



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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## The President's Message

Hi All:

Well it is that time of year again when you know that you really love astronomy when you are willing to stand out side until you can't fill your appendages and the only reason you go inside is that you are shaking to much to look in the eyepiece and still see the Orion nebula, Saturn, Jupiter ... Those of you that adventured to Promontory Point know exactly what I am talking about. Although the weather didn't look promising about 5 of us went out and were paid off with ok skies and an enjoyable night of conversation.

This month I would like to have a show and tell for our meeting so bring your latest and greatest I will bring the Clubs 10" dob and give a quick class on setting it up so that we can get some of you that would like to use it familiar with it.

We also need to log one more night sky event so we do not loose our membership in the network so any of you that have done a presentation with the kits please log on to the night sky web site <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/> any one from our club can access the web site and log an event so please do so you could win one of there quarterly drawings they have been giving away green laser pointers and the yearly drawing is a trip to JPL in sunny California. If someone needs to check out a kit please contact me and I will make sure that you get one.

I wish you all happy Holydays and clear skies throughout the New Year.

Craig Browne

## OAS Minutes, Nov 04

The meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on Nov. 11. President Craig Browne called the meeting to order at 7:30. It was announced that there is a star party scheduled for Nov. 12-13. This will be held west of Golden Spike. Maps were handed out to those interested

in attending. Lee announced that he had some of the calendars that had been ordered. Doug said that we still have several of the Astronomy Wall calendars as well. Stacy announced that the planetarium will be holding a Grand Opening, on Dec. 1, for the new Mediaglobe. It is requested that members of OAS bring telescopes for a Star Party afterward.

The rest of the meeting was a demonstration of the Mediaglobe. We were shown a fly by of a Globular Star Cluster. We also flew out into space and saw how Orion changed at different perspectives. We were shown the landing sites on the Moon. We went to Mexico for the 1991 eclipse. We also went to Chile and viewed the southern sky. It was a real fun demonstration.

David Dunn

## Fall Messier Marathon



The Friday night weather forecast did not look promising so we skipped that night (as did everybody) although it wasn't as bad as forecasted. Saturday we (my wife Alene, her friend JoAnn, myself and Jenna - the dog)

left Ogden and a little over an hour later we were at the site for the star party. We arrived just before sunset so I set up a spotting scope and put on the solar filter. It was so windy at first, I was afraid the wind would tip over the spotting scope but later it calmed down. There were only a couple of small sunspots visible but I had read in one of the latest magazines about the "green flash" that sometimes occurs just after the sun sets, so I continued watching the sun. Since we were on the western side of the Promontory mountains, we had a great view to the West and the distant mountains were low on the horizon. As the sun started to go down over the horizon, I continued to watch the sun through the solar filter. But when it was almost completely down, I took off the filter and projected the image onto my hand to make sure it wouldn't burn my eye when I looked through the scope. When I finally looked through the scope again the sun was quite bright but not unbearable so I only had about 10 seconds of viewing before the sun finally set. Almost exactly when the sun set, a thin emerald green line was visible where the sun had been. It only lasted for a second, but I saw it. At the time I didn't think of using the camera to record it but next time I will try. The flash is so short and so soon after the bright red or orange image of the sun disappears, it is hard to know for certain if it is an after image or an actual green flash. Anyway, it was fun to see for the first time.

After the sun set we setup the bigger telescope for almost an hour, I couldn't get my GOTO function on the telescope to find and track properly. I finally tried the battery in my ATV and that solved the problem. After that, the telescope worked all night. After it was completely dark I started looking for all the Messier objects I could find to try and complete the list I had started at the spring Messier Marathon. My total for the night was 38 objects - 21 new ones for me. I probably could have seen more if I had stayed up longer but it was cold! Before I went to bed, I also saw Neptune and Uranus. I left the telescope set up over night so when I got up early Sunday morning, I got to see Saturn, Jupiter, Mars and Venus.

Sunday we also rode the ATVs 65 miles down to the Spiral Jetty and back and had a picnic. All in all, we had a great time and look forward to going back for another view of the "green flash" and to see if I can locate some more of the Messier objects that I haven't seen yet.

Dan Wrobel

## 21 Years Ago In the Star Diagonal

November 10, 1983 – The November meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society opened 7:30 pm in the

Ogden Chiropractic Clinic, President Tim Parry conducting. Sears Rouch presented the month's "What's Up" presentation. Richard Jackson presented the Constellation of the month, Cassiopeia. The main presentation for the night was Gary Liptrot. He presented a discussion on "Everything You Wanted To Know About Telescopes". Gary discussed the history of the telescope how to use it. He also described how to construct a Dobsonian telescope. Dr. Hills provided some astronomical slides which Gary narrated. Tim Parry then exhibited his brand new, less than a week old, 10" Dobsonian. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## Jim Seargeant's New Mount

After adjusting, tuning, modifying, tweaking, etc, etc, my LX200 for 10, these many years, I decided to try a mount with a real R.A. gear. The Mountain Instruments MI-250 German equatorial mounts seemed to be very solid, tracks well, and is both less expensive and more available than the Astro-Physics equivalent. After watching Astromart for several months, a GoTo MI-250 showed up for sale from, of all places, Salt Lake. I'm now trying to get it set up for use as shown here.



First (after getting the myriad wires out of the way) is leveling the thick aluminum plate that I made to sit on top of the pier. This plate was made very flat to provide a smooth surface for the MI-250 to sit on. I carefully leveled this plate using the adjusting bolts on the top plate of the pier.



Next is to bolt on the MI-250 adapter plate and RA/Dec adjustment base.



And the Dec housing with the dovetail base plate attached.



Then the RA housing drops onto the base.

The counterweight shaft and weights are next and then the 12" Meade OTA is the last major piece. The tail heavy OTA is slid as far forward as possible on the dovetail base and I've added a tube counterweight to help balance the CCD stack that will hang from the back.

There is much wiring to be done yet – I have established that the Losmandy Gemini GoTo system will talk to the computer inside the house over existing wiring. Now I have to set up power and signal for the CCD, focuser, and video camera finder.



I should be imaging soon, if I can just hold the travel down a bit!

Jim Seargeant