



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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The President's Message

Hi everybody,

Fall is in the air and the days are getting shorter. This means the elections are done and officers are gearing up for another year with OAS. For those of you who did not make it to last month's meeting, your new president is Mike Klein. Dustin Klein is vice president. Doug still has his fingers around our piggy bank and Dave still writes the news letter and keeps track of where we are as an organization.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming year. My goals are to increase our membership and get our members to be more active when it comes to star parties. We would also like to redo our web site. If anyone has knowledge or experience in web site design and would like to help out designing a new site for OAS, please contact us. I would like to hear from any of you who might be interested in giving a lecture or presentation at any of our monthly meetings.

On Oct 11 we have a star party at Sunset Jr. High.

On Oct 14 we have our Antelope Island Star Party.

On Oct. 17 we have a star party at Bountiful Jr.

High. I will send out an email with the exact address soon. Oct 20 we will be at Dead Horse Point. There didn't seem to be enough commitment, so we did not reserve the group site. You will want to call and get reservations for yourself if you plan on going. We hope to see all of you at the Oct 12 meeting.

Mike Klein

OAS Minutes, September 2006

The annual business meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on September 14th at the Ott Planetarium. President Craig Browne called the meeting to order at 7:38pm. Club Treasurer Doug Say presented the annual financial report. He

stated that at the time of the meeting the club had \$2500.85 in the bank. Doug mentioned that renewal money for Astronomy magazine needed to be paid this month and that it was time to pay our annual club dues. He explained that 2007 Astronomy Calendars are available now for a discounted price of \$10. Doug also said that this past year, the club purchased a refractor and mount for use with the Coronado Solarmax scope.

Craig recognized and welcomed visitors. Professor Shane Larson from the WSU Physics Dept. is a new member of the club. Concerning star parties, Craig mentioned that we have an Antelope Island Star Party on September 23rd and he asked everyone to come out and help. He said that Snow Basin thanked us for the latest star party. There were about 150 people and five scopes. They have invited us back next year for four-star parties. The dates for the star parties will be sent out in the Star Diagonal newsletter.

Craig asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. There were none, so the ballots were passed out to the members in attendance.

While Lee Priest and Dale Hooper were counting the vote totals, Wayne Sumner discussed his plans for building an observatory and mounting the large telescope that was donated to Northridge High School. Les Bitton then displayed the VERY large Teflon pieces that he is willing to give away.

Lee Priest and Dale Hooper then presented the election results. The OAS officers for 2006-2007 are:

Mike Klein – President

Dustin Klein – Vice President

David Dunn – Secretary

Doug Say – Treasurer

Following the election results, Doug Say displayed a mounting bracket that he made so that the Coronado scope can be mounted on the club refractor. He also showed the Mylar white-light solar filter that he made for the refractor – complete with a super CD case for storage. In addition, Doug described a sunshade he plans to make. Lastly he told us how lightning just missed his house when he was driving home from a star party this past month.

Bob Tillotson has a 5-foot by 3-foot drafting table with mechanical arm that used to belong to his father-in-law. He is willing to give it away but he would like anyone interested to contact him as soon as possible.

Robert Hillier is going to be holding a school star party on October 11th and he mentioned that he could use help from club members. Also, Doug Say mentioned that we should save our old Astronomy Calendars and give them to Robert Hillier.

Lee Priest made several sample logos that were passed around for the club members to review.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Dale Hooper – on behalf of Dave Dunn.

Measuring Distance

Distance spanned by the little finger	1 degree
Distance spanned by three fingers held together	5 degrees
Distance spanned by the closed fist	10 degrees
Distance spanned between the little finger in pointing finger when spread apart	15 degrees

Common Measures of Distance with the hand held at arm's length [5].

COMET SWAN

There's a new comet in the night sky, Comet Swan. At present, it is too dim for the naked eye, but "the comet is a spectacular sight through binoculars or a small telescope," reports Chris Schur of Payson, Arizona. In Leeds, UK, Tony Cook took this picture of Swan's sinuous tail:



Comet Swan on Sept. 30th, a 9x4 minute exposure.

Ready to see for yourself? Set your alarm before dawn; the comet rises just ahead of the morning sun. "Look behind the back leg of the Great Bear," advises Cook. "You should be able to make out a greenish fuzzball of 6th magnitude." Sky maps: Oct. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th.

Good news: The comet is swinging around the sun and by the second week of October it will be visible in the evening sky at a more civilized hour. Although it is not expected to become much brighter than it is now, Comet Swan should remain an easy target for backyard telescopes for weeks to come.

Star Diagonal

OAS wants to hear what you are doing. We enjoy reading about the various astronomy projects that people are working on. We love to print the articles that you write about your studies and projects. These can be anything from something you read that you thought was interesting to a viewing or imaging session that you have really enjoyed. You could even review a new product that you have purchased. Articles like these make the star diagonal interesting and enjoyable. Please consider writing up some of the things that you are enjoying.

Another fun thing that I saw in some of the ancient Star Diagonals was articles on the constellation of the month. Each month, a different constellation was researched by a member of the club. They did a write up and it was published. They usually gave a little history about the constellation and told of a few of the fun things to view in that constellation. It looked like a fun way to learn about the night sky. I would like to hear what you think of this idea and also any ideas that you may have for the Star Diagonal or the club. Please feel free to email me anytime at DunnDave@aol.com. Make sure to put OAS in the first of the subject so that I don't accidentally delete your email without reading it.

The Star Diagonal is currently available in two formats. One is an emailed and posted on the web pdf file. The Acrobat pdf reader is available for free on the internet. This allows you to see color pictures and to get the Star Diagonal as soon as it is complete. The other format is printed and mailed through the post office. You may choose either (or both) method. Email me at the address above if you wish to change the delivery method for your Star Diagonal. About 75% of the membership currently gets their Star Diagonal emailed. About 50% get a paper copy. Yes, that means about 25% get both. The club currently spends between \$25 and \$30 printing and mailing a typical 4 page (3+address) newsletter each month