



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Message from the President

Hello OASers,

Thank you everyone who attended the meeting last month, it is always nice to see you all. Even with the late hour the turnout at Village Inn was still full as usual. This next month there are quite a few events planned. April 4th there is a public star party at the Great Salt Lake Nature Center from 6pm until 10pm, this event is registered as a 100 hours of Astronomy Star Party. The first Antelope Island star party of the year will be April 18. Astronomy week will also begin April 26, May 2 will be our official event at the Junction in Ogden, but more events may be planned for this week so please stay tuned. Don't forget our monthly meeting April 9th at the Ott Planetarium. As always if anyone has any suggestions for meetings, events or star parties please let me know. Also most of the communication is done online through the yahoo group so please make sure you have access. I hope to see you all at the upcoming events.

A new record was recorded this past week with the Thursday launch of a Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying the world's first repeat space tourist and a new crew for the International Space Station has boosted the population of space to its historical max: 13 people. The Soyuz TMA-14 is carrying three people aboard, the Space Shuttle Discovery was carrying seven people aboard, and the International Space Station currently is home to three astronauts.

Until Next Time,
Dustin Klein

OAS Minutes, March 2009

The monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held at the Ott Planetarium on the campus of Weber State University on March 12, 2009. It was called to order by President Dustin Klein at 7:30 pm.

Announcements:

- Our public Star Party dates are now official. our public star party dates soon. We are waiting for confirmation from Antelope Island and the Ott Planetarium.
- OAS Stickers are still available. They are \$5.
- Astronomy week is 4/27-5/3. Craig has been working with Ogden City and has obtained permission for us to The Junction in downtown Ogden. We plan on this being a day and night event. We are planning to do demonstrations, Solar Observing and a Star Party. We want to have a lot of participation on this by having different people do the demonstrations.
- 4/4 – We have a public star party at the Great Salt Lake Nature Center. It is part of the 100 hours of Astronomy. It will be from 6pm to 10pm.

Ron gave us a lecture including some webpages and movies on an alternate explanation of the start of the universe. This included work done by Halton Arp and others. Arp discovered, by taking photographs through the big telescopes, that many pairs of quasars (quasi-stellar objects) which have extremely high redshift z values (and are therefore thought to be receding from us very rapidly - and thus must be located at a great distance from us) are physically associated with galaxies that have low redshift and are known to be relatively close by. Arp has photographs of many pairs of high redshift quasars

that are symmetrically located on either side of what he suggests are their parent, low redshift galaxies. These pairings occur much more often than the probabilities of random placement would allow. Mainstream astrophysicists try to explain away Arp's observations of connected galaxies and quasars as being "illusions" or "coincidences of apparent location". But, the large number of physically associated quasars and low red shift galaxies that he has photographed and cataloged defies that evasion. It simply happens too often. Because of Arp's photos, the assumption that high red shift objects have to be very far away - on which the "Big Bang" theory and all of "accepted cosmology" is based - is proven to be wrong! The Big Bang theory is therefore falsified. A prime example of Arp's challenge is the connected pair of objects NGC 4319 and Markarian 205.

Of course this is all quite controversial. If you want to see more, you can find a lot of stuff by searching on the web. Searching for *debunk big bang* and *arp big bang* both returned a lot of sites to read while I was typing up the minutes. Ron also had several movies about this from youtube.

After the lecture, many of us adjourned to the Village Inn for dinner or desert and additional conversation.

Star Party Schedule

Public Star Parties

Apr. 18	Antelope Island
May 16	Antelope Island
Jun. 20	Antelope Island
Aug. 15	Antelope Island
Sep. 19	Antelope Island
Oct. 10	Antelope Island

Requested Star Parties

Apr. 4 Farmington Jr. High - 100 hours project

Apr. 23 Adams Elementary

May 8 Sunset Jr. High

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Apr. 22-25 Dead Horse Point

May 22-23 Parawan Gap

Jun 10-14 Bear Lake (TBA)

Jul 23-26 Monte Cristo

Aug 20-23 Monte Cristo

Oct 15-18 Dead Horse Point

Oct 15-18 Curlew

Farmington Jr. High Star Party

We have made arrangements with the Great Salt Lake Nature Center to hold another Star Party on Saturday, April 4th in conjunction with the 100 hours of astronomy project.

The Great Salt Lake Nature Center is located west of Farmington on Glover Ln. This is the same location that we were going to use back in January.

We are planning on 7 pm to 9 pm or a little later if the people that oversee the Nature Center are willing to let us stay.

If directions are needed I can be contacted or Map Quest will give you a usable map - Just zoom in on Farmington - find Glover Ln (it is a overpass for I 15 a little bit south of where Lagoon is) and travel west to where there is a 90 degree bend in the road. The Nature Center is just before the bend and on the south side. There is no direct freeway access to Glover Ln - access can be made from the frontage road between Farmington and Centerville or if you are on the west side of the freeway it would be best to look at a map.

Steve Martin

Messier Marathon

Friday night, March 27th, Dale, Joe and I attended the Messier Marathon. We arrived to mostly cloudy skies. As it got dark, the sky cleared and we had a pretty enjoyable time observing the Messier objects and some other stuff as well. Dale was primarily working on the Messier object. I gave up on that after I couldn't find M74, 77 and 33. We were able

to see a very thin crescent Moon. It was about 24 hours old. We also spent a lot of time observing Saturn and trying to pick out a shadow transit. At about 3am it clouded over. We eventually packed up and went home. I received a call from Doug Say that he was up there on Saturday night.

Pictures by Joseph Barney



Sunset at Stone Reservoir



Curlew Campground facing south