



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## OAS Executive Committee

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<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

## Meeting Announcement

Dan Schroeder is speaking this month. He is a professor at WSU and teaches Astronomy and Physics. With a \$500 digital SLR camera you can now make night photos that were impossible less than a generation ago. You can easily record moonlit scenes in full color, ten times as many stars as the naked eye can see, and even the faint glow of the Milky Way and the zodiacal light. Night sky photography combines art and science, enabling endless creativity within the constraints of astronomy and physics. In this talk I will use my own photos and those of the professionals to highlight some of the possibilities and challenges in this rewarding hobby.

## THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Earthlings,

There are two events on the horizon this spring that should help showcase astronomy and OAS to the public. The first event will be at the Layton City Library, March 16. Every year the library has a family night that is devoted to a certain topic. This year they have chosen to feature Astronomy. They will have the building cleared of furniture allowing plenty of space for displays and activities. I visited with some of the staff last Saturday and they would like us to have a couple of demonstrations or displays for that night. They would also like some more knowledgeable assistance on some of the presentations they are undertaking. I suggested I could do something on building a beginner telescope and they were thrilled with that suggestion. So if we could come up with something else that had a healthy "wow" factor we would have our demo's covered. In addition I said we could set up a couple of scopes outside. There is no moon to look at but

Jupiter, Venus, and possibly Mars will be available. I think they would let us set up a table somewhere and we could have some information concerning OAS. This is a popular event in Layton and they said they have close to 500 attendees per event. We can discuss this some at the Feb. meeting but anyone willing to participate should get in touch with me soon in order to be able to co-ordinate with the library in a timely manner.

The second activity is the Boy Scout jamboree to be held at WSU. We are familiar with these having done them before. We need scopes and operators and a couple people to man a booth. There are usually hundreds at this one and we have a good time. It is happening May 11 and we need a dozen scopes. Between these two events we will probably rub shoulders with 1500 people or more so get your game face on, which would be a smile, two eyebrows, breath mint.....

The Prez

## OAS Minutes – January 2012

Minutes for Ogden Astronomical Society January 12, 2012 meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Ron Vanderhule at 7:30 PM.

The meeting started out with a work session where we planned our Star Parties. They are included in this Star Diagonal.

Our speaker this month was Joe Bauman. He is a former Deseret News reporter who has been into astronomy for years. He has accompanied us on several of our events in the past. He has become involved in Astro Imaging. Joe gave us a

demonstration on how he processes the images that he takes. He had some neat pictures of a Supernova.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM with several members going to Village Inn.

Lee Priest

## **May 20 Annular Eclipse**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Annular Eclipse of the Sun that will be visible in southern Utah. An Annular Eclipse is one where the Moon will not be big enough to completely cover the disk of the sun. We should get to see Bailey's Beads and the Ring of Fire. We are planning to look for a good location during our February, St. George star party. Here are the details as I know them so far.

From near Old Iron Town (west of cedar city), the eclipse will start at 18:22. It will begin the total (second contact) at 19:31. Max eclipse will be at 19:33. Third contact at 19:35 and Fourth contact at 20:37. Sunset is at 20:40. The Altitude will be 12 deg at second contact and 11 deg at third contact.

Our plan will be to get a low western horizon, near or on the center line, somewhere west of Cedar City. We are also planning to do a weekend of observing from somewhere down there (maybe Parawan Gap).

If you are looking to travel further and maybe see if higher in the sky, the center line runs 30km north of Redding, CA and almost right over Klamath and Requa, CA.

## **OAS Executive Committee Meeting**

The OAS Executive Committee met on January 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss several topics. We reviewed the Star Party schedule. We discussed the website and our Facebook page. We were looking for ways to keep the public informed about our club and to generate interest in the club. Many of the younger people use social media sites to get their information. We need to do a better job of having a presence there in order to attract younger people into our club. All club

members that are on Facebook, should be encouraged to check out our page, Like it, visit it often and Comment as appropriate for the things posted there.

We also would like to find a webmaster that could take over updating and improving our website. The website could be a great tool for us to attract people to the club and to keep club members up to date about activities, etc. Our website is hosted on GoDaddy on a Linux server. I am maintaining it using Dreamweaver CS5. I am sure that we could move to a Windows server if needed. We would really like to have the ability to have pictures posted without the ability to leave comments. We would like to have a "members only" area.

Bob Tillotson was invited to this meeting to share with us some of the things that the Corvette club he is a member of is doing to attract and retain members. They have a lot of fun things like raffles at their meetings. They also work hard to include spouses and to make friendships so that the members look forward to attending.

These are just a few examples of the things we are looking to try in the coming months. We would welcome ideas from others as well.

## **Star Party Schedule**

Our Proposed (Need approval from Antelope Island and WSU) Public Star Parties are as follows.

Apr 27	Sun Party TBA
Apr 28	Antelope Island
May 12	Antelope Island
Jun 5	Venus Transit (TBA)
Jun 23	Antelope Island
Aug 11	Antelope Island
Sep 8	Antelope Island
Oct 20	Antelope Island

Our Requested Star Parties (Schools, etc).

May 11	BSA Jamborall
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Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Feb 17-19	St. George
Mar 23-25	Curlew
Apr 20-22	Curlew

May 18-21 Cedar City + Eclipse  
Jun 15-17 Curlew  
Jul 19-22 Monte Cristo  
Aug 16-19 Monte Cristo  
Sep 14-16 Curlew  
Oct 12-14 Curlew  
Nov 9-11 Curlew

## **Dues are Due**

Please make sure that you get your Dues turned into Doug this month. We will be updating our roster before the March meeting. Dues are \$20 for OAS dues, \$25 for OAS dues with AL membership.