



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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The President's Message

With fall approaching and elections for new officers this month, this will be my last president's message. I have really enjoyed the last four years, two as president and two as vice president, and my association with all of you. I would like to thank everyone for the great support you have given me. I look forward to our future activities and I plan to stay involved.

We had a great time at Monte Cristo last month, viewing was much better than in July. Thursday and Friday nights were good but Saturday was mostly cloudy. We had several great Perseid meteors streak across the sky. Thanks to everyone that came to the potluck dinners, we had a lot of really great food and company.

Our annual meeting and election of new officers will be September 9th at 7:30 PM in the Ott Planetarium. Thanks to everyone that has accepted a nomination; our club will be in good hands for the future.

We have two star parties this month. On September 15th we will be at the Roy branch of the Weber County Library; we will set up in the parking lot on the northwest side. On September 18th we will be at the Ogden Dinosaur Park for our final star party there.

It is time to order next years calendars and planners, we will combine our order with SLAS for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Observer's Handbook. They also have available the S&T's celestial Wonders calendar if anyone is interested. We will also order the Guy Ottewell Astronomical Calendars. Doug Say has ordered the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's 2005 Calendar and they will be available at the September meeting for \$10.00. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting for the other publications. If you want any of them but do not plan to be at the meeting, please let me know before September 10th. The price will vary depending on how many we order, but the

Observer's Handbook will be about \$25.00. The Year in Space Calendar will be about \$9.00 and the Guy Ottewell calendar will be about \$25.00. They will be available sometime around the first of November.

Thanks for all your support,
Lee Priest, President
Ogden Astronomical Society

OAS Executive Committee Elections

Elections will be held during the September 9th meeting. The nominations are as follows:

President

Cliff Peterson
Craig Browne

VP

Ken Butler
Mike Klein

Secretary

Jeremy Mathews
David Dunn

Treasurer

Doug Say

The nominees were invited to describe their vision for the club or comment on the office they are seeking.

Dave Dunn

There are a couple of things that I would like to see happen in OAS. I would like to see us do a few more free public activities. Several years back the club held some Harmons star parties and some Sun parties. I would like to see us have one or maybe two more activities a month. I would like to see them be in a location that is highly visible and have them advertised. These activities are good because even if we can't see anything except the Moon and Planets, the public often hasn't seen them through a telescope. We can also use these activities to help promote our need for light pollution control and to teach the public about good and bad telescopes. I would also like to look back 10 years

or so and publish some of the things OAS was doing. I spent a little time looking through some old newsletters and there was some really neat things happening in OAS.

Cliff Peterson

As some may have noticed lately - I have been missing a great deal lately.

When I retired from Weber at the end of June I didn't know that retirement was going to be so busy. I guess this is what happens when you have a son that is getting married and decides to build a new home for his future bride and himself. In any event I can say that these long hours, seven day weeks, are getting to be a bit much for this "old" man. In a little over 4 weeks both the house and wedding will be past and I can go back to being a retired amateur astronomer - I hope.

If elected, my goal will be to bring in more new members to the group. I would like to continue and expand our training sessions for our newer members, the public, and interested members. I would like to cover more subjects on buying a telescope or binoculars, using this viewing instrument, finding our way around the sky, and various other astronomy related areas. We are fortunate to have a wealth of knowledgeable members and access to some Weber State professors to draw information from. As a 12 year plus member I am truly amazed at how much I continue to learn from the old timers and newer members alike. I feel we can all gain from this wealth of knowledge if we create a forum for this to happen in.

Craig Browne

I am happy to accept the nomination for President of OAS. Some of the things that I would like to see our club do over the next year are -

1. To find a permanent location for the monthly star parties.
2. Have some solar and lunar parties at a location such as Harmons or maybe the Raptors baseball games. I think that this would help to bring more people to our star parties.

If elected I promise that there will be at least 25% clear skies for all star parties; this would be a 10% increase from this year. Sorry, Lee, but you need some work on your anti-cloud dance. Thanks to the members who have nominated me for this position.

OAS Minutes, August 04

During two (sometimes three) of the summer months, the OAS holds "private" star parties at the Monte Cristo campground - this year in July and August. During those months there are no OAS meeting, potlucks and tea parties serve as our monthly meetings instead. So - see below

Monte Cristo Star Party

Because of a family reunion in California, I was unable to stay at Monte Cristo for the main star party. I did make it up for Tuesday and Wednesday nights. I really enjoyed the great viewing that I had with Dale and Ron. One of the best things that I saw was Stephens Quintet. Ron was able to pull this up in his 16" Dob. I found out why I hadn't been able to see it in my 16" and in BOB. There is a brighter galaxy NGC 7331 (I think) about a third of the field of view out in the eye piece. When ever I used the SkyCommander to look for it, I would see this other galaxy and center on it. The SkyCommander had actually picked up on the Quintet if I had looked a little closer. I had been doing exactly the same thing in BOB. I hope the rest of the week was as good as Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Dave Dunn

During the (as usual, really fine and enjoyable) pot luck on Friday night, it was mostly cloudy and appeared to offer no chance of improvement - so I didn't set up any telescopes. Of course the skies cleared up quite nicely, and I was able to spend the night looking through all of the other telescopes put up by club members. This turned out to be quite a treat - when we have our own telescopes to work with, we don't get much of a chance to circulate. This time, I let others find interesting things to view and was able to sample a good range of objects and optics - very nice. Saturday I managed to sleep through the tea party and missed viewing the Sun though Bob Neal's Coronado solar filter. As I learned later, there was quite a bit of activity in sunspots and prominences. During the Saturday (as usual, ditto) pot luck, the skies again looked unpromising, so I thought, Ah Ha!, this time I'll have a scope ready. Right - the clouds hung right in there this time. We were able to look around the clouds and through the holes for quite a bit of good observing, but it didn't match Friday's seeing at all. Oh well, the way star parties go, one really good night was not bad at all.

Jim Sgt

New Comet

And it is neither NEAT nor LINEAR!

See
http://skyandtelescope.com/news/article_1333_1.asp,
from a message by Chuck Hards on the Utah-Astronomy mailing list.

Let's hear if for the amateur comet hunters!

Upcoming Events

- 9 Sep OAS meeting, 7:30 PM at the Ott Planetarium, WSU. Officer election night
- 15 Sep Public star party, Roy branch of the Weber County Library, 1950 West 4800 South
- 18 Sep Public star party, Ogden Dinosaur Park

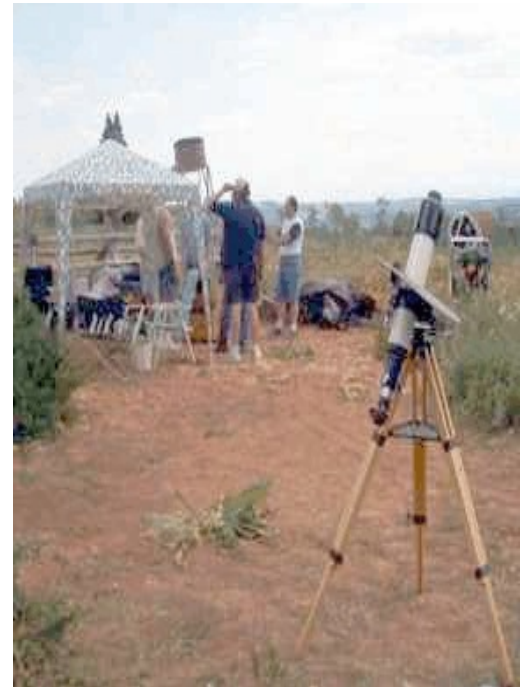
Secretary's Notes

This is my last newsletter as secretary. I've really enjoyed the job, despite my tendency to put the newsletter off until the last minute. My job is demanding ever more of my time, though, and I need to take a break for a while. I expect to stay active in the club, although this month I'll be in Ruidoso, NM, instead of at the meeting. I also expect to contribute articles just to keep my hand in. Good luck to all the new OAS officers! (You too Doug.)

Jim Seargeant
OAS Secretary



Monty by Bruce Fischer



Ogden bird Refuge by Lee Priest

