



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

Meeting Announcement

This month's meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society will not be held. We have a camping Star Party at Bear Lake. We hope to see everyone there.

OAS Minutes, May 2009

The monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held at the Ott Planetarium on the campus of Weber State University on May 14, 2009. It was called to order by President Dustin Klein at 7:38 pm.

Announcements:

- Star Party at North Davis Preparatory Academy, 5/15 at 9:30
- Antelope Island Star Party 5/16. Dr. Brad Carroll will be speaking.
- Parowan Gap Star Party. 5/22-5/23. For those that aren't camping, there are motels in Parowan and Cedar City that are close.
- Bear Lake Star Party 6/10-6/14. We still haven't picked the campground. We will cancel next month's meeting if we hold this star party.

Dave Dunn expressed interest in rescheduling our downtown Ogden event. The IYA lasts all year so maybe we could schedule something for September or October.

Mike Klein received a request from Cedar Breaks to help out with some of their Star Parties. Mike will email out the information on OAS_News.

Sammy Ostler has some 10 and 50 mW Laser pointers.

Kay Hargis has some Lucky Duck 5 mW pointers. They are \$37. You can contact him if you want one.

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

Star Party Schedule

Public Star Parties

Jun. 20	Antelope Island
Aug. 15	Antelope Island
Sep. 19	Antelope Island
Oct. 10	Antelope Island

Requested Star Parties

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

May 22-23	Parowan Gap
Jun 10-14	Bear Lake (Cisco Campground)
Jul 23-26	Monte Cristo
Aug 20-23	Monte Cristo
Oct 15-18	Dead Horse Point
Oct 15-18	Curlew

Bear Lake Star Party

On June 5-14 we will be having a members only star party at Bear Lake. We will be camping in the Cisco Beach campground. This campground is on the East Shore and is not far from Laketown. Cisco Beach campground is near several beaches. It is north of the Boy Scout campground. There are signs on the road. We plan to have pot luck dinners on Friday and Saturday evening. The campsites are rustic and are \$10 per night. The extra vehicle fee is also \$10.

For observing, we will lose most of the eastern sky to the mountain. We should have a great view of the rest of the sky. This campout is approaching the 3rd quarter Moon phase. The mountain will actually help us by blocking the Moon.

We hope to see everyone there. We can practice up for Monte Cristo next month.

Northrop Grumman Foundation Observatory at Northridge High School

In December of 2005, David Derrick, a Kaysville businessman, upgraded his own observatory and donated his 12 inch Nishimura telescope to Northridge High School because it was the only high school in the district with an astronomy program. The telescope weighs in at a hefty 800 pounds, however, so it was not practical to use at star parties. In the summer of 2006, I asked Steve Mangel, the Davis School District Science Curriculum Coordinator, if there might be \$400 or \$500 available to buy the materials to pour a concrete pillar and build a small shed around it to house the telescope. Steve thought he could do better than that, and approached Northrop Grumman, a long time donor to school science programs, about the idea of using some of their past donations for this project. They approved it, and plans were sketched out in the fall of 2007. Final approval of the drawings was given in early 2008, and construction began in June of 2008. The 24' by 12' cinderblock building has two interior areas separated by a curtain wall with a door. The east room is the control room, which is entered by a door on the east wall, and the west room is the telescope room. The roof rolls off

to the east the full 24' to maximize the eastern horizon of the telescope.

I plan to use the observatory primarily as a training ground for my astronomy students. I hope to teach them about CCD image acquisition and then about using software to process the images for the information they contain. Not all of my students will be able to come at night to gather data, but all will learn about the difficulties of stacking images, stretching pixel values, and false coloring.

I also hope to become part of programs that use high school students to either help gather data or help process data already gathered. It will mean a big change in the curriculum of the astronomy course I now teach, but I think it will give students a much better idea of what astronomers actually do and how we gain new knowledge about the night sky.

Wayne Sumner

For Sale

Celestron C8-SGT-XLT
<http://www.celestron.com/c3/product.php?CatID=11&ProdID=60>

Still under Celestron 2 year warranty (purchased 1 year ago). Several people reported: It has the clearest picture of all the scopes at the star party.

Accessories:

Jim's Mobile hard plastic case
Baader Planetarium 1.25" Laser collimator
Meade Series 4000 Eyepiece and filter set (includes 6x 1.25" Super Plossl 32mm, 6.4mm, 9.7mm, 12.4mm, 15mm, 40mm, color filters # 12, 23a, 58, 80a, eyepiece filter, and Barlow lens, all in a case)
Celestron Power Tank 17 amp

All brand new, everything working perfectly, used only once. Total value \$2300, asking \$1500 for the whole package.

Separately asking for:

\$80 for the power tank
\$200 for the eyepiece set
\$1200 for the scope, mount...
\$120 for the case
\$60 for the collimator

Email me or call 801-627-1741 with any questions.
Thanks
Gilles

