



THE STAR DIAGONAL

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THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Earthlings;

At the March meeting I shared the details of the meeting I had with Ron Taylor and Chris Haramoto concerning our upcoming star-parties at Antelope Island. Imbedded with-in those details was the fact that causeway fees (\$9.00) would be required of OAS participants per vehicle, or a group fee paid per-event. Well, (and for some reason I was surprised) emotions regarding the \$\$\$ aspect have run from "oh bummer" to jihad. So before we go "nuclear" on this "crisis", there are a few things I would like us to consider... If the issue of the money would not have materialized we would be looking forward to the island star-parties. Why? Because, we like the place. We would be hard pressed to find anything darker, convenient to an urban setting. It gives the public the most bang for their effort. I think it is more of a draw to our events because the island itself is an attraction. Schools, scout groups, and the public at large know that OAS will have star-parties at the island every summer and they are setting time aside to attend some.

My teacher friend Kip has had a large group out from Clearfield Jr High for two years in a row and the teachers within OAS get sizable groups from their schools also. I am sure that the concept of a "star party at Antelope Island" is much more conducive to increased attendance than one within eyeshot of billboards and I-15. The ambience of the island itself, with its' primitive bareness, fosters more "pale blue dot" moments from the public than just about any location other than Monte Cristo. And last but not least the island is imbedded within the history and lore of OAS. The club has been party'n out there most of its' 40 years in existence. Countless Star Diagonals chronicle successful turn-

outs at the island, complete with pictures (some showing Doug Say as a young man!). And another, last but not least, if we are going to have WSU profs. give lectures and slide shows at our events, the least we can do is provide the best possible venue to compliment their efforts. And finally, the last, last but not least, SLAS is jealous of our location.

Now about the \$\$\$ aspect. Free is best, no argument there. Ron Taylor said because of a \$200,000,000 budget cut to state parks, it would be incumbent on each park individually to generate revenue. Hence the charge to OAS. If we decide to go per-event, the cost is \$60.00 each event. OAS could write the check for those. For those that object to the \$9.00 entry fee option, or those whose budget on certain weeks would be affected, I asked Chris Haramoto if we could leave a blank OAS check at the entry booth on the Saturdays of our star-parties. Those members wanting or needing to would just say "charge it" when entering the island and at the end of the day the attendant would multiply that number by nine and write the check for that amount. My thinking is that only a few members will take advantage of this making it the cheaper option.

I have re-established negotiations with Ron and Chris and will present our case again at a meeting on April 6. I was also informed that the superintendent that was in charge of the island two years ago is coming back on staff there (I am forgetting her name at the moment) and our relationship with her is very good. This situation is very fluid at the moment and might take a month or two to shake-out. The parks are having to redefine their roles in lieu of budget cuts, let's give Antelope Island some space to figure things out.

In the meantime we have our first star-party there scheduled for April 30th. There will be an OAS executive meeting Wednesday night to discuss what

was decided with the Island superintendents that morning. We will post the pay or not pay verdict on Yahoo before our first star party.

It should be obvious that the dark forces of cosmic ignorance are conspiring against us and our valiant mission to enlighten the shadowed masses concerning the stellar mysteries and splendor that lie beyond their earthbound vision. My brothers, this must not happen. Patience and wisdom will be required. The Force be with you.

See ya at the meeting, the PREZ

Meeting on April 14

Dave Dunn will be giving a presentation and showing some of the Night Sky Network kits.

OAS Minutes – March 2011

The Annual meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on March 10, 2011 in the Ott Planetarium at Weber State University.

President Vanderhule called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Announcements

Ron met with the leaders at Antelope Island. Because of budget issues, all of the state parks are expected to generate income to cover their costs. This means that OAS members will need to pay the \$9.00 entrance fee to get on the island for the public star parties. An alternate is to pay a per event fee. Ron will investigate that. It was also discussed that we could purchase annual passes. One issue with this is that you still need to pay a causeway fee to Davis County.

There is a Mantua girls camp that wants a star party on June 27 or 28. This will be during Alcon but there are members that aren't going to Alcon that could cover it.

Endeavor Elementary has requested that Wayne do a star party for the whole school on April 18. Wayne

asked if there were members that would like to participate. There were several. Wayne will send something out on OAS_News.

We had a Show and Tell this month for the meeting. Some nice eyepieces and other gadgets were demonstrated.

The meeting adjourned. Many members headed to Village Inn in South Ogden to eat and visit.

David Dunn

Star Party Schedule

Our Proposed Public Star Parties are as follows.

Apr 30	Antelope Island
May 6	Kent's Market (Astronomy Day)
May 7	Antelope Island
Jun 4	Antelope Island
Aug 20	Antelope Island
Oct 1	Antelope Island (Sept)
Oct 8	Kent's Market
Oct 22	Antelope Island

Our Requested Star Parties (Schools, etc).

April 18	Endeavor Elementary
Apr 28	Adams Elementary
Jun 27 or 28	Mantua Girls Camp

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Jun 29- July 2	ALCon (Bryce Canyon)
Jul 27-31	Monte Cristo
Aug 24-28	Monte Cristo
Sep 23-25	Curlew

From the Night Sky Network

Celebrate Global Astronomy Month this April with Astronomy Heroes!



"The Astronomy Heroes are here!"

That's what a kid told his mom at an [Oklahoma City Astronomy Club](#) star party. Her son had been to a star party before, so he knew how fantastic looking through a scope can be. You may be wondering, why go to a star party? They're exciting, inspiring, and unlike any other experience. Looking through a telescope fires up the imagination, and gives you a sense of awe. Plus, you realize that everyday people, like amateur astronomers, can be heroes.

We don't want you to think star parties are only for kids. At a [San Francisco Amateur Astronomer's](#) star party outside of the DeYoung Museum, a woman in her 60's told a club member, "This is my first time seeing the moon this close!"

She was completely taken aback by the clarity of the moon's surface as seen through the telescope. Going to an astronomy event is great for everyone, no matter what age you are.

[Global Astronomy Month](#) is the perfect time to go to a Night Sky Network club's star party. From Los Angeles to Geneva, IL, to New York City you can find a star party. [Check the calendar](#) for an event near you. Maybe you'll join an astronomy club and become an Astronomy Hero yourself!

[We'd love you to join us on Facebook](#)

[Find star parties on Go StarGaze, the iPhone app](#)

Views from EPOXI: Colors in Our Solar System with Carolyn Crow



(Photo Credit: Carolyn Crow)

Carolyn, and her goats

On Thursday, March 24, 2011, Carolyn Crow presented Views from EPOXI: Colors in Our Solar System.

The EPOXI Mission combines two exciting science investigations in an entirely new mission that re-uses the Deep Impact spacecraft already in orbit around the Sun.

Carolyn's quest is the continuing search by for extra solar planets by analyzing NASA EPOXI mission data to look at the colors of bodies in our solar system as a baseline of characterizing extrasolar planets. She uses EPOXI images to look at the colors of the Earth, Moon, and Mars to see how they would appear as extrasolar planets and also looks at the colors of all the planets in our solar system to explore the possibility of using colors to characterize extrasolar planets.

Carolyn Crow is a graduate student at the University of California at Los Angeles, Department of Earth and Space Sciences. Carolyn's origins are from rural New Hampshire where backyard astronomy was a favorite summer evening pastime. Her free time activities

include a passion for playing ice hockey, hiking, a penchant for museums, traveling, listening to jazz, cooking and getting her semi-tractor-trailer drivers license.

Find the PowerPoint and other download links here:

http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-view.cfm?Doc_ID=472