



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## OAS Executive Committee

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Vol. 36 Number 7

March 2007

<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

## President's Message

Hello again fellow members.

Once again the month has slipped away and we are getting closer to the start of our star party activities. On Feb. 20, I met with the management from Antelope Island and signed a yearly contract for our up coming star parties. The only real changes will be that in order to get onto the island for free is you will need to show your membership card (just having a telescope will not get you on the island) & we need to be leaving the island before 1:00 am. I will cover all the details at the meeting. Hopefully by the March meeting we will have the cards made up for this year.

I have also entered into an agreement with Antelope Island to help offset the costs of building an observatory at Antelope Island. By us helping them out, we get ourselves a better continuing support for our star parties.

At our March meeting I want to discuss the possibility of also providing some financial support for the observatory. Please come to the meeting so that you can give us feedback on the different options that will come up. If you can't attend the meeting, feel free to call or email one of the Executive Committee members.

We are starting to fill up the calendar with star parties for the year so check the web site calendar it gets updated as soon as dates are added.

March 16-17 is our Messier Marathon. Location  
TBA

March 23 we have a star party at Brigham City Jr.  
High.

Hope to see you all at the meeting March 8, 2007.

Mike Klein

## OAS Minutes, February 2007

The Monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on February 8th at the Ott Planetarium. President Mike Klein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. We are still planning the February St. George star party. It will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in attending should contact David Dunn. The plan is to go to the Ft. Pierce area again. 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.

The main presentation for the meeting was about the history of OAS. This was done by Bob Tillotson. Bob was present at the founding meeting of OAS. It was held in September of 1970 at the Planetarium at Weber State College. They placed several suggested names for the club on the blackboard and then voted to select the Ogden Astronomical Society as their name. They selected a President & Vice President, then Bob volunteered to be the first secretary. After about a year, they moved their meetings to Dr. Dawson's clinic in South Ogden. They met in the basement of the clinic from 1971 to December 1986. Because of issues with the clinic's new owners, they met at the Utah Power Company and the Weber County Library. In 1987, Dr. Hills invited them to come back and meet in the planetarium again. Bob then displayed some pictures and told us of some of the events recorded in the newsletter. This was a very fun meeting. It really is nice to hear the history of the club and see some of the fun things that they have done such as, attending lectures by Carl Sagan, Sir Fred Hoyle and Steven Hawking. After Bob finished his presentation, David Dunn passed out some Messier Marathon lists and suggested that anyone interested, become familiar with the first few objects now so that they can find them in March. The meeting adjourned with the club

members looking over the books and photos that Bob had to display.

David Dunn.

## **St. George Star Party**

The St. George Star Party was fun. We ended out holding it at Ft Pearce. The place we held it the last couple of years was posted "No Trespassing". It looks like the BLM land starts after the fence. We may want to investigate a different place in the canyon. On Friday night it was quiet in the parking lot. On Saturday night we had a large group of Trucks drive to the parking lot. They were planning a party. They left, but of course, they had already reduced out night vision. I also had a Sheriff drop by to make sure that I was alright, early Sunday morning. He didn't have a problem with me being there but if we camped somewhere else, we probably wouldn't have him check us out.

Friday night, it was a little windy, which made the viewing not as good as I wanted. On Saturday, I enjoyed sitting out in the Sun, reading and exploring the area around Ft. Pearce. Saturday night was really nice. The air was calm and the seeing was great. I was able to pick out M74 and M33 in the twilight. I toured around the sky looking at lots of Planetaries and Galaxies.

I think that the lack of Motel rooms really affected the attendance this year. I slept in my Expedition at Ft. Pearce. Max Holbrook attended as did Debbie Whittaker. Max had several of his adult children that attended as well.

## **Antelope Island State Park & Ogden Astronomical Society 2007 MOU**

**This is a one year MOU to be renegotiated at the first of each calendar year.**

OAS responsibilities will be as follows:

1. OAS and its members will not leave the road and will use direct route to and from the site of the star party, currently White Rock Bay.

2. OAS and its members will present a current (2007) OAS membership card for free entry to the park.
3. OAS will remove any signs that are placed for directions.
4. OAS will remove any trash that is left in the event area.
5. OAS and its members will be on the causeway headed off the island by 1:00 a.m.
6. OAS will hold four (6) public star parties during the calendar year.
7. OAS will contact the park manager or park liaison to make sure the chosen dates do not conflict with island operations.

Antelope Island State Park Responsibilities:

1. AISP will allow access to the island free of charge to OAS members.
2. AISP will provide OAS with the gate closing time so the public will be aware of the latest time they may arrive.
3. AISP will not ask OAS to leave the island before 1:00 a.m.
4. AISP will let OAS know of the main gate's closing time.
5. AISP will alert OAS if event schedule changes as to interfere with an OAS star party event at White Rock Bay.

## **Year In Space Calendar**

We still have one 2007 Year in Space Desk Calendar available, anyone interested can contact Lee Priest at 391-5729 or I will have it at the March 8th meeting.

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CALANDER  
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MARCH 16-17 MESSIER MARATHON  
MEMBERS ONLY

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APRIL 11-15 DEAD HORSE POINT ST.PARK  
APRIL 21 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
ASTRONOMY DAY

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APRIL 21 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
ASTRONOMY DAY

MAY 19 ANTILOPE ISLAND

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JUNE 16 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
JUNE 30 SNOW BASIN

JUNE 16 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
JUNE 30 SNOW BASIN

JULY 12-15 MONTE CRISTO  
MEMBERS ONLY  
JULY 21 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
JULY 28 SNOW BASIN

JULY 12-15 MONTE CRISTO  
MEMBERS ONLY  
JULY 21 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
JULY 28 SNOW BASIN

AUGUST 4 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
AUGUST 8-12 MONTE CRISTO  
AUGUST 25 SNOW BASIN

AUGUST 4 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
AUGUST 8-12 MONTE CRISTO  
AUGUST 25 SNOW BASIN

SEPT.8 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
SEPT. 22 SNOW BASIN

SEPT.8 ANTILOPE ISLAND  
SEPT. 22 SNOW BASIN

OCT. 3-7 DEADHORSE ST. PARK.  
MEMBER ONLY  
OCT. 13 PENDING T.B.A.

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MEMBER ONLY  
OCT. 13 PENDING T.B.A.

ANTILOPE ISLAND HELD @ WHITE ROCK  
BAY  
\$ 9.00 ENTRANCE FEE INTO PARK

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SNOW BASIN HELD@ THE LODGE  
YOU MUST PAY FOR A GONDOLA RIDE TO  
THE TOP  
DEAD HORSE PT. & MONTE CRISTO ARE  
MEMBER  
ONLY CAMP-OUTS

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