



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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## Meeting Announcement

This month our meeting will be at our Monte Cristo Star Party, we hope to see everyone there.

## THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Earthlings,

As a continuing service to OAS ,your Prez last month set out to find us some more dark sky observing sites. Using a formula I made up, factoring for population density, billboard spacing, and proximity to energy drinks. Using this unique formula I determined a location 47.6 miles S.W. of Tok Alaska along the AL-Can Highway. This area should provide optimum darkness and zero light pollution. My wife said she would go, so we made a sandwich and headed for Alaska. As you can imagine it took a few days to get there, but several mountain ranges, many rivers and a few grizzlies later, we arrived at astronomy Mecca. We set up our equipment and anxiously waited for the sun to go down. After several hours of waiting for that moment I realized my formula was off. I had factored only conditions on Earth and had ignored the vagaries' of our own local celestial mechanics. The result was my being subject to the greatest source of light pollution known to mankind. The Sun! What you have heard about the land of the "midnight sun" is true. It is an astronomer's worst nightmare. The blasted Sun stays up past midnight, and because of the angle of its' descent the best the nighttime gets is a dim daytime before dawn approaches around 3 a.m. If you are looking to open a telescope business I would suggest you look elsewhere. So after five weeks of "no night" I am really looking forward to Monte this month.

A side note, a road trip thru Canada to Anchorage couldn't be simpler. There is only one road and you always get to your next stop before dark. See ya at Monte.

The Prez

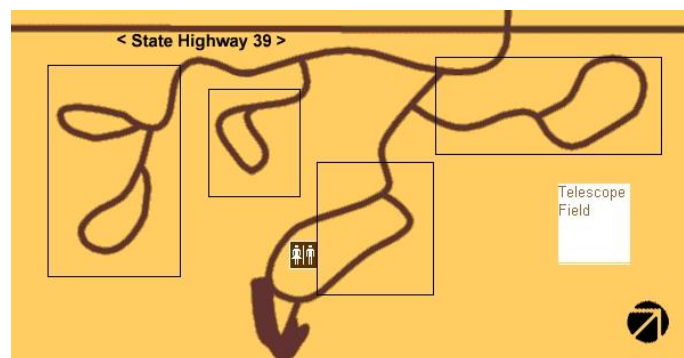
## Nomination Committee

We still need three volunteers for the Nomination Committee for our elections this year. If you would like to volunteer, please let Ron or I know. Each committee member will be asked to call 10 or 15 members to see if they would like to run for office or if they have someone to nominate.

## Monte Cristo

Reminder, Monte Cristo is this year is August 16 - 19. 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.

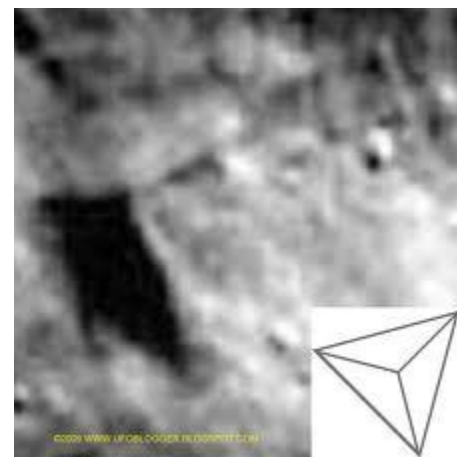
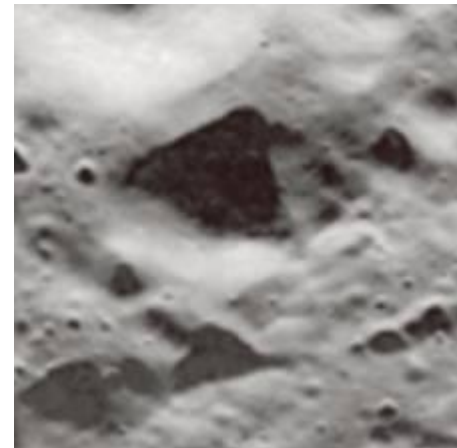
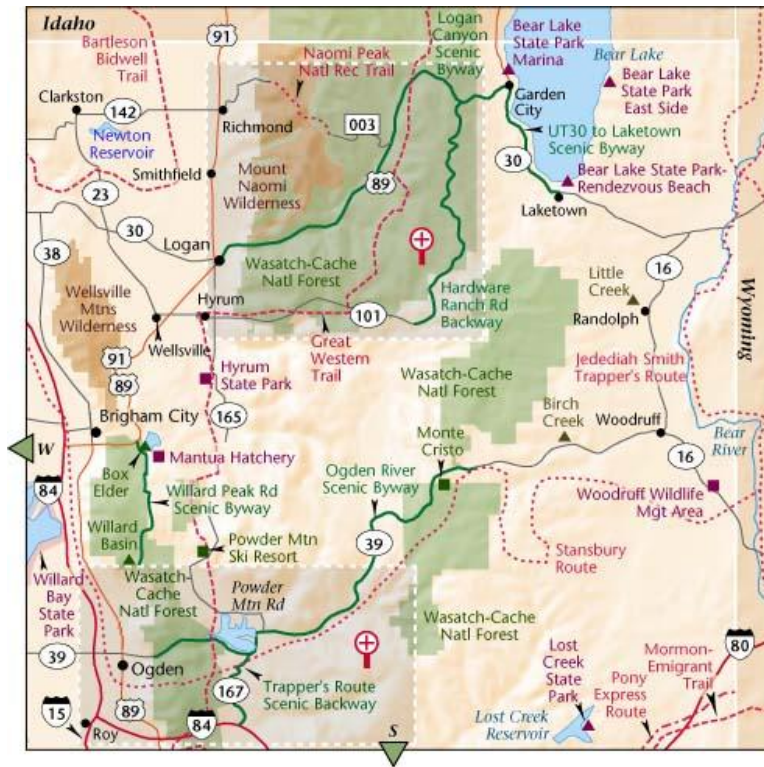
The Monte Cristo Campground is at the top of Highway 39. See the map below. We hope to see everyone there.



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.

Tom Dougherty



### Star Party Schedule

Public Star Parties are as follows.

- Aug 11 Antelope Island
- Sep 8 Antelope Island
- Oct 20 Antelope Island

Our Requested Star Parties (Schools, etc).

- Sep 27 Pleasant Valley Branch Library

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

- Aug 16-19 Monte Cristo
- Sep 14-16 Curlew
- Oct 12-14 Curlew
- Nov 9-11 Curlew

### Pyramid

I came across an interesting photo taken on the backside of the moon. It's a NASA photo of what looks like a three-sided pyramid. The fourth side is the base. It kind of reminds me of the pyramidal structure at Pyramid Lake in Nevada.

