



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

OAS Executive Committee  
President- Craig Browne  
Ph. (801) 388-6556  
Vice Pres- Mike Klein  
Ph. (801) 775-0341  
Secretary- David Dunn  
Ph. (801) 544-7705  
Treasurer- Doug Say  
(801) 731-7324

Vol. 34 Number 09

May 2005

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

## The President's Message

Hi All:

This month we will be watching a program that is being done by the Ott Planetarium, it is called Ringworld! It is about Saturn and the Cassini mission it should be an interesting show, so plan on attending.

This past month our star parties have had mixed success our Astronomy Day Party was nice, the crowds were not as good as I had hoped for, but we had a good time with the people that showed up. Talking of Astronomy day Doug was the winner of the golf tournament if you can call two people a tournament. We had fun, the doctor that played with us could not believe that a person could play golf in cowboy boots. The picnic after was nice even though only six of us showed and we had enough potato salad to feed around 250. Our party at Kent's Market was clouded out thus making my average about 50% keep this in mind in September.

This month we have our star party at Ogden Bay on the 7<sup>th</sup> then Kent's Market on the 14<sup>th</sup>. June is starting to look really busy I have been contacted by a guy from S.L.A.S. on helping with a cancer walk-a-thon at Weber State University it is an all night thing and they have asked us to set up to give the walkers a break to look at items in the sky they are expecting around 1000 people and they could use all the help they can get.

Now for the serious business I am going to jail on May 24<sup>th</sup> and will need to raise \$1200.00 bail so if you could spare a dime I would be most grateful. It is actually for the MDA I was volunteered by the County it is my turn (oh happy day) so if you would like you can go to the web site set up for donations in my name at <http://www.mdalockup.org/bailpage.aspx?j=18633> your money will go to send kids in the Ogden area to summer camp. If you would prefer to not do it over the Internet get

with me at the meeting or one of our parties coming up thank you in advance.

Clear Skies

Craig

Editor's note: I think we ought to find out the maximum time that they will leave him in there and make our donations at that time. We wouldn't want him to get out too early, he might not learn his lesson.

## OAS Minutes, Apr 2005

The meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on April 14. President Craig Browne called the meeting to order. Our star party schedule for April and May were announced. We have star party for West Point Jr. High at the West Point part on 4/15. The following night we have our public star party at Schneider's Bluff golf course. There will be a two man scramble golf tournament and a pot luck picnic before the star party. We are also scheduled for a star party at Kent's Market on 4/23 and Adams Elementary on 4/28 (has since moved to 5/13). Our next public star party is at Ogden Bay bird refuge on 5/7. We had a short discussion on the Polishing Compound. It was decided that any member could have some if they wanted to use it. We will attempt to sell most of it on Ebay. We then adjourned to the Observatory and collimated several of the Planetarium's telescopes. Two of them that I worked on had loose secondary mirrors that were not staying aligned. We took the secondaries out and got them put back in so that they will stay where they belong.

- David Dunn

## **Cathedral Gorge Star Party**

I think that those of us that made the trip had a good time. The weather didn't cooperate. It was cloudy and windy. We didn't get any observing in on Friday night. On Saturday, the wind really cranked up. We decided to take a ride out to Rachel and check out the "Extraterrestrial Highway". We drove 100 miles, ate lunch at the cafe, bought a few souvenirs and then drove back. It was a fun little outing. Saturday night the wind calmed down a little at dark. We got a couple of hours worth of viewing in before the clouds and wind started up again. This appears to be a good dark place to go. I think that I liked the St. George activity a little better.

- Dave

Saturday night provided a break in the clouds and light rain just after sunset. My equipment was still in the truck and I didn't expect the break. But after a quick setup, I was observing. I enjoyed the extra southern gain in latitude to see Centaurus. Of course it was still very low in the South so there was lots of atmosphere to look through which didn't give me good contrast. After a bit of searching, I found NGC 5128 Centaurus A. Good viewing lasted about 2 hours and then gave way to high clouds.

Sunday's weather was mostly sunny and with winds. At dusk, the clouds vanished and the winds stopped. So I was excited. The seeing was real good and with almost zero star twinkle. So I was able to get some real good observing in. It was good to view the colors in the planetary nebulas, and very good contrast in viewing the distant galaxies. However, the temperature dipped down to about 26 degrees with frost accumulating.

Best of skies,

Alan Jensen

## **Adams Elementary Star Party**

The Adams Elementary Star Party has been rescheduled due to the weather. It is scheduled for Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. I guess that any of the Astrologers that have snuck into our group will have a prediction how that party will turn out.

The children in these classes are really good. I gave a lecture there on April 29<sup>th</sup>. They asked really good

questions and many of them seemed real interested in Astronomy.

## **Night Sky Network**

I would like to remind everyone that we have some really good resources that were given to us by the Night Sky Network. Each kit has atleast three activities that you can do with a large or small group. These activities would be great for Scouts, Church activities or Schools. If you would like to try it out, let us know. I would be happy to help you prepare if you want help.

- Dave

## **May Sky Events**

There are a couple of neat things to watch coming up this month. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, during the early morning, Mars will pass to the south of Uranus. They will be in the same binocular field. On May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Moon will pass in front of Antares. The table I have shows that it will happen at 1:27 am MDT in Denver. Antares will reappear at 2:34. The time will be slightly different for us.

- Dave

## **NASA Night Sky Network Newsletter**

### **BLACK HOLE TOOLKIT HITS THE STREETS IN MAY**

It is hard to imagine a public astronomy event where someone doesn't ask about black holes, but explaining these cosmic conundrums in simple, easily understood terms can be a challenge - until now that is. Get ready for the Black Hole Survival ToolKit - shipped this week! The "Black Hole Survival" ToolKit is on the subject of gravity, and black holes as an extreme form of gravity. This ToolKit explains:

1. How we survive in a galaxy full of black holes
  2. How to survive an encounter with a black hole
  3. How amateur astronomers can survive all the black hole questions they get!
- Qualifying clubs are listed on the Discussion Board on the Night Sky Network website in the "Black Hole Survival ToolKit" forum. If your club qualifies, you

should receive the ToolKit no later than May 20th.

## BLACK HOLE TELECONFERENCE COMING MAY 26

To launch the Black Hole ToolKit, it may be helpful to bone up on the topic by participating in May's teleconference featuring Dr. Ned Wright. Dr. Wright is a renown infrared astronomy and cosmologist and is the principal investigator for the [Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer](http://wise.ssl.berkeley.edu/) mission scheduled for launch in 2008. His online tutorials on Cosmology and Relativity are consistently listed by astronomy professors around the country as "go to" reference resources. Night Sky Network members are invited to participate in the teleconference live or listen to the event after the fact by downloading an MP3. The teleconference is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th at 6 pm Pacific, 9 pm Eastern. More details in a couple of weeks. Save the date! Night Sky Network members are welcome to participate in the teleconference live or listen to the event after the fact by downloading an MP3.

## NIGHT SKY NETWORK REACHES MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE

Have you been to the Night Sky Network website lately (<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>)? Created just over one year ago, the NASA Night Sky Network was designed to support amateur astronomy clubs engage the public. At the beginning of April, the Network had reached more than 100,000 people. But even more impressively that number grew by 20% in one month and now stands above 120,000!

Night Sky Network Sponsors at NASA and the staff of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific congratulate all of the clubs in the Network for your hard work and tireless dedication to sharing astronomy with your communities. To read more about this milestone, visit the JPL home page <http://jpl.nasa.gov>

or check out <http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/news/pqToolkit3.html>

## NSN MEMBERS HEADING TO JPL OPEN HOUSE MAY 14-15

As guests of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, these NSN members were selected by their clubs to represent the NASA Night Sky Network at the annual Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) Open House weekend (<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/pso/oh.cfm>) May 14 - 15, 2005 in Pasadena, California. Doug Decker, Starlight Astronomy Club of Altoona, Pennsylvania Dave Hutchison, Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas Mark Brown, River Bend Astronomy Club of Edwardsville, Illinois Reagan Herman, Amarillo Astronomy Club of Texas Becky Lowder, Statesboro Astronomy Club of Georgia

In January, their clubs were selected at random from among the NSN member clubs who posted at least five events in 2004. These members will meet NASA scientists and receive a personalized tour of JPL and of the Mount Wilson observatories. They will join the 50,000 visitors expected to attend this popular event, which features JPL's accomplishments with exhibits and demonstrations about the Laboratory's ongoing research and space exploration. Among the exhibits are the search for extra-solar planets, the Mars Rovers, and the Cassini mission to Saturn.

We will be able to hear about their adventures in a few weeks. Keep logging your events - make sure your club is eligible for next year's drawing!

---

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMAGERS

Serious astro-photographers unite! Here's a unique opportunity to contribute to a high school research project on Active Galactic Nuclei. Details at: <http://homepage.mac.com/dvhscience/SpaceAcademy/Projects/Spitzer/index.html>