

THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Vol. 32

Number 9

June 2003

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

The President's Message

I would like to say thanks for everyone that helped with the Elementary School Star Parties. The attendance to most of them was very good, I think they were successful and everyone had a good time.



Valley View Elementary School Star Party
Roy, Friday, May 30 - Lee Priest
(Dramatic sunset shot by Lee, I couldn't do it justice in
grayscale - Jim Sgt)

For the June 12th meeting, we will have the planetarium show "Northern Lights." In July and August will have the Monte Christo Star Parties so we will not have regular monthly meetings, as we have done in the past.

September will be the Annual Business Meeting for the election of new officers. We will need to move the September meeting to the first Thursday, September 4th. because the Lowell Observatory trip will be the second week of September. In the next few weeks, I will be looking for a few members to be on the nominating committee for new officers, volunteers will be appreciated. If you are contacted by a committee member, please consider accepting a nomination. I

have enjoyed my time as an officer and I recommend the job to anyone.

Thanks to Kay Hargis for ordering the green laser pointers, we got them for \$99.93 each plus shipping. If there is an interest, we may be able to get more at the same price but we will need to act soon.

Thanks for all your support,

Lee Priest, OAS President

OAS Minutes - 10 April 03

Lee Priest opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Lee announced the program for the night would be the Solar Max DVD., followed by the "Ultimate Universe" a demo program from E& S, if time permits.

Announcements, discussion:

With rain in the forecast for Friday, The Roy HS star party has been canceled. Lee will work with them for an alternate date.

The next star party will be May 16 at Monte Vista, then Midlands Elementary on the 23rd.

At this point, John Sohl brought in a tray of cookies and thanks to the club for its support of Ott Planetarium activities. (I fear I lost the thread of the conversation there for a while, focused as I was on the cookies.)

John also brought in a stack of schedules to give out at star parties.

Wayne Sumner asked if anyone had seen anything of the Mercury transit on any of the internet sites. (See "Transit of Mercury", below.)

Lee reminded us of the Lunar eclipse on the 15th. The discussion lead to an eclipse party at Doug Say's place - come early and bring the golf clubs.

Lee talked about the Lowell trip and asked for a show of hands planning to go. While the dates are a bit past the peak for viewing Mars, there is a better chance for the monsoon season to be over in early Sept.. The Quality Inn was mentioned as a reasonable hotel at a reasonable price. Lee will be checking on possible tours at the Navel Observatory and the new Lowell observatory on Anderson Mesa. (See the June 03 Sky & Tel for an article on the 2003 apparition of Mars.)

Lee discussed the mount for the SolarMax 40 and thanked Craig Browne for the tripod and GEM and Cliff Peterson for machining a good fit between scope and mount. The setup is working well and will be in use at the future star parties.

Lee discussed the Antelope Island gate charging for OAS members supporting star parties there. Lee emphasized that club members should get past the gate for free. There was discussion of making new cards for display on the windshield.

In a brief show and tell session, Jim Seargeant showed the headlamp he found at Lowe's; the red LED works very well for cleanup after a star party. Karen Pierce has seen them for \$1 cheaper at Walmart.

Deloy Pierce then showed off his new binocular acquisition - little folding jobs. Opening them up (closing them, too) was like solving a puzzle. He also reminded all for the Grand Canyon party on 21 - 28 June.

The green laser project was discussed. Wayne sent back the one he had as too low in power. There seems to be considerable variation . So far there are 7 or 8 committed to buying - 10 are needed to get a break on shipping, so anyone interested should contact Lee or Wayne. (See President's Message, above.)

Dave Dunn has set up a Yahoo newsgroup for OAS members. This will serve as a means of rapidly exchanging information with OAS members - so sign up! This will be maintained as a private newsgroup by Dave. Club officers will be added to Dave as moderators. The OAS Secretary will post newsletters in the files section

Upcoming Events & 2003 Star Party Schedule

Except for the OAS meetings, all events listed are star parties.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Jun 7 | Antelope Island |
| Jun 28 | East Canyon State Park |
| Jul 5 | Antelope Island |
| Jul 10 | <u>No</u> OAS meeting! |
| Jul 25, 26 | Monte Christo |
| Aug 14 | <u>No</u> OAS meeting! |
| Aug 22, 23 | Monte Christo |
| 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 |

Clear Sky Clock for Ogden

From the OAS newsgroup, for those who aren't signed up:

"I noticed yesterday the nearest generated clear sky clock was for Salt Lake City.

I sent an email to Attila Danko and received a response this morning indicating a clear sky clock is now online for Ogden. It is also good for Clearfield and Layton.

Web address is:

<http://www.cleardarksky.com/c/OgdnUTkey.html?1>

Jeff Chadick"

Thanks, Jeff!

Transit of Mercury

See the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center's page by Fred Espenak for transit in motion -

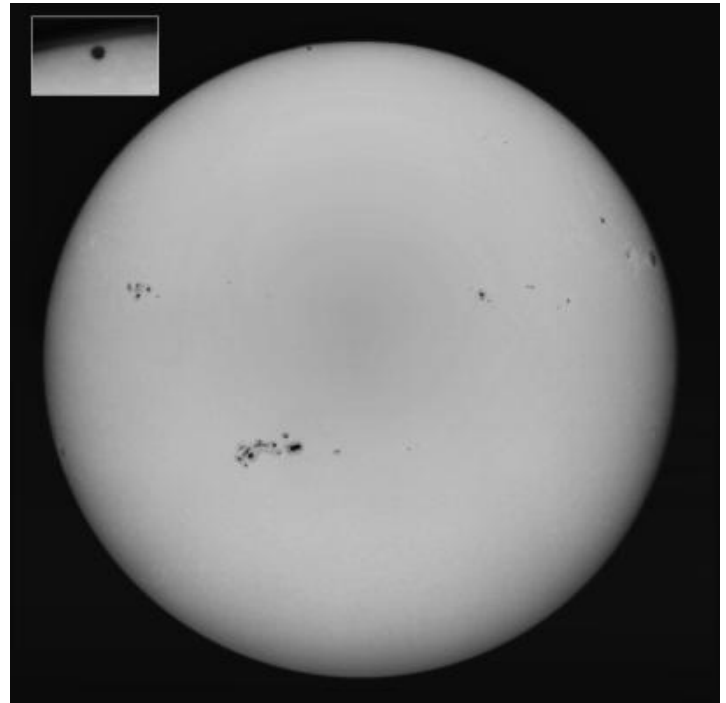
<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/OH/transit03.html#webcast> . The European Southern Observatory has interesting material at http://www.noao.edu/image_gallery/html/im0568.html

The next transit of Mercury will be on 2006 Nov 08.

Venus will make one of its rare transits on 8 Jun 2004, but will unfortunately be visible only in eastern half of US and will be already in progress at sunrise. We'll have to be in Europe, Africa (except western parts), Middle East, or Asia (except eastern parts) to see the entire transit. See

<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/transit/venus0412.html>

Mercury (the little bitty dot)



Credit: Bill Livingston, NSO/AURA/NSF