



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

## Meeting Announcement

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

### THE PREZ SEZ

Re-printed from July 1999 Star Diagonal

Greetings Earthlings,

Well, summertime just might show up this year and I'm already hyped up about the club's Monte Cristo event and seeing all those faint fuzzies in the sky...the mosquitoes are just part of the experience.

Of all the dark sites I've haunted these last four years, Monte has a special place in my heart. It was there I received my baptism into the real "night" life. It was a thrill being under a starry canopy of that magnitude and to have the opportunity to peer even deeper into it's vast mysterious beauty through an array of optical instruments set up by a bunch of strangers from Ogden. I knew at that moment my summers of playing on softball teams was a thing of the past. I had more urgent things to do with those nights. I believed this gospel must be spread.

Another aspect of Monte Cristo that is unique is the earthly vistas juxtaposed against the emerging stellar parade. Relive a moment with me:

You're on a mountain 9200 ft high. As far as the eye can see in one direction are gently rolling high plains, a glance to your right reveals rows of pine covered mountains with a light mist in the valleys between. As twilight lingers for it's last few moments you watch the galactic core and Sagittarius emerge over the still snow covered peaks of the Uintahs. A glance back to the left reveals Cassiopeia and Andromeda hovering over Wyoming. Leo is diving behind a wall of trees behind you and the Vegans of

the Lyra system still beckon overhead. You look at the earth again, you look at the sky, the earth, the sky... a sinking hollow feeling materializes in the pit of your stomach as you contemplate what an insignificant speck of debris you are compared to the splendor floating above. Your eyes roll back in your head, you fall to the ground, your body starts twitching as it starts to assume a fetal position....but the six year old throwing rocks down the open end of your scope jerks you back to reality at warp speed. "Get a grip" you mutter to yourself. "There's a star party tonight". Your results may vary when viewing this spectacle but exercise caution none the less.

The "tea parties" during the day are a unique activity. Here you have a dozen or so adults jockeying their aluminum chairs around on rocky ground as they try to keep some part of their body in the shade of a canopy that is about the size of a opened *Sky & Telescope* magazine. All the while a dead serious discussion on gravity waves, event horizons and black body radiation is being carried on. Monty Python would have fun with that scenario. I remember last year in one of these discussions we figured out the "meaning of it all" but decided it would do no one any good because it wouldn't fit on the back of a tee shirt.

All seriousness aside, the club's annual Monte Cristo outings are first magnitude. Beautiful night skies, pristine mountain environment and lots of like minded folks to chat with. It only takes one hour from the mouth of Ogden or Weber canyon to get to the campground (unless your riding with Doug on his Moped) See ya there. Oh yes, then there is the food.

The Prez

## June's meeting

Thanks to all those that came out to Doug's house for our dinner party. It was a lot of fun and the food was great. Special thanks to Doug and Suzy for hosting it.

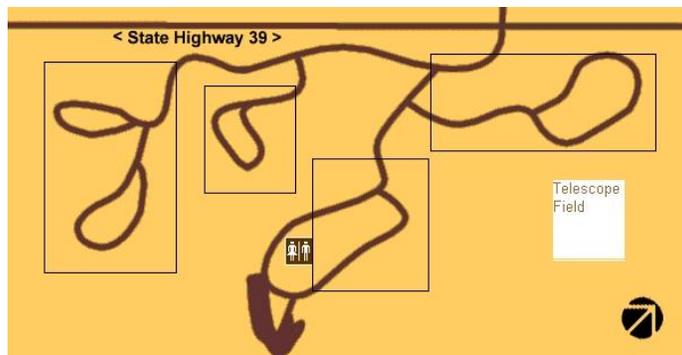
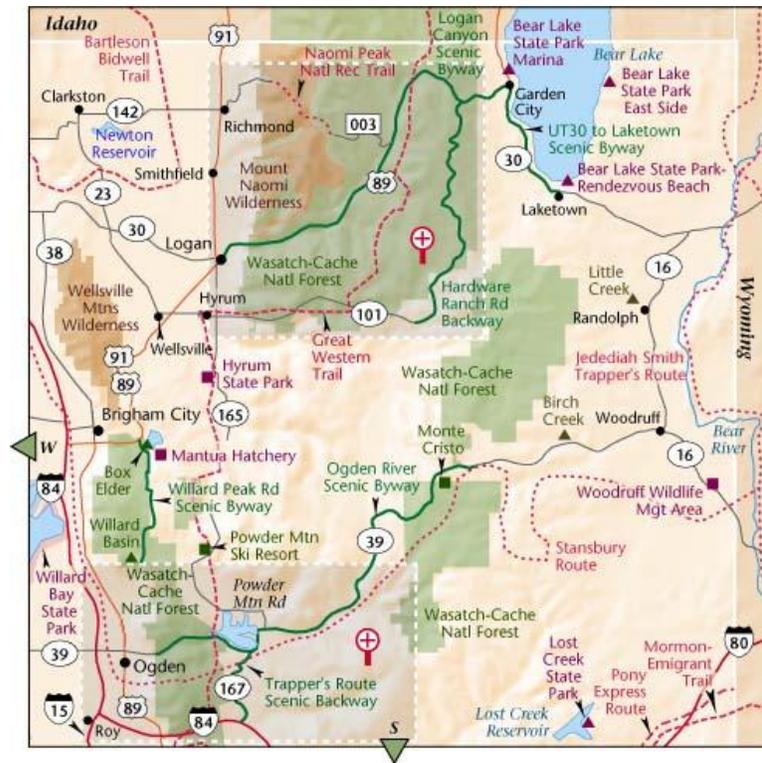
## Nomination Committee

We 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 July 19 - 22. 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.

## IDA Membership Promotion

Enter the International Dark-Sky Association's Darksky Giveaway for an astronomically grand prize—a set of eight TeleVue Ethos eyepieces valued at \$5,665, generously donated by Televue Optics.

To enter the IDA's Darksky Giveaway, you must be an IDA member before the entry closeout date of August 31, 2012. If you are not a member, joining is easy and the cost of a one-year membership is only \$35.00. To join or renew your membership, visit [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org) and select the "Join" tab at the top of the webpage. You can also join by calling the IDA office at (520) 293-3198. Entering to win is also a breeze. Visit [darksky.org/giveaway](http://darksky.org/giveaway) where you can fill out the entry form online and read the official rules.

Individual memberships help IDA perform its mission in stopping light pollution and helps to support its many programs. Through the International Dark Sky Places program, IDA and its partners certify locations with exceptional nightscapes as International Dark Sky Communities, International Dark Sky Parks, and International Dark

Sky Reserves. The Dark Sky Parks and Protected Area Program currently works with national parks to help them utilize quality outdoor lighting. IDA's new Suburban Outreach Sites project partners with astronomy clubs to establish accessible programs for kids and their parents. These programs help IDA to engage communities and to raise awareness and ultimately "to preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting."

IDA members make a big difference in their communities and around the world, which is why IDA is thrilled to offer its members such a premium giveaway from Televue Optics. Make sure you enter the DarkSky Giveaway by the deadline and good luck!

To learn more, visit [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).

The winner will be announced at the Pacific Astronomy and Telescope Show in September 2012, but does not need to attend PATS to win.

### 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
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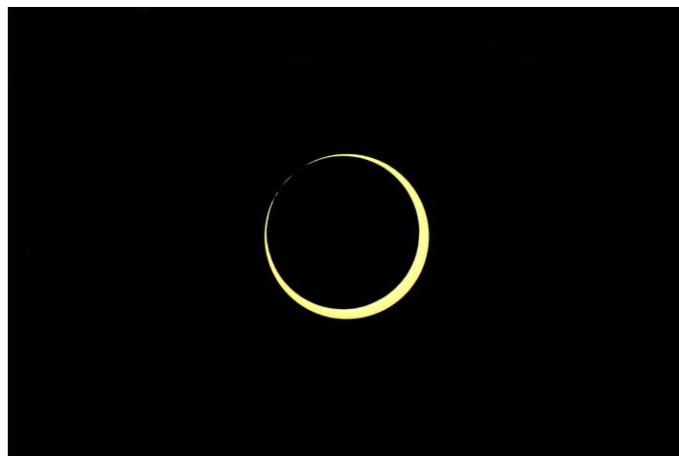
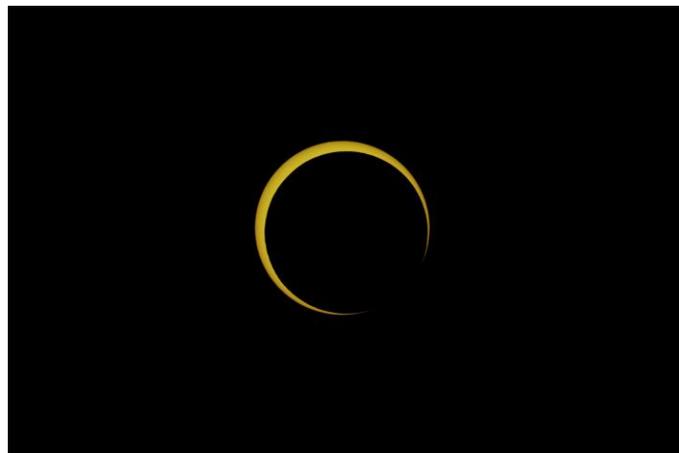
Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Jul 19-22	Monte Cristo
Aug 16-19	Monte Cristo
Sep 14-16	Curlew
Oct 12-14	Curlew
Nov 9-11	Curlew

### Eclipse & Venus Transit by Tom Watson

The following eclipse pictures were taken by Tom Watson down at Newcastle UT. The Venus Transit pictures were taken from Provo UT. These pictures

and a video can be found in the Gallery on [OgdenAstronomy.com](http://OgdenAstronomy.com).



## Venus Transit by Tom Dougherty

A neighbor in my apartment complex helped me set up my 500mm f/5.6 Orion telescope on a windy day. We finally got the scope centered on the Sun. I viewed it with a 2X Barlow lens mounted in an erecting prism. I was thrilled to see the image of Venus for one hour and 20 minutes. I put my Olympus SP 570UZ up to the 26mm Plossl eyepiece and took a chance at taking a picture. It worked!

