



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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December's Meeting

The December meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society will be held on December 14th at 7:30pm in the Ott Planetarium at Weber State University.

OAS Minutes, November 2006

The Monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on November 9th at the Ott Planetarium. President Mike Klein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Mike announced that the Year in Space calendars are available from the club for \$10. We have a Moon viewing party at Antelope Island on 11/15. This will begin at 4pm and last for a couple of hours. Anyone wanting the help out, should contact Crystal Carpenter and let her know you are coming. She will let the people at the gate know to let you in. Mike also encouraged the members to use the calendar on the website. You can sign up with Google (it's free) and you can personalize the calendar. It allows you to add your events, Moon phases, Holidays, etc to the calendar that you see. The St. George Star parties were also mentioned. They are in January and February. The time was then turned over to Cliff Peterson for the lecture on Telescopes for Beginners. We had several visitors that were there to learn how telescopes work and what makes a good one. Cliff's lecture was really good. We had a Question and Answer session afterward and then adjourned to the lobby of the planetarium. Several of us had set up different types of telescopes and demonstrated the features of the telescopes to those that were interested.

David Dunn.

Year In Space Calendar

Lee Priest reports that the Year In Space Calendars are in. They are \$10 each, payable to the club. The club acquired 20 of them. Some of them were purchased during the November meeting and will be delivered at the December meeting. This is a spiral bound, desktop calendar.

Moon Party at Antelope Island

Several members of OAS participated in a fun activity at Antelope Island on 11/25. Both the Sun and Moon were shown to about 30 guests at the Antelope Island Visitors Center. We were also treated to a view of some of the animals of the park, Chukar, Rabbits and an Owl all came by to visit us.

Leonid Meteors

I went out to the northwest of Promontory Saturday night, 11/18. I spent a couple of hours looking around with my 16" scope. After about 7:30 the sky turned a bit milky. There must have been some moisture or high clouds. The sky washed out until it was only just a little bit better than it would be in my backyard. I saw a few dim meteors fly through Perseus and Auriga. One of them kind of reminded me of the storm a few years ago. Several meteors appeared at the same time, right next to each other. I went home at about 9pm, since the sky wasn't real nice.

David Dunn.

OAS Observed the Transit of Mercury

The morning of Wednesday November 8, dawned with beautiful blue, clear skies. Many OAS members had been anticipating the planet Mercury Transit event for a long time. The weather conditions were predicted to deteriorate by late in the day, but it looked like we just might squeak in our solar show.

For this event, OAS telescopes were being assembled in at least two locations, the Weber State University's observatory, and the green lawns of the Say Country Club. I opted for Doug's place because there was going to be food there too. Our host, Doug Say had invited interested astronomers to bring their telescope equipment, and a potluck dish. He was providing the Super Dogs.

Our members assembled their equipment along the 6th hole fairway, not far from the clubhouse patio, (that's where the food was). By the start of the transit we had six telescopes assembled with their solar viewing gear in place. This number included our club's Coronado H-Alpha scope now mounted on the 104 mm refractor, and Mike Klein's new Coronado. There were also telescopes using the neutral density solar filters, and my 4-inch refractor was set up with eyepiece projection and screen.

We watched as the cloud layer approached from the northwest, though we had good skies in the vicinity of the sun. The transit began at the predicted time. We saw first contact at about 12:12:30 p.m. There was that large and markedly detailed sunspot, right on the solar limb, just above where the black pinhead disk of Mercury made contact. It was a beautiful sight. We watched that perfect little black dot slowly advance across the face of the sun. The proximity of Mercury's disk with the sunspot made for a very nice comparison, and the dozen or so visitors who stopped by were treated to a good view. We were forced to dodge the constantly moving clouds, so in between solar views, we took advantage of the lunch that had been assembled on the club patio. The food was great.

By half way through the transit, say around 3:00 p.m., the approaching storm front, with its daunting clouds won the contest, again. We lost the sun for good around 3:30. Our transit observations ended, but we all felt satisfied with the fine views of the event that we had enjoyed. By 4:00 p.m., the scopes and equipment were coming down.

We thank Doug Say for his generosity in sharing his fine viewing location, and his effort with the lunch, and his beautiful home grounds. We all had a fine time.

Bob Tillotson





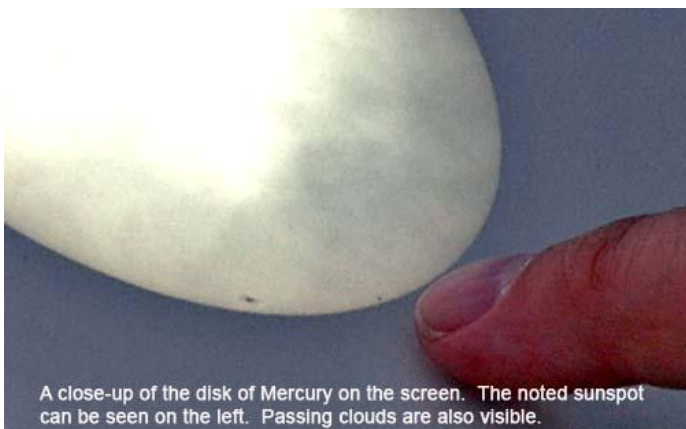
Our Resident Astronomer and host, Doug Say.



Mike and Duston



The members frequented the Food Table when the clouds moved in.



A close-up of the disk of Mercury on the screen. The noted sunspot can be seen on the left. Passing clouds are also visible.