



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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President's Message

Another month has past us by and we're slowly inching towards spring. This month's meeting will be February 8, 2007. We plan on having Bob Tillotson give a history lesson and presentation of O.A.S. this will be very interesting to hear and see. After that, Dave Dunn will give a few pointers on getting ready for the messier marathon that's coming March 16-17 2007.

We have had some very colorful debates on our logo ideas and we will talk about that as well. It has proven to be a very sensitive subject for some members. Also, if anyone has not signed up for the yahoo newsgroup you really should do that. Contact Dave Dunn and he will set you up. This is the best way to communicate with all members in the quickest time.

I hope to see everybody at the meeting February 8th.

Mike Klein

OAS Minutes, January 2007

The Monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on January 11th at the Ott Planetarium. President Mike Klein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. The St. George Star party was cancelled. The weather was forecasted as wet and cold. We don't need to drive 300 miles for that. We are still planning the February St. George star party. It will be held on February 16th and 17th. The plan is to go to the Ft. Pierce area again. Driving directions will be supplied at a later date.

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. On 1/26 an asteroid will be occulting a 6.3mag star. This is at 2:47am. Paul

Maley, from the NASA Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society, would like to work with us to get some timings of the 14 second event.

We then had a show and tell with several members participating. Ron showed us a filter wheel that he built for his 25" telescope. Les had a Quick connector for his 2" Diagonal. This would save threading issues on the Mead SCT telescopes. If anyone was interested in getting one built, they can contact him.

David Dunn.

St. George Star Party

We are planning a St George Star Party on 2/16 & 2/17. We will hold this in the Fort Pierce area, where we have previously held it. This is a nice opportunity to get out in the winter and see some of the neat winter sky. Several of us will be getting reservations at the Motel 6 in St. George. The area that we hold the party on is BLM land and you could camp at the site as well. If you let David Dunn know that you are coming and supply him with a cell phone number, he will make sure that you are kept in the loop on any changes that might happen. Make sure that you check with me before heading down. If the weather is going to be bad, we may break with tradition and cancel this party (we have another one scheduled next month). We don't go all the way out to Fort Pierce to set up the telescopes. We stop in a big open area just short of a fence. The road begins to get a little more rough and the horizon is really open at this site. Here are the directions to get to the site.

From I-15 get off at exit 8 which is St. George Boulevard and make a left turn. Go across the bridge to River Rd. Turn right on River Rd. Go south till you cross the Virgin River bridge and turn left at 1450 South. Take this road and head east and you

will come to a stop sign. Turn left on 1580 South and keep going east. This will turn into 3400 South when you enter Washington. The road will turn right and you will head south on Washington Fields Rd. Keep going until you see the old farmhouse and turn left on the dirt road. There is a sign and it will say Warner Valley. Go southeast on this road about 5.6 miles till you see the signs for Fort Pearce. Turn right to go to Fort Pearce. The dinosaur tracks are farther east of the Fort Pearce turnoff. There is a sign that says "Dinosaur Tracks" if anybody is interested.

Membership Notes

This month we will be sending out a copy of the Star Diagonal to everyone through the regular mail. We do this once a year so that we can include a copy of the membership list with out sending it through the insecure internet.

The first column, PDF?, indicates how you want to receive the Star Diagonal. Y is through email, B is Both and blank is through regular mail. If you wish to change your preference, let me know.

We also have a private yahoo group that we use to notify everyone about up coming events. If you are not on the list, and want to be, you can join by sending an email to,

OAS_News-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Please include enough information so that I know who you are. If I don't know who you are, I will send you an email asking. We use this group to communicate with everyone about our events. We don't want to get it cluttered with Spam.

David Dunn

32 LYNX OCCULTATION

Well Thursday nite/Friday morning was supposed to be an exciting event for us.

Dustin Klein, Craig Browne, Jeremy Mathews, Myself and Paul Maley of the NASA Johnson space

center astronomical society set out to capture and record this event.

The evening started with Craig picking Paul up at the airport at 8:30 pm and we all met at Craig's house to draw out our battle plan.

We split into two teams, Mike, Dustin, and Paul & Craig and Jeremy. Craig and Jeremy set their observing location in Craig's back yard. We went north about 11 miles.

Our team had a few problems getting the scope to align but we were able to get set up and ready with about 20 minutes to spare.

Finally, 2:45 am is here. We're set up, Ready to go, We have to be quick, It will only last about 14 seconds, We wait and wait and...nothing happened!! It came and went and no sighting from our location. How can this be? We were smack dab in the middle of the path!!

We loaded everything up and headed back to Craig's hoping there team got it.

When we got there, Jeremy was already gone. This doesn't look good. The same thing NO SIGHTING!! Paul gathered all his equipment up and I took him back to the airport. What a disappointment it must have been for him, 3000 round trip miles in 12 short hours.

Since then, reports have come in that the northern most sighting was 7 km south of Craig.

Oh well, maybe next time. It was a fun and fast event even if it didn't turn out too well.

Mike Klein

Minutes of OAS Executive meeting held 1/17/2007.

The OAS Executive Committee met to discuss the logo and various concerns that had been expressed related to changing it. When we had begun the search for a new logo, our thoughts were on two fronts. One was that our current logo had been rejected by a group who wanted to list us on their flyer. Our logo wasn't clear and they couldn't use it. The other was that there were some neat new tools available today and we thought we could create a more meaningful logo. On the OAS_News list, we discovered that there was some historical and sentimental value to the current logo. With this

understanding, we feel that it would be best to keep the existing logo.

We also became more interested in hearing and preserving more of the history of the club. We are hoping that Bob Tillotson and other “long term” members will continue to share the history of the club with us.

A thought, that had come up during club meetings, was that a new logo might look better on shirts, patches and coins. We also discussed this in the executive meeting. VP, Dustin Klein, brought a collection of NASA patches that he has collected. One thing that occurred to us is that NASA celebrated major events by creating mission patches. Many of the patches are quite detailed and sophisticated. What we are considering doing is, creating a T-shirt or patch commemorating some of our better activities or events in OAS history. An example is that we could have a shirt that represented our Antelope Island or Monte Cristo Star Parties. We are thinking that these shirts or patches could be good ways to commemorate some of our history. Let us know what you think.

One other thing that the officers want to say is that we hope that nobody was offended by anything that was said in the various emails about the logo, earlier this month. We weren't and we don't think that anyone else intended to be offensive. It is very hard to communicate feeling in an email. It is very easy to take offense to what is being said. We hope that if anyone was offended, that they will resolve the issue and go on enjoying association with us.

David Dunn