



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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The President's Message

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a happy New Year in spite of all the snow and power outages. Hopefully the remainder of this winter won't be so hard. At the January 8th, meeting we will have dates for this years activities and a discussion of the schedule. We would like to add a Messier Marathon to the list of activities; it looks like March 19, 20 will be the best nights. We will pick a location soon, maybe Golden Spike State Park or somewhere else close by. The program for the January meeting will be the Video, "Powers of Ten"

Lee Priest
President, OAS

OAS Minutes, 11 Dec 03

OAS President Lee Priest opened the meeting at 7:30.

Announcements/Discussion

The Dead Horse Point star party is set for the nights of 14, 15 May 2004. We have the group site reserved for those nights. Participants should equip themselves for extreme winter conditions: Cliff Peterson indicates he may be there. (Just kidding - we look forward to mild temperatures and clear skies. Right.)

The Telescope Workshop was successful; not too many prospective buyers attended, but more than last year. We'll consider a tutorial for first-time telescope owners early this year.

Orders for Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar and the Observer's Handbook from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada are still being accepted but the lists will be closed after the Dec. meeting. Copies were available for review.

The OAS Secretary, Jim Seargeant, announced that the updated OAS roster will be included in the January newsletter. (See "Secretary's Notes, below.")

Les Bitton passed around a box of surplus lenses and other treasures that he was offering for free.

Jim Seargeant showed off his Baraska 15 x 70 binoculars that he bought from Big 5 Sporting Goods for about \$60. These are pretty good values at the usual list price of \$119 - Big 5 seems to put them on sale fairly often. Dave Dunn mentioned he had to collimate the ones he bought, so check them if you buy a pair.

Dr. John Armstrong then began the night's program, a very interesting discussion of NASA's plans for the hunt for life in the universe.

Upcoming Events

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| 8 Jan 04, 6:00 PM | OAS Executive Committee planning meeting, location TBD. (Expected to be near the Ott Planetarium, WSU) |
| 8 Jan 04, 7:00 PM | OAS meeting, Ott Planetarium, WSU |
| 12 Feb 04, 7:00 PM | OAS meeting, Ott Planetarium, WSU |

Every Wed night, weather permitting - Ott Planetarium Star Party

Secretary's Notes

A copy of the OAS membership list is attached to this newsletter. This list includes all of the OAS members who have paid their dues for 2004 as of the end of December, 2003 or have indicated their intention to pay in the near future. We're a bit cautious about sending this sort of information on members via the internet, so this month all members will get their newsletter by postal mail. In addition, copies of the newsletter, less the member roster, are sent to all those who are signed up for e-mail distribution and will be posted to the OAS's Yahoo newsgroup files section.

Please let me know of any corrections or additions to the information on the membership list.

Jim Seargeant
OAS Secretary