



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

OAS Executive Committee

President- Mike Klein
Ph. (801) 775-0341
Vice Pres- Dustin Klein
Ph. (801) 309-1233
Secretary- David Dunn
Ph. (801) 544-7705
Treasurer- Doug Say
(801) 731-7324

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President's Message

It is with great regret that we had our long time friend and fellow astronomer Karen Pierce pass away in December. Our prayers go out Deloy and his family. Now she is looking down on us from the stars as we look up.

Well, with the holidays behind us now, maybe we can get going towards the warmer days of spring (I wish).

At this months meeting we will be having a show and tell. Please bring your astronomy gifts and stories with you and share them with us.

We have tentative plans for a Messier Marathon in St. George on January 19-20. This will depend on weather.

We need to start getting more ideas about a new club logo. Lee Priest and Gennie Kirch have drafted some very good logos. If any of you would like to be involved in this, its time to put your thinking caps on. I would like to see a new logo by the April meeting.

I hope to see you all at the meeting, January 11th at 7:30pm in the Ott Planetarium at Weber State University.

Mike Klein

Calendars

We have four Year in space Desk Calendars available; they are \$10.00 each payable to the club. I will have them at the January 11th meeting, or anyone interested can let me know at levae@aol.com or call me at 391-5729.

Dues are Due

If you haven't paid your dues yet for 2006-2007, please get them turned into Doug Say. Dues are due at the September meeting and membership is from September to September. This will be the last Star Diagonal that will be sent to members that haven't paid their dues yet. If you want to mail your dues to Doug, here is his address.

Doug Say
2060 W. 1025 N.
Farr West, UT 84404

OAS Minutes, December 2006

The Monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on December 14th at the Ott Planetarium. President Mike Klein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. The St. George Star parties were discussed. The plan is to go to the Ft. Pierce area again. Driving directions will be supplied at a later date. The star parties are scheduled for January 19 & 20 and February 16 & 17. Since the club has acquired several items of new equipment, we are putting together an inventory. We collected some of the information for the inventory during the meeting. We then enjoyed the Planetarium's Christmas show, A Season of Lights. It was about how the holidays related to various things like the solstice, religious and pagan holidays and festivals.

David Dunn.

Karen Pierce

OAS member Karen Pierce passed away on December 18th. She had been suffering with Cancer. Karen was a good friend to many of us and will truly be missed. Karen taught me a lot about how to find things in the sky. When I first started she encouraged me to take one constellation and concentrate on that area during a star party. She also encouraged me to just learn the location of a couple of new objects each night. This helped me to learn the sky and to be able to find many objects to look at. Karen and Deloy also introduced many of us to Nal Morris. We had a very fun star party in Parowan Gap. Nal met us down there and gave us a tour of the site. He also explained an interpretation of the petroglyphs that are present there. Karen and Deloy also became avid bird watchers. At many of the star parties they would point out various birds and show pictures from some of their outings. In the memorials that were posted in several locations, it was pointed out that Karen was excellent at teaching. She had patience and was able to tell all the kids what they were looking at. Karen will be greatly missed but the things that she taught many of us will continue to be passed on to others. If anyone wishes to make a donation, there is a Karen Welch Pierce Memorial Fund open at America First Credit Union.

St. George Star Party

We are planning a St George Star Party on 1/19 & 1/20. 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.

Star Parties

This is the time of year when many of us begin scheduling our vacations. I have included the scheduled public and private star parties. This list doesn't include the schools and impromptu star parties that we have. Make sure and watch the calendar on www.OgdenAstronomy.com for the current updated calendar. Mike is able to update this calendar so that it is always correct. If we cancel a star party, he can update the calendar to reflect that as well.

Now is the time to prepare for the Messier Marathon in March. For those that don't know what a Messier Marathon is, it is an attempt to see all of the Messier objects in one night. Each year, between March 15th and April 1st, you might be able to see all 110 Messier objects in one night. This is an all night project and is very difficult to complete. On my best attempt, I saw 98. Some of the most difficult object to find are currently up high in the sky and easy to see. You should practice finding M77, M74, M33, M76. You will need to be able to recognize them in twilight. It would be best to learn the star fields around them so that any glimpse of a fuzzy thing will be recognized. M52 and M103 will also be difficult if you aren't familiar with them. They are

both open clusters. It is too late to study for the end of the marathon. It gets light really fast and it is difficult to find any reference stars to find the globular clusters of the Sagittarius, Capricornus and Aquarius regions. The ones that I missed were M75, M15, M2, M72, M73 (Open Cluster), M30. You should work on these in the summer at Monte so you can do them next year. One other object that you need to learn to find in NGC5866. We substitute this for M102 since the Messier catalog list 101 and 102 as the same object. Even if you don't want to do a full Messier Marathon, this is a great way to learn the sky. It is also a fun all night star party.

10/04 – 10/06 – Moab

11/09 – 11/10 – Messier Marathon

Public Star Parties

04/21 – Antelope Island

05/19 – Antelope Island

06/16 – Antelope Island

06/30 – Snowbasin

07/21 – Antelope Island

07/28 – Snowbasin

08/04 – Antelope Island

08/25 – Snowbasin

09/08 – Antelope Island

09/22 – Snowbasin

10/13 – Antelope Island

Private Camping Star Parties

01/19 – 01/20 – St. George

02/16 – 02/17 – St. George

03/16 – 03/17 – Messier Marathon

04/12 – 04/14 – Moab

07/12 – 07/14 – Monte Cristo

08/09 – 08/11 – Monte Cristo