



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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<http://physics.weber.edu/oas/oas.html>

## The President's Message

Thanks to all those that helped at the East Canyon State Park Star Party. Although the crowd was small we had a good time. David Dunn put the slide show together with slides borrowed from Ron Vanderhoule; thanks guys, that was a great help.

In September we will have elections for next years officers. The nominating committee will be calling to ask members to accept a nomination for any of the offices, your support will be greatly appreciated. Thanks,

Lee Priest

## OAS Minutes - 12 June 03

Lee Priest opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Lee announced that this would be the last OAS meeting until September. As is customary in the summer, the Monte Cristo star parties will serve as the meetings.

Lee asked for volunteers for the OAS officer's nominating committee. After some discussion (and the observation that committee members rarely nominate themselves for office) Kay Hargis, Gary Liptrot, and Ron Vanderhoule volunteered to form the nominating committee. Responsibilities include contacting each prospective nominee to ensure they are willing to run for the office. Several of the current officers indicated their willingness to be nominated for the next year's term.

The OAS has reserved the Lowell Observatory for 8, 9, & 10 Sept, so the Sept meeting will be on the first, rather than the second Thursday of Sept. Activities

such as tours to the Meteor Crater will be planned for those going to Flagstaff.

Intermountain Tee Shirt has offered to put the OAS logo on a wide variety of clothing, almost anything in their catalog. Logos can be silkscreened or embroidered. There will be a discount for orders in lots of at least 12. Carol Priest has volunteered (was drafted) to organize the orders. She will have the catalog available at meetings and star parties for those wishing to make a selection. OAS members can also go by their store on Riverdale Rd. to see the selection first hand and try a fitting. Be sure to contact Carol Priest for the order.

The next Dead Horse Point star party is set for 14, 15 May 04. We missed the opportunity for reserving the group site - just couldn't make a connection at the right time. The backup plan will be for individuals to make reservations for their own sites or to use the BLM areas.

The East Canyon star party will be on 28 June.

The possibility of a star party at Rockport State Park was discussed, but nothing firm yet. (See "Upcoming Events", below.)

The first Monte Cristo star party will be 25 & 26 July, with potluck dinners on both nights. No open fires will be allowed - very likely no charcoal either, so planning will have to include a gas grill. Access to the Monte Cristo telescope field will be along the dirt road leading from the highway; they've blocked the usual entrance from Loop D. The road from the highway may be blocked by a gate, but a detour through the trees gets around it.

There is still a chance to order green lasers with a discount. Contact Kay Hargis. Deloy noted that at the Farr West star party he could see the beam from 10 feet away. (Note: The discount offer expired by the time this newsletter was published.)

Dr. Stacy Palen then presented the night's program on the Aurora, complete with laser pointers for the children amongst us (most everyone present) and a desktop demonstration.

## Aurora

Many internet sites include information on the aurora. One that provides a great many links to other sites on the aurora is hosted by Michigan Tech at <http://www.geo.mtu.edu/weather/aurora/>.

A search at Astronomy Picture Of the Day (APOD), <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>, leads to many beautiful auroral images and one of the Sun at <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap030318.html>. The coronal holes pictured in the Sun's image are the source of the solar wind that causes the aurora.

## Upcoming Events & 2003 Star Party Schedule

Except for the OAS meetings, all events listed are star parties. Note the new event added on Aug 2 - a star party at Rockport State Park; this will be similar to the East Canyon star party. To get to Rockport State Park, take the 84 loop past Coalville to Wanship, exit there, and go south on SR 32 to the exit to the park.

Jul 5	Antelope Island
Jul 10	<u>No</u> OAS meeting!
Jul 25, 26	Monte Cristo
Aug 2	Rockport State Park
Aug 14	<u>No</u> OAS meeting!
Aug 22, 23	Monte Cristo
Aug 30	Antelope Island
Sept 4	OAS meeting, Ott Planetarium - Annual Business Meeting (moved to the first Thursday because of the Lowell trip)
Sept 8, 9, 10	Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff AZ.
Sept 27	Antelope Island
Oct 9	OAS meeting
Oct 25	Antelope Island

## East Canyon Star Party

The East Canyon star party had a good field of telescopes, a fine, clear night, cool temperatures, and few bugs. The glow from Salt Lake City was minor and the local lights not too obtrusive; the Milky Way

was even visible before it was fully dark. A beautiful night, in other words. The only problem was the relatively few visitors that came out to enjoy the stars. All it takes is one, though. I had a great time showing objects to a student from Salt Lake City, who seemed to become really enthused about Astronomy. There's hope!

Jim Seargeant

## Telescope Making Class

We will be having a FREE Introductory Telescope Making class on Saturday, July 12, 2003, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Pioneer Hall (1140 W. 7800 S.) in West Jordan. At the FREE introductory class we will introduce you to the basics of telescope making, how a telescope works, different telescope styles, assemblies, and mounts.

The FREE class on July 12th has no cost or obligation. This is an informational class only, and everyone is invited to attend.

We will also be giving you information about our Extended Telescope Making Course. For those who want to learn more in depth techniques to build your own telescope. Each participant of our Extended Course will have the opportunity to build a complete telescope with a 6" to a 16" primary mirror depending on your skills and desires. The Extended Course is a combination beginning and advanced class. We will provide hands on instructions for mirror grinding, building sonotube and truss tube style telescope assemblies, and building a Dobsonian mount for your telescope.

So if you have ever been interested in building your own telescope, please attend our FREE introductory telescope making class on July 12th. For additional information, email us at [john@johnstelescopes.com](mailto:john@johnstelescopes.com) and see [www.johnstelescopes.com](http://www.johnstelescopes.com).

John Zeigler



The telescope field at East Canyon  
Dave Dunn busy collimating one of his Dobs  
and everyone else busy watching Doug Say work on BOB.