



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

The President's Message

As we discussed last month, we will have our May meeting a week early on the 6th, 7:30 at the Ott Planetarium. I hope the meeting change is not a problem for anyone. With the Dead Horse Point star party and campout the following week, it was necessary to move the meeting. At the meeting we will talk about color options for the OAS logo and get a shirt order together. I will put out an announcement after the meeting and give everyone a chance to be included in the order. We also need to set up a nominating committee for the September elections. If anyone is still undecided or waiting for a favorable weather report for the Dead Horse Point star party, that's OK, you can just show up. We have the Group campsite reserved and there will be room for anyone wanting to join us. They do have regular campsites on a first come first serve basis that you may be able to stay in. We have a school star party scheduled for Tuesday May 11 at the Lakeview Elementary School in Roy. We also have one in the works for Midland Elementary on May 21. We will have a public Star Party at the Ogden Dinosaur Park May 22, and don't forget, Monte Cristo July 15 - 17 and August 12- 14.

Thanks,
Lee Priest, President
Ogden Astronomical Society

OAS Minutes, 8 Apr 04

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

Announcements/discussion:

The next star party is on 24 April at the park behind the West Clinton elementary school.

Copies of the SLAC schedule were passed around.

The Dead Horse Point star party is coming up, group site reserved, and several OAS members ready to go. Cliff Peterson has volunteered to hold sites if necessary.

The next public star party is 22 May at Dinosaur park, past the Timbermine restraint.

The April star parties were also discussed; 22 April at Adams Elementary and 24 April (National Astronomy Day) at the park just behind the West Clinton Elementary.

Lee described some of the options we have to get shirts and hats embroidered with the OAS logo. The possible discounts were also discussed.

The Golden Spike star party was enjoyed by those who went and the club should be able to plan a return in November.

There followed a general discussion of star party sites. There is some indication that the management at Antelope Island may be willing to discuss the club's return to that site. The discussion included both the advantages (accessible, fairly dark) and disadvantages (dirt road, cramped, dusty site) of Antelope. The OAS will check with the Antelope management to see if a return is possible and desirable.

Lee noted that September is coming and with it elections for next year's officers. A nominating committee will be formed to identify candidates. Anyone interested in serving on the nominating committee?

John Armstrong then presented the night's program, a very interesting review of the latest results from Spirit and Opportunity on Mars.

Star Parties

Star party season is really picking up!

Dave Dunn held a unofficial star party on 23 April at Adams Elementary that turned out very well.

The OAS and Ott Planetarium combined for an Astronomy Day (24 April) public star party at West Clinton Park and the OAS went back to Adams Elementary for a school sponsored start party on 30 April. For both of these last two events, the clouds magically parted and we enjoyed fairly clear skies. A bit of haze combined with the city lights made the deep sky objects a challenge, but the planets and Moon put on a fine show. To my eye, the air was particullairly still on the 30th. I don't believe I've ever had such clear views of Saturn and Jupiter through my 5.7" Mac-Newt. It was a good night.

Jim Sgt

Upcoming Events

6 May 04, 7:30 PM OAS meeting, Ott Planetarium, WSU (Note the date, one week early!)
11 May 04 Lakeview Elementary School, Roy
13 - 15 May 04 Dead Horse Point
21 May 04 Midland Elementary
22 May 04 Public Star Party, Ogden Dinosaur Park

Comets!

From the Utah-Astronomy mailing list, by Jim Gibson:

For those willing to get up early (like 5AMish), the Bradfield and Linear T7 comets have emerged from behind the sun.

http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/comets/article_1238_1.asp

http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/comets/article_1229_1.asp