



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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## Meeting Announcement

There are no regular meetings scheduled for August. We look forward to seeing everyone at Monte Cristo

## THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Earthlings,

At the last July Monte Christo s-party, saturday night was a rain out and I found myself back at the trailer early all caffeined up. Fortunately there were snacks and the current issue of Astronomy magazine to give me my stellar fix for the night. As usual the magazines first twenty pages or so are devoted mostly to short articles regarding the latest findings, research and other assorted tid-bits astro related. Well, there was so much good stuff in those first few pages I barely made it thru my 2nd buttered cinnamon roll. The following is a small sample of what I encountered.

There was a full page article about an objects innate property to reflect sunlight. This property is called the objects "albedo". Picture freshly fallen snow at one end of the albedo spectrum and charcoal at the other end. But the way we perceive an objects albedo is dependent upon the local environment it exists in. For instance; If you could put our Moon in the parking lot of WSU for a day, you would notice (among other things) that it is the same color as the asphalt it is parked on. Its' albedo is the same as black paint. What gives our Moon the brilliant white appearance we are familiar with is the black backdrop of the night sky. Another illustration involves white copy paper and a black cat. In sunlight or moonlight the paper is white and the cat is black. But, because the sun is 450,000 brighter than the full moon, if we could magically put the sunlit black cat in our moonlit environment it would

be 20,000 time brighter than the moonlit copy paper. The cat would no longer look black but would shine brilliant white and cause nearby objects to cast a shadow! Weird, huh?

There were two small articles about star formation. The very first line in one article read, "Star formation is a fundamental mystery of Astro-physics". The second article dealt with research concerning the first stars after the Big Bang, known as Population I stars. The researchers concluded that these first stars had to have rotated "unexpectedly quickly" in order to produce the needed elements for the next generation of stars.

A half page article concerning a powerful explosion of X-rays in the center of a galaxy in Draco. Astronomers say "that it is unlike any other seen before". They think the cause may have been a star shredded by a super massive black hole in the center of the galaxy.

Next to that article there was an ad for a David Levy endorsed 6 inch Mak-Newt "Comet Hunter" for \$1199.00....come on, the ads are as much fun as the articles.

I read about a dozen more fascinating articles before the energy drink wore off and thoroughly enjoyed the evening (and the cinnamon rolls). If per chance a night gets rained out at the August Monte Christo s-party, I might finish reading the rest of the magazine. The Prez

## Star Party Schedule

Our Proposed Public Star Parties are as follows.

Aug 20	Antelope Island
Oct 1	Antelope Island (Sept)

Oct 8            Kent's Market  
 Oct 22          Antelope Island

Our Requested Star Parties (Schools, etc).

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Aug 24-28      Monte Cristo  
 Sep 23-25      Curlew

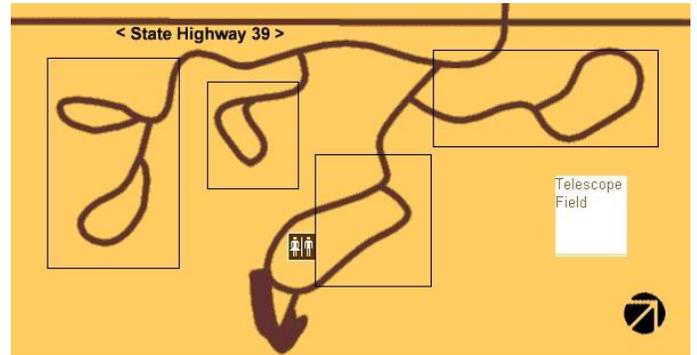
## Membership Cards

Membership cards are being mailed with a copy of the Star Diagonal this week. You will be able to use these to get on Antelope Island to help put on the Star Parties.

## Monte Cristo

Reminder, Monte Cristo is this year is August 24-28. I am planning to go up on Wednesday night. The formal star party is on Friday and Saturday. We have "Tea Parties" around noon and Pot Luck dinners on Friday and Saturday nights at about 6pm.

The Monte Cristo Campground is at the top of Highway 39. See the map below. We hope to see everyone there.



Map of Monte Cristo campground. There are more restrooms than noted. You want to try to get in the small loop by the Telescope field. The other loop near the field is also close.

