Ogden Astronomical Society • Ogden Utah

THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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The President's Message

Hi All
I would like to say thanks to Gary Liptrot, Kay Harges, and Ron Vanderhule for their work as this years nominating committee. And thanks to those who attended September's meeting and voted. The leadership of OAS will stay the same for one more year. I have really appreciated everyone's support with all the star parties we have had this past year. We had a good turnout to all of them, in spite of some with bad weather. We have one more planed for this year, scheduled for October 25th. While final arrangements have not been made yet, the plan is to have it at the Ogden Nature Center on 12th street. We should have the details worked out before the October 9th meeting. We will work on a location for next year's star parties over the winter. The main requirements are, adequate parking for us and the public and restrooms; any suggestions are welcome.

Just a quick mention of events in the works for the coming year, at the October meeting we will have a Show and Tell, bring your projects and astronomy stories to share with the group. In November we will have David Dunn go over some of the finer points of using the yahoo group. And for May 14, 15, 2004 we have the third annual Dead Horse Point star party and camp out.
Thanks,

Lee Priest
President
Ogden Astronomical Society

OAS Minutes 4 Sept 03

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

We discussed the size of the ?? Aug Antelope star party with visitor numbers in the 700 to 1000 range mentioned. (I counted more than 500 in front of Adam Johnston during his presentation - and new visitors seemed to come continuously in until well past 10:00 PM - Jim Sgt.) Deloy Pierce mentioned that the SLAC accepted donations during their star parties, but observation was made that this may not be acceptable at a public area such as Antelope.

Lee announced a star party on 19 Sept at the Adell C. Young middle school in Brigham City.

The successful (after several rain delays) Rockport star party was discussed.

The Dead Horse Point star party is set for 14, 15 May 04. The OAS has reserved the group site for $80.

Bob Tillitson called for orders for the Deep Sky calender.

Doug Say solicited OAS dues and Astronomy Magazine subscriptions - both can be on one check made out to the OAS.

Lee then introduced the elections for OAS executive committee, announced that all of the incumbents have accepted nominations, and opened the floor for additional nominations.. Mark Durracher walked in at that time and was promptly nominated for President. (Let that be a lesson to late arrivals on election night!) Kay Hargis (just sitting there, minding his own business) was nominated for Vice President and the nominations were closed. The vote count gave an amazing result - all of the incumbants were re-elected! The OAS Executive Committee, for the second year, is ....

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During the count, Cliff suggested the club hold a "buying a telescope" seminar; the discussion supported the suggestion. Several Dobsonians, including the Orion and Hardin Optical models were mentioned as good candidates for a first 'scope. Cliff also suggested that first-time astronomers have a difficult time getting started with their new instruments and that an after-Christmas "introduction to observing" session might be helpful.

A discussion of the green "sky pointer" lasers followed. They seem very useful at public star parties, but may not be appropriate during private observations where interference with dark adaption and imaging is more likely.

Bob Tillitson asked about the use of the Yahoo OAS group in club activities. Bob suggested a demonstration of how to use the newsgroup would be helpful.

Wayne Sumner gave a glowing recommendation for Dr. Palen's Introduction to Astronomy class - very instructive and enjoyable.

Dr. Palen asked for some sort of flyer on the OAS that could be handed out to give people an idea of what the club does, how to make contact, dues, etc. Bob Tillitson said that he might have an old one that may be a good starting point.

Lee adjourned the meeting and a frenzy of dues and subscription paying ensued while Dale Hooper set up the program - a DVD of the Apollo 11 landing.

Upcoming Events & 2003 Star Party Schedule

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

Oct 9	OAS meeting, Ott Planetarium, WSU
Oct 25	Ogden Nature Center on 12th St (not yet finalized)
Nov 12	OAS meeting, Ott Planetarium, WSU

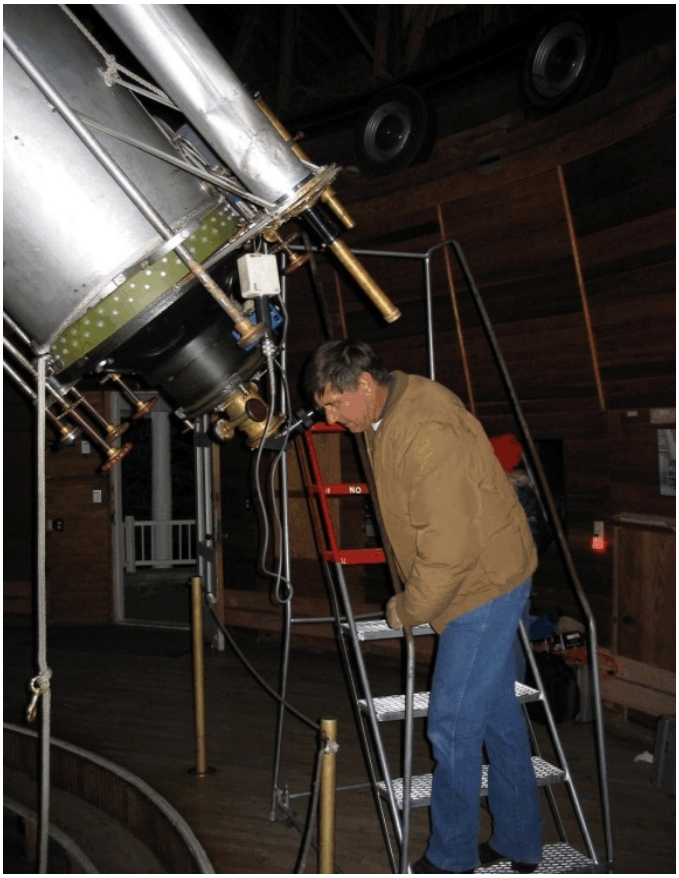
Star Party Reports

Flagstaff - 8, 9, 10 September

After rain Monday evening and heavy rain most of Tuesday I was beginning to think we weren't going to get to do any observing. Tuesday morning we were at the Meteor Crater watching the storm front move across the valley dumping heavy rain. We were on the Lowell Observatory tour in the afternoon with more rain. I know this makes it sound like a dismal trip but as Tuesday started into evening the rain quit, the clouds started breaking up and things were looking good.

As we started our first night of observing with the Clark 24 inch refractor, the views of Mars, Uranus and other objects were great. We experimented with different filters and eye pieces but the thing that impressed me most was the historical perspective. We were actually looking through the same telescope that Percival Lowell used nearly 100 years ago. Wednesday was a good clear day, we spent most of the day at the Northern Arizona Indian Museum and in the old part of town. Wednesday night was clear and our second night of viewing was better than the first. We really enjoyed the company of everyone that was there, It was great trip, very well worth the time.

Lee Priest



Percival Say at the Clark

Brigham City - 19 September

There we were, all set up at Adell C. Young middle school, it was full dark, clouds were closing in, and not a student in sight. (Well, two did wander by.) Do we have the wrong night? Is everyone at a football game? (Distant sounds of cheering from north of us.) Doesn't anyone want to see Mars? Isn't anyone going to turn of these lights? Oops, the sprinklers just came on the far side of the field; hope they don't turn on where we're set up. Oh well, we may as well pack up and head home.

About that time, someone came from around the corner of the school and asked is everything set up and ready? Yes, we are. And in about two minutes the lights were out and we were hip deep in middle schoolers. The clouds did come in, but we we had good views of Mars and were able to pick up quite a few doubles and a couple of the brighter deep sky objects. Not a bad night after all.

Jim Sgt

Dinosaur Park - 27 September

The star party at the Dinosaur Park on Saturday was real nice. The sky was reasonably dark above and to the east. There was sky glow to the west. The sky above us was dark enough to see the 4 guide stars that I use to find the Cat's Eye nebula. The central star blinked with averted vision and no filter. The Dumbbell and Ring nebulas looked good with a filter. I could see the polar cap and Mare Erythraeum were visible on Mars, both with and without a filter. I also spent a little time looking

at double stars. Eta Cass was interesting to look at. It is a binary system where the secondary star is an M class dwarf (Red Dwarf). The separation is about the radius of our Solar system. It is close enough to us that we can easily separate the stars at 50X. I think the Dinosaur Park was a good place to hold some of our star parties. The sky was dark enough to see galaxies and nebulas. There are a lot of trees so you have to setup in a place where you can see the horizon that you want to see. The dinosaurs were kind of noisy when we got there but I was relieved when the LX200, slewing around the sky, scared them away. (Dale, Just kidding.)

Dave

Dinosaur scaring is a feature that comes with the latest LX-200 Classic firmware. <g>
I concur with Dave - I thought that it was a pretty good site for public star parties. Other than the trees the only other drawback I saw was that we had to carry things a ways to get to where we could set up.

Dale Hopper

Thanks Dave and Dale for the Dinosaur Park star party comments, and thanks to everyone that helped out. At the other end of the park, the LX 90 slewing around had the dinosaurs scared stiff :) I also think it went well we had 65 people there, that's not bad for the short notice, they are excited to have us come back again. The plan for the October 25th star party is to have it at the Nature Center on 12th street. We will put out the final notice as soon as we have the details worked out. I appreciate everyone's patience while we work out the star party issue. As many of you know, the recent trouble started in July when Antelope Island wanted to charge everyone to get on the Island. The issue came to a head when Park management wanted to charge OAS $20.00 for clean up. It's been one thing after another and after a few discussions, it seems most of you agree it's time to move on. We will get next years star party scheduled worked out this winter.

Thanks, Lee

FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE LECTURE

Forwarded by Dr. John Sohl, abridged -

This was forwarded to me by Dr. Inglefield here at WSU. I thought you guys might be interested in it too.

John

“Strange Views of Space and Time: From Einstein to String Theory”

Lecturer: Gary T. Horowitz, professor of physics, UC-Santa Barbara

Wednesday Oct. 8, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
Aline Wilmot Skaggs Biology Auditorium, University of Utah

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Modern physics presents a picture of space and time that is very different from our usual "common sense" understanding. Precise experiments confirm that space and time really do have very strange properties. Most of these properties were predicted by Albert Einstein in his general theory of relativity. In this talk, Professor Horowitz will describe some of these properties, including:

(1) The time you experience depends on your state of motion. This means that not only your mechanical watch, but also your biological clock which governs aging, proceed at different rates depending on how you move in space. The time you experience also depends on nearby gravitational fields. Time slows down in a gravitational field.

(2) Different people can disagree about which things happen at the same time. The notion of two events being simultaneous is not fundamentally well-defined.

(3) Space is curved by matter. Light rays, traveling along the straightest possible paths, are bent when they pass near heavy objects.
Black holes are excellent examples of this.

Many physicists hope "string theory" will lead to a unified theory of the fundamental forces in nature. Modern work on string theory has suggested even more strange properties of space and time. These properties include the possibility that space has more than three dimensions. Horowitz will explain what this means and why it does not conflict with natural observations of our world. Some recent speculation about these extra dimensions includes the possibility of parallel universes.

Professor Horowitz will give a live radio interview on KCPW 88.3 FM on Monday, Oct. 6, 9:40 a.m.

The University of Utah College of Science and College of Mines and Earth Sciences are working together this year to offer an expanded schedule of presentations. A total of five lectures will be given in the 2003-2004 academic year. Frontiers of Science talks are free and open to the public. Videotapes are also available to the public at cost, currently $10.00.

For more information, please contact the College of Science at 581-6958 or visit www.science.utah.edu.
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“Colin Inglefield
Associate Professor
Weber State University, Department of Physics
(801) 626-6127
http://physics.weber.edu/inglefield”

(I am planning to go, I will be taking our van. If anyone wants a ride, let me know. Lee Priest)

The Mighty Clark