



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Message for the President

Hello Everybody,

Happy 2009! It is hard to believe that another year has come and past, 2008 was an exciting year for the astronomical community. Our first meeting for 2009 will be a Show and Tell so please bring anything new that you would like to show off, it will be held January 8, 2009 at 7:30 at the Ott Planetarium. Most members adjourn to Village Inn following the meeting and we always have a great time catching up. This month there will be a star party at Farmington Junior High on the 27th. 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. As we begin this New Year, the International Year of Astronomy, I hope everyone continues to look toward the night sky. I'll see you all soon.

There are a few notable items to watch out for this month. The first few weeks of January will be the best time in 2009 to see three bright planets at once. Mercury, Jupiter, and Venus can all be seen in the southwest sky just after sunset. It is also the best time to see Saturn's rings cast a shadow on Saturn. Saturn rises late in the evening, so look through your telescope to this shadow. Everyone please join me in congratulating the Mars Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, on their 5th Anniversary. A mission that was only supposed to last 3 months has turned in a spectacular 5 years and is still going strong.

Until Next Time,
Dustin Klein

OAS Minutes, December 2008

The monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held at the Ott Planetarium on the campus of Weber State University on December 11, 2008. It was called to order by President Dustin Klein at 7:30 pm.

Current Events:

Hubble Servicing Mission is currently scheduled for May 12th.

Tomorrow night, 12/12, the Moon will be the closest it will be all year. This will make it appear bigger.

Announcements:

- We are preparing to put together a calendar of star parties for next year. If you have any activities that you want to include, let us know.
- Most of the Shirts are ready to be picked up. They missed doing a few of the shirts. Lee will be picking them up in a couple of days.
- OAS Stickers are still available. They are \$5.

Dustin is always looking for ideas for meetings and star parties. He has a couple of speakers that he is working on getting. He is planning to have a Show and Tell in January.

We would like to plan a good activity for Astronomy Week 4/27-5/3. We want to do something local where people can find us. One suggestion is The Junction.

Ron is looking at getting a 34" mirror and making a folded telescope out of it. He would like input on any good designs that you might have seen.

For the remainder of the meeting, we watched an episode of "Rough Science". One team was tasked

with measuring a crater on the Moon. The other team had to measure Meteor Crater in Arizona and then figure out how big the Meteor that made it was.

After the movie we adjourned. Many of us headed to Village Inn for some desserts or food.

Star Party Schedule

Requested Star Parties

Jan. 27 Farmington Jr. High

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Feb. 20-21 St. George

Mar. 27-28 Messier Marathon - Curlew Campground

Wanted

I am looking for a Parallelogram Binocular mount... would be interested in any that anyone may have and want to part with. If someone has one with a tripod, I am interested in that. Also, if they have one that will mount on any other tripod (Astronomical or photographic) I would be interested in that. If you have one that you would like to sell, please contact me at n7kh@juno.com.

Thanks,
Kay Hargis

Drake University Remembered

After I was discharged from the army in 1962, I attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa in my senior year. I studied two-dimensional orbits under Professor Riggs. I'll long remember my training and experience. ~~ Tom Dougherty

LIBRARY EXHIBIT REVEALS MOREHOUSE'S ASTRONOMY LEGACY STILL SHINING AT DRAKE

One-hundred years after renowned astronomer Daniel Morehouse discovered the comet that bears his name, Drake is celebrating a century of astronomy at the University through an historical exhibit in Cowles Library. View the digital exhibit online at

<http://ddr.lib.drake.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fcomet>

The exhibit, "Comet Morehouse: 100 Years of Astronomy at Drake University," features the history behind:

- Morehouse, who was Drake president from 1922-1941,
- Morehouse's astronomy career and his discovery of the Morehouse Comet in 1908
- Astronomy at the University, dating back to 1888-89
- The Drake Municipal Observatory
- Student research projects at Drake



Daniel Morehouse

"It is important to know the history behind Dr. Morehouse and his legacy, but also that we are still continuing that legacy here at Drake today," said Sean Stone, exhibit designer and pharmacy science librarian. "Our astronomy program is really vital and we have a lot of Drake students doing astronomy research."

Morehouse passed the torch and years later Charlie

Nelson, associate professor of physics and astronomy, is leading Drake's astronomy department.

As part of the exhibit and the "Live at Cowles" series, Nelson presented "Daniel Morehouse and the Comet's Tale," which also focused on the history of Morehouse and astronomy at Drake, and highlighted research by Drake students.

Nelson said the Drake Municipal Observatory, run by Drake and the city of Des Moines, is one reason why so many

students and people have been able to learn and get involved in astronomy. The University provides public presentations and opportunities for stargazing on Friday nights in the spring, summer and fall.

I doubt it can be shown that any other city has



Drake Municipal Observatory

planned and created a public observatory in a public park for the primary purpose of giving to its citizens an opportunity to know the beauty, dignity and high moral value of astronomy, Morehouse wrote in his 1922 article published in the Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

The observatory is one of the places where the image of the 1918 eclipse was captured that helped prove Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Morehouse and his wife chose the observatory as their final resting place for their ashes.

The Morehouse Comet Exhibit will be open through December in the James Collier Heritage Room of Cowles Library

The Drake Municipal Observatory is operated jointly by the City of Des Moines and Drake University. It is located on the grounds of the Waveland Golf Course and is open to the public during our public night series held each spring, summer and fall on successive Friday nights. The observatory contains an eight and a half inch refracting telescope which was built in 1894 and donated to Drake University by Francis Marion Drake.

The image on this page is courtesy of astrophotographer Stan Richards and shows Venus and Saturn in conjunction on the morning of July 15, 2001.

