



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Earthlings;

Forty years ago a young kid with a dream, or nothing else to do, gathered together a handful of like minded astro enthusiasts and started an astronomy club in Ogden Utah. Back then Bob T. wouldn't have imagined his baby would have endured for so long. But the efforts Bob T. and other have made it work and Ogden is a better place as the borders of astronomical ignorance are pushed back one star party at a time.

As Bob T. recounted at the meeting last month, back in the early days of the club a person with an eight inch scope was the big dog of the group and if it were on an equatorial mount you were bestowed rock star status.

Well, those days are long gone. Indeed, since the mid-nineties, when I started in the hobby, the technology available to the amateur is astounding. For instance... Eyepieces with 110 degree field of view. Better yet, eyepieces with 3rd generation night vision technology. Ten years ago with a powerful desktop computer and a \$300.00 astronomy software program you could plan a nights viewing, locate any object for a given moment in time, get information on any object, run your telescope with it etc...Today with a \$17.00 app you can do the same and more on a freakin' smartphone!!! Oh, and don't get me started on Goto scopes, where you: 1) program the desired object into the hand held computer. 2) Wait for the scope to automatically guide itself to said object. 3) Take a quick look in the eyepiece (this is done mostly to verify the accuracy of guidance system) repeat steps 1-3, and repeat steps 1-3, and repeat steps 1-3. A person with a goto could spend a whole night observing / verifying and never even look up! Lets' see, what else is there? Oh yeah, bino viewers, the

nefarious green laser, giant binos', deepsky filters, ccd cameras, holographic collimators, energy drinks... it is a real gadget-palooza. And that's okay, we love the gadgets. But all this technology adds nothing to the basic fascination of astronomy. Indeed, give me an eight inch Dob, some Brent Watson star charts and whisk me back to 1970 on a mountain with Bob T. and Dale H and the experience is just as amazing. Why? just because it is. So would I like to ditch all my gadgets and go back to simpler ways? Nah, not really. I just hope the Chinese keep making them cheaper.

On another note, there was a disruption in the force and I was installed as OAS president again. I know I know, but we'll have to make it work somehow. My goals for OAS aren't all that lofty

- 1) Informative meetings, preferably with a live person leading a discussion or giving a lecture or doing a demonstration.
- 2) I would like to get some "younger" people involved with our current membership, (some of whom were eyewitnesses to the big bang). Either we are not attracting them or there is no interest for space stuff with the younger generations.
- 3) More snacks.

Other than that I think all is pretty good. One good thing about being president of OAS that I learned from my last experience, and that is, ones' 15 minutes of fame is not in jeopardy. See ya at the meeting.

the Prez

OAS Minutes – September 2010

The Annual meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on September 10, 2010 at Bob Tillotson's home in Roy.

The meeting began with a BBQ dinner that included Hamburger, Hot Dogs and various tasty potluck

items. After dinner, the business part of the meeting was called to order by President Dustin Klein.

Announcements

- Antelope Island Star Party tomorrow night
- Snowbasin Lunar Party on 9/24. Please RSVP at OAS_News so that we can get with Snowbasin for passes.
- Cook Elementary Star Party on 10/29.

Next we held the elections. Ballots were handed out and counted by our nominating committee members Dale Hooper and Lee Priest. The officers for next year will be

President – Ron Vanderhule
V.P. – Ron McCann
Secretary – David Dunn
Treasurer – Doug Say

Dustin Klein will serve on the Board as the Past President.

Time was then turned over to Bob Tillotson to discuss some of the history of the club and to introduce us to some of the former club members that were present at the meeting. It was really nice to meet them and to learn about some of the early days in the club. One thing that was learned is that the Volume on the Star Diagonal is wrong. It started in September on 1972. I have adjusted it back on this edition.

After Bob's presentation time was given to Doug Say to present Bob with an award that we had been working on at both Monte Cristo Star Parties and well as many previous discussions. The club presented Bob with an Honorary Lifetime Membership and a gift (A really cool glob that Bob describes in his notes).

After the award and pictures, the meeting adjourned.

David Dunn

Star Party Schedule

Public Parties

October 2 Antelope Island

Requested Star Parties

October 29 Cook Elementary

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Nov 5-7 Curlew

A FINE 40TH

The weather was a little dodgy on the days leading up to September 10, 2010, the date chosen to recognize the 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society. But the skies cleared and the planned meeting and group Bar-B-Q went on without a hitch. It was Janet's and my pleasure to provide our back yard as the host setting of this very special event for OAS.

Forty seven OAS enthusiasts were in attendance. Most were current members, but there were also some faces we had not seen in many years. We were able to locate some old members, some charter members, from those early days of the club. Dr. Jim Grua, a former OAS president took time out from his busy clinical schedule to join us. Also Kellan Hatch and his wife Lili were with us. Kellan is the graphic designer who, back in the 80s, created our current club logo. We had Zan Larsen and his wife Misty. Zan joined the club, about the same time as Kellan, back in the early '70s. And another very special guest was in attendance, Dr. David Tripp, the first Director of the Ott Planetarium and former physics professor at Weber State (College) University. He, along with a handful of others, actually formed and organized our club. All of these folks had stories to share with the group.

The evening began with the most important element of any party, food. I, Chef Bob, worked the grill while the generous culinary offerings from the arriving members filled two tables with glorious pot luck dishes. By the time the official meeting got underway, we were all stuffed. Following the formalities and the election of our new club officers, the time was turned to reminiscences of OAS times

gone by. There were pictures to see and stories to hear. It was fun for all and there were proud moments for those of us that recall the many friends and events we have shared over the years.

As the sun set and the temperatures cooled, the Chiminea fire was lit to lessen the chill in the air. The OAS Treasurer called me to the front of the assembly and to my complete surprise the club officers and the membership bestowed on me an honor, unexpected. Treas. Doug Say whipped the crowd up as he spoke words like a spring board, the Resolution granting Charter Member Bob Tillotson an "Honorary Lifetime Membership". With this honor was presented a gift; a gift so unique as to be hard to describe. It was a Mova Globe with an inner globe of the Earth inside a clear outer globe containing a neutral buoyancy liquid which allows the inner globe to rotate, virtually friction free, by interacting with our Earth's magnetic field. The globe(s) rest on a crystal pedestal bearing a plaque recognizing 'Bob's 40 years' with the OAS.

May I say to all of you, members, friends, associates, astronomy enthusiasts all, I sincerely thank you for this unexpected honor. I am very moved and humbled by this recognition. Whatever efforts and contributions I have made to the OAS over these forty years they have truly been as fulfilling to me as I hope they have been to the club.

Bob Tillotson

