ott Planetarium building. For those bringing telescopes, the room will be available at 7:00PM.

We have our third annual Dead Horse Point star party scheduled for the nights of 14, 15 May 2004. We have the group site reserved for those nights.

The last public star party of the year was October 25, at the Ogden Nature Center. It went well in spite of the low turnout.

The Executive Committee will work on locations for next year's public star parties and will have an announcement sometime after the first of the year.

Wayne Sumner and Lee Priest expressed their thanks to Dr. Palen for nominating them to the new Friends of the Clark Planetarium Board. Dr. Palen is a member of the Clark Planetarium Advisory Board.

The meeting moved into the evening's program; a video of the October 8 seminar presented at the U of U by Dr. Gary Horowitz, entitled "Strange Views of Space and Time: From Einstein to String Theory". Dr. Horowitz is from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10PM

### **December Meeting**

The program for the December meeting will be a presentation by Dr. John Armstrong entitled "Searching for Life in the Universe: Hopes and Expectations in the 21st Century".

John is a physics research professor at Weber State University, currently working this question with a grant from NASA. The Ogden Standard Examiner recently did an article on John and his work; it was in the paper Monday November 3rd.

Astrobiologists are using emerging technology for an unprecedented search for life elsewhere in the universe. John will discuss the current space missions aimed at uncovering extraterrestrial life in the solar system, and talk about the plans for more powerful "life detection" instruments. For the first time in human history we have the technology to detect "Earth-like" planets around other stars. In the 21st century, we could very well answer the question: "Are we alone?"

## Upcoming Events

11 Dec 03 OAS meeting, Ott Planetarium, WSU

9 Jan 04 OAS meeting, Ott Planetarium, WSU

Every Wed night, weather permitting - Ott Planetarium Star Party

### Dues are Due!

(Reprint from November, but still valid.)

(If you've paid, please ignore the following.)

The \$12 dues for your 2004 OAS membership should be paid by the end of December, 2003. Please contact Doug Say at a meeting, phone him at 731-7324, or contact any of the others in the OAS executive committee to arrange payment. If we haven't heard from you by the end of December, we'll have to assume you've dropped out. Of course, prodigal returns are welcome any time!

## Astronomical Calendars

In past years, several of us have grouped to purchase astronomical event calendars. Two of the most popular are Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar and the Observer's Handbook from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

The Ottewell Calendars are \$24.95 each, or \$19.95 each if we order 5 or more. Shipping starts at \$6.00 for one but goes down with more copies.

This is a wonderful publication - not just a sky calendar, though it has sky maps for each month. Guy includes beautifully illustrated articles on many astronomical topics. This is a good tool for helping to plan observation sessions and a really good read besides.

The Observer's Handbooks are \$25.95 each. There is about a \$5.00 discount for 5 or more, shipping is about \$10.00.

You can get more information on the Ottewell calendar at [www.universalworkshop.com](http://www.universalworkshop.com) or at [www.store.rasc.ca](http://www.store.rasc.ca) for the Observer's Handbook.

We'll have copies of the 2003 Ottewell calendar and of the Observer's Handbook at the December club meeting if any would like to check them out.

Let either Lee Priest or me know by the end of the meeting and we'll get the orders in.

Lee & Jim

## Optical Breakthrough!

Whatta telescope! Whatta deal! Note the unique anti-Newtonian configuration! Willya look at that focal length and magnification; have you ever seen a 1 mm eyepiece?

**700mm Focal Length!**

**CSTAR OPTICS**

- BARLOW LENS
- ERECTING LENS

**'STRATUS' 700-POWER REFLECTOR TELESCOPE**

#UB-3700

reg. 199.99

**119<sup>99</sup>**

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL PRICE! \$99**

(Seen in the flood of post-Thanksgiving ads.)  
(Their Baraska binoculars are pretty good!)

## Secretary's Notes

We distribute The Star Diagonal by either US Mail, e-mail, or both. US mail is the default - if you want your copy by e-mail (or both), let me know.

Distribution by e-mail instead of snail-mail offers several advantages; it saves the OAS a few pennies in postage and printing, it saves me a little handling, and it gets you color pictures. There were some difficulties when we first started e-mail distribution, but it seems pretty reliable now.

Copies of the newsletter are also posted at the OAS page of the Weber University - Ott Planetarium web site -

<http://physics.weber.edu/oas/oas.html>

and at the OAS Yahoo group -

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OAS\\_News/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OAS_News/)

Jim Sgt