



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

OAS Executive Committee

President- Dustin Klein
(801) 309-1233
Vice Pres- Pam Smith
(435) 723-3691
Secretary- David Dunn
(801) 544-7705
Treasurer- Doug Say
(801) 731-7324

Vol. 38 Number 7

March 2009

<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

Message from the President

Hello Everybody,

As always, I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the February meeting and was impressed with the turnout at Village Inn following the meeting. The March meeting will be held on March 12th at the Ott Planetarium, I look forward to seeing you all there. I hope everyone who made it to the February 27th unveiling of the NASA photos had a great time. I thought the event was exceptional. For any of you who were unable to attend, I highly recommend taking a look at the photo that was unveiled. It will be on display in the lobby of the Ott Planetarium at Weber State. On March 27-29 there will be a Messier Marathon at Curlew, more information will be provided in the coming month. As a reminder March 8 begins daylight savings so remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour. 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.

Until Next Time,
Dustin Klein

OAS Minutes, February 2009

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

Announcements:

- We will be able to publish 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.
- 2/27 – Weber State is doing an event to unveil some pictures. They would like us to bring some telescopes to demonstrate the different types of telescopes.

The remainder of the meeting was a DvD lecture on the Star of Bethlehem that was provided by Ron Vanderhule. It was a good explanation of the Star using hints from the Bible, knowledge of Astronomy and the planetarium software program Starry Night. For those interested, the website is at <http://www.bethlehemstar.net/>.

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

St. George Star Party

We had a really good time in St. George. It was nice and warm after being cold all winter. Craig, Robert, Debbie and I spent Friday evening observing from the Fort Pearce parking lot. There was a small Boy Scout group camping nearby. They came up and had a look through the telescopes. The sky wasn't very good, there were high thin clouds, but it was nice to get out and look through a telescope. Saturday night was cloudy so Craig and I went to Mesquite for a few hours.

Star Party Schedule

Public Star Parties (Awaiting Approval)

Apr. 18	Antelope Island
May 16	Antelope Island
Jun. 13	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

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Mar. 27-28	Messier Marathon - Curlew Campground
Apr. 22-25	Dead Horse Point
May 22-23	Parawan Gap
Jun 18-21	Bear Lake (TBA)
Jul 23-26	Monte Cristo
Aug 20-23	Monte Cristo
Oct 15-18	Dead Horse Point
Oct 15-18	Curlew

Weber State IYA Kickoff

Weber State kicked off their International Year of Astronomy events with an activity on February 27th. They had several activities that night. The first was the unveiling of a combined picture of M101. The picture was produced by combining visible light,

infrared and ultraviolet. The main event was a lecture by Dr. Sean Raymond. He is involved in the search for life in the galaxy. He explained the various methods that they are using to find planets that are going around stars. As they find the planets, they determine what type of planet it is and how far away from the star it is. This allows them to determine if the planet has liquid water and could support life.

After the lecture, we held a Star Party at the observatory and they held a show in the planetarium. At the star party, we were able to show the visitor, Saturn, Comet Lulin, M81 & M82, the Orion Nebula and some other objects in the sky. This was a real fun event for those that attended it.

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

For those that are new, the Messier Marathon is an attempt to view all 110 Messier objects in one night. Between mid March and the first of April the Sun is in a spot in the sky that doesn't have any Messier objects in it. This allows us the chance to attempt this activity. The first and last few objects are very difficult to see. They must be seen in twilight or dawn light. The rest of the night you just go through

the list. The following link has a lot of good information about doing a marathon.

<http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/MESSIER/m-ref.html#machholz>

Our Messier Marathon will be held March 27 and 28 at the Curlew campground. Curlew is about 7 miles north of Snowville. It is next to Stone Reservoir. We will plan to camp and observe from the north end of the campground.

Picture of Venus and the Moon on February 27, 2009 by Thomas Dougherty

