



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## OAS Executive Committee

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<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

## Meeting Announcement

This month our meeting will be a dinner at Doug's home. The club will supply Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. You can bring another meat to cook if you would prefer. We will sign up for some side dishes on OAS\_News prior to the party. We aren't planning any formal presentation. Dinner will be ready at 7:30. If you would like to come early, Doug has a golf course and you can golf if you would like to. Doug's Address is 2060 W. 1025 N., Farr West, UT 84404.

## THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Earthlings,

Wow, two solar eclipses three weeks apart and both visible from Utah. Strange and glorious times indeed. The first eclipse May 20th was pretty darn neat as many of you know. Had we not turned back to get the lawn chairs plus an extended fill-up at a gas station in Payson, the Prez and first lady would have shared the spectacle with you all at the Gap. As it was we pulled off at the truck stop in Beaver to watch the "Ring of Fire". The horizon was low enough for all four points of contact to be seen. The open spot we pulled into had many locals watching and a car full of college students from Sandy. We were just another addition to the crowd until I pulled the massive 8 inch f/6 from the back seat of the Mazda and set it up. Suddenly 10 and 12 year old boys were materializing around me eager to get a closer look at the happening. They were quickly followed by the moms' with the smaller children, then the dads' and college kids. What had been a disparate gathering of strangers soon was a small friendly gathering, all around the telescope. Illustrating once again that world peace and harmony

can be achieved solely by the strategic dispersal of telescopes on a global scale.

A few things I found interesting during the eclipse; It didn't get as dark as I expected, and it got cooler (temp:) than I expected. Also the shadows cast on the ground had fuzzy edges. Not the distinct lines normally made by the Sun. This was pointed out to me by one of the 10 year olds. All in all it was worth the six hour round trip for me but my wife is still conflicted over missing the finale of "the Apprentice".

The second eclipse ( henceforth to be called a transit) will be May 5 as Venus passes in front of the same Sun that the Moon did! Way! This will be the 54th time this has occurred since 2000 b.c. These transits happen in pairs eight years apart, with intervals of over 100 years between pairings. For the pairing in the 1760's teams of scientists were sent to all parts of the globe to establish a broad baseline and time the transit from their particular vantage point. When all this data was finally compiled it enabled science for the first time to gauge the distance from Earth to Sun. Some had the number at 60 million miles. A number accurate enough to demonstrate for the first time the scale of the Solar System and the distances to be dealt with in the future.

OAS will be at Antelope Island assisting Island staff with a public viewing of the June 5 transit. Venus will start its' transit shortly after four p.m. but the Sun will set before the crossing is complete. Hopefully Utah's June monsoon weather will be gracious enough to at least allow a good sunset time to allow observing of one of the more rare celestial marvels. See ya at the bar-b-que at Dougs' place June 14.

The Prez

## OAS Minutes – May 2012

Minutes for Ogden Astronomical Society May 10, 2012 meeting

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

### Announcements:

We have several star parties and activities coming up this month.

5/11 – Star Party at the Boy Scout Jamboree at Layton Christian Academy. Also want an info table with demonstrations on Saturday.

5/12 – Antelope Island

5/18-20 – Star Party at Parawan Gap

5/20 – Eclipse Viewing at Parawan Gap

5/24 – Adams Elementary

6/5 – Venus Transit. Antelope Island, Northridge High School.

6/14 – Our monthly meeting will be a BBQ party at Doug Say's home.

We also passed around pictures and details of the two telescopes and accessories that Beckie Davis is selling. Micky Davis, a former OAS member passed away suddenly and Beckie is trying to generate some much need cash by selling his equipment. It includes a 12" Meade dob that was remounted into a truss tube and includes a Magellan DSC (\$1000). The other telescope is a Meade ETX 125(\$600). Both have eyepieces, etc that are included. They are currently listed on KSL If the 12" doesn't sell quickly, we discussed the possibility of purchasing it as a club. We will take input and a vote on OAS\_News if we do this.

This month the presentation was by Ron. It was on the Fibonacci Sequence. He used several YouTube videos and discussed when the sequence came from.

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

## Star Party Schedule

Public Star Parties are as follows.

Jun 5	Venus Transit (Antelope Island)
Jun 23	Antelope Island
Aug 11	Antelope Island
Sep 8	Antelope Island
Oct 20	Antelope Island

Our Requested Star Parties (Schools, etc).

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

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

## Annular Solar Eclipse Observed from Roy, UT

On Sunday May 20 I wasn't as enthusiastic as many of my OAS friends who traveled to Parowan Gap for the big eclipse. I stuck around home but since my yard has no horizon left due to all of the neighbor's trees I set up my 4" refractor at the Roy City Municipal Park which is just south of me. There I had an unlimited horizon to the west and I knew that on a Sunday afternoon there would be folks at the bowery, walking the track and kids playing on the Jungle Jim, hence, I'd have a crowd.



It was a beautiful warm spring afternoon and I wasn't wrong about the curious folks who, when I explained why I was there with this big white contraption, wanted to see the sun and watch the eclipse. Except for one nasty bank of clouds that happened to be crossing over near mid-eclipse I had a fine view of the whole event. I believe that from my location we had about 88% of totality. I guess that I had 35 or 40 inquisitive visitors who stayed to watch the progress of the eclipse. As you can see in the photo, I am from the old school and still use the projection screen with the refractor when I have a crowd. Though I do have objective solar filters for the 'scope, the screen is the safest way to observe the



sun and allows many people to see at the same time.

Thanks to all of you who went the distance to Parowan. I am looking forward to seeing your results too.

Bob Tillotson

### **Eclipse Thoughts**

I had a great time watching the eclipse. My son Aaron and my daughter Trena also joined with me. Parowan Gap was a really nice choice by Dave and Lee. We had a great star party the night before and it provided a fantastic western horizon for the eclipse. Nal Morris, the author of the book about Parowan Gap showed up Sunday afternoon and was able to

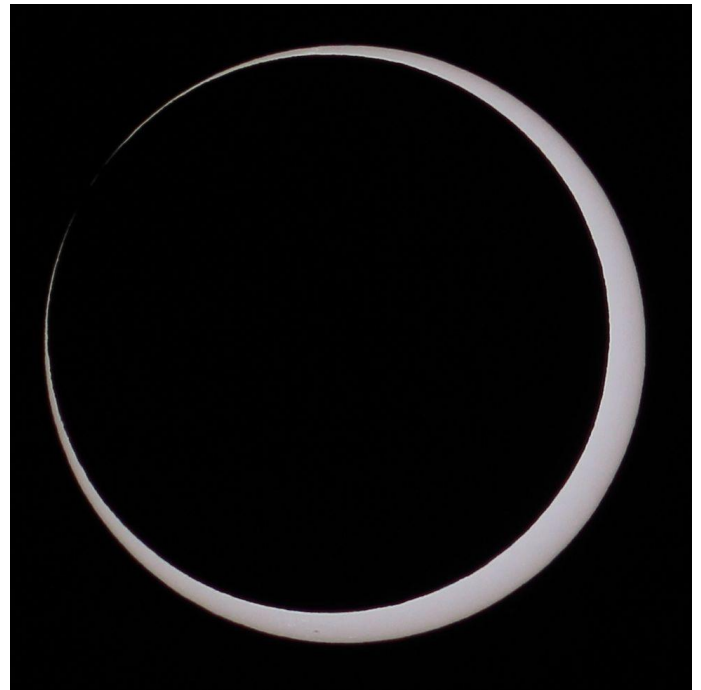
give my daughter and others a tour of the petroglyphs. I got his updated email address – so I can share that with anyone that was still trying to get a copy of his book. There were about 150 to 200 people that showed up at the Gap by the time the annular eclipse got underway.



There were several “eclipse” effects that we noticed:

- During maximum eclipse it was noticeably cooler (which we certainly appreciated)
- Also at that point it had somewhat darkened, we were able to easily see Venus near annularity
- Doug didn't believe me at first, but we were able to see that there were some “peaks” on the moon that were visible. In other words, we could see that the moon wasn't perfectly spherical
- A bit after third contact I noticed that the sky was substantially brighter \*below\* the sun than it was above it
- We looked at our shadows just after third contact and could see that the edges of our shadows were “many” eclipse images
- We could also see the eclipse using “pinholes” through hats. Doug projected the eclipse through his straw cowboy hat. If he held it far enough away from the car (so that the pinhole eclipses were slightly out of focus) you could get a real 3D effect from the shadow.

- We were able to visually see some “Bailey’s Beads” near third contact and in a couple of the photos I took you can see these effects.



It was great to be there we had a number of OASers. I piggybacked by PST on my Celestron refractor. I had the mylar filter (from Dave) on the refractor and I had it co-aligned with the PST so we could see a white light image and the H-alpha images. I also used my Canon T2i (which Jeremy Matthews helped me get focused). So I was able to get the white light images using an Orion short tube refractor connected to the camera. The sun spot groups we were able to see were also phenomenal. Now I'm really looking forward to August 2017!

Clear skies,  
Dale.

### **Eclipse & Star Trails for Parowan**

My wife and I met some of your members at the gap and they were kind enough to show us some things through their scopes. We were the ones shining the flashlight on the hill later that night to get the star trails below. I thought you might enjoy some of the pictures I got of the eclipse and of the stars later on.

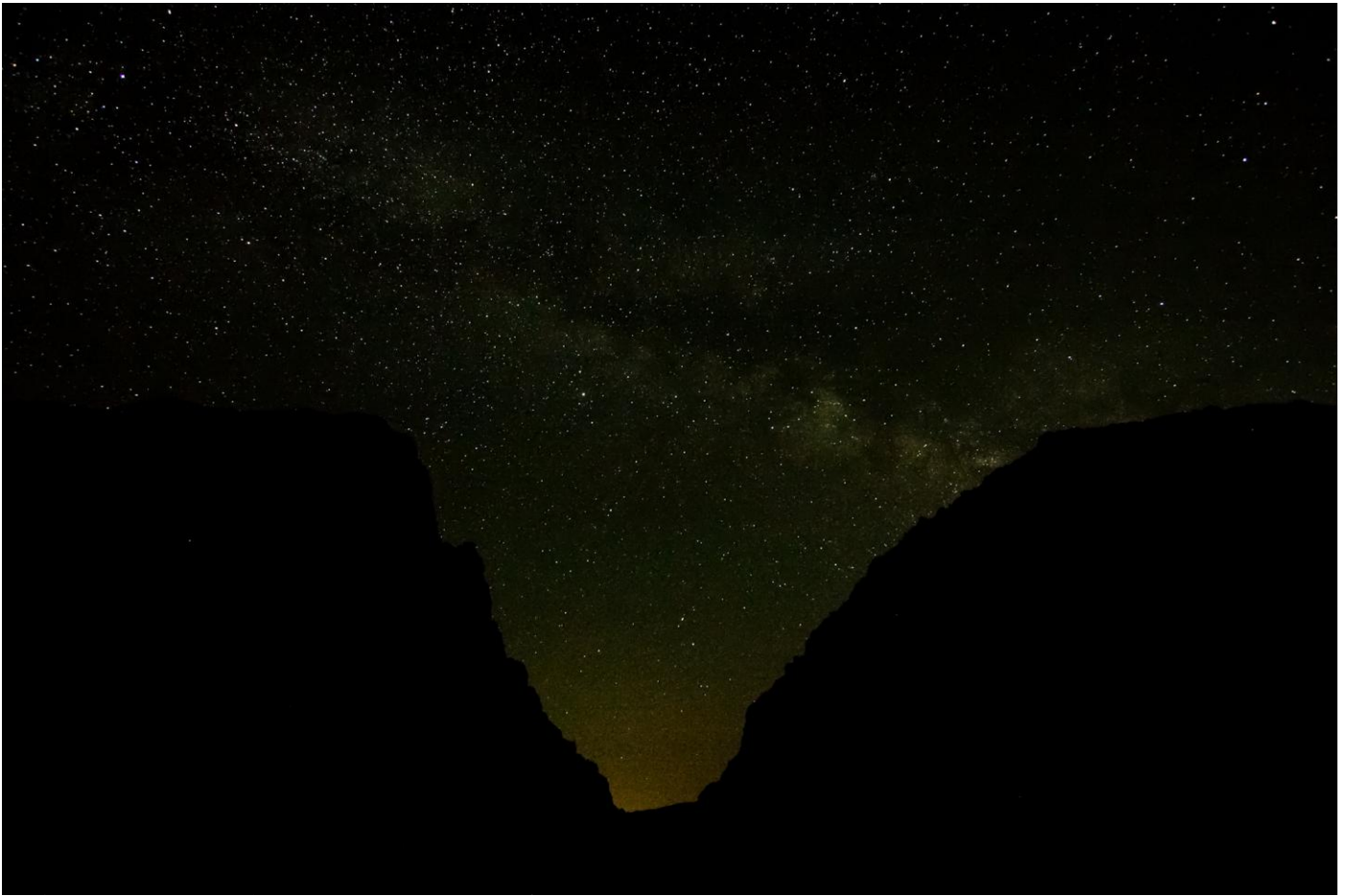




Please thank your members for their willingness to share. Seeing the solar flares was awesome.

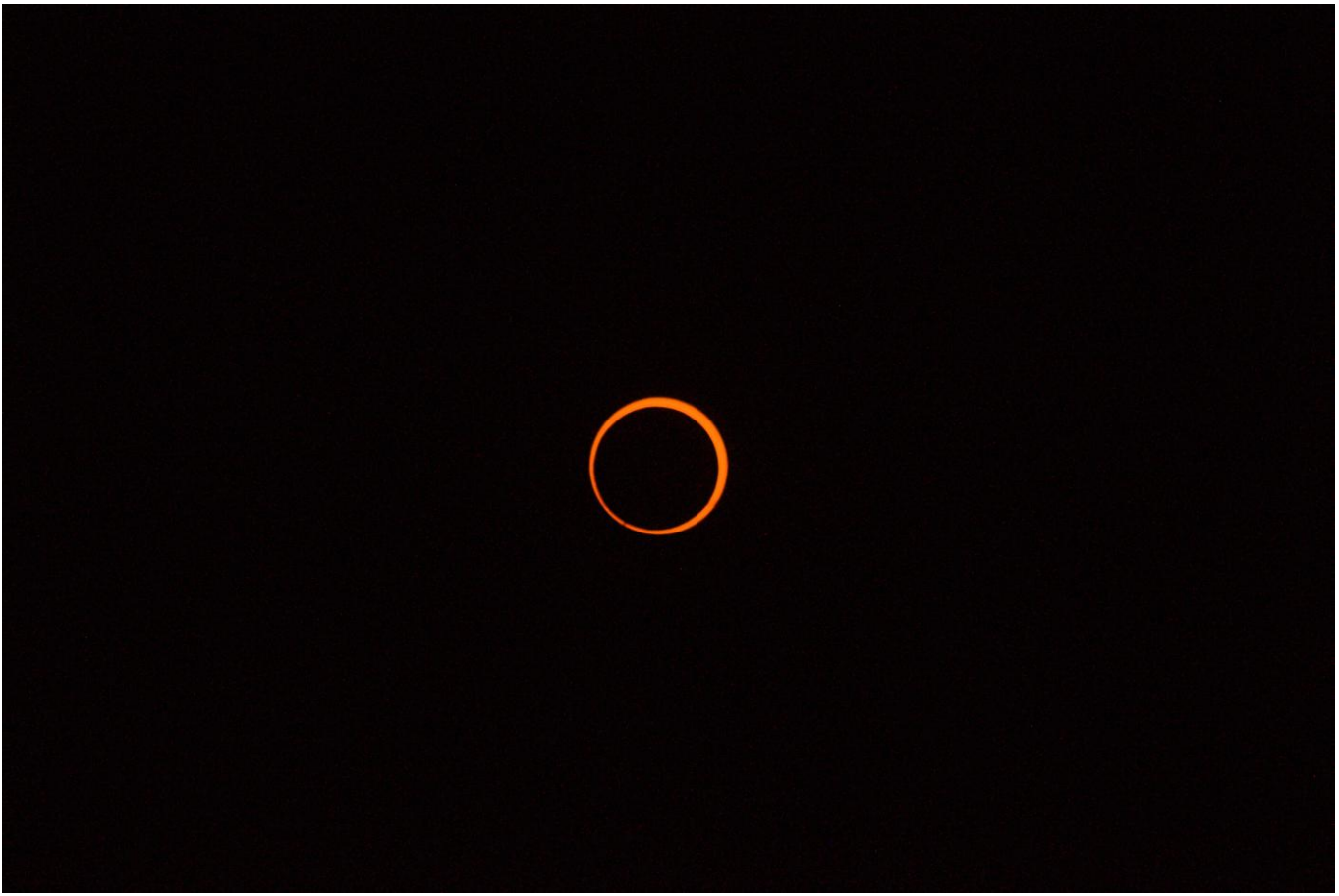
Mike Johnson





Doug's hat





Eclipse by Kay Hargis at Bluff, UT.

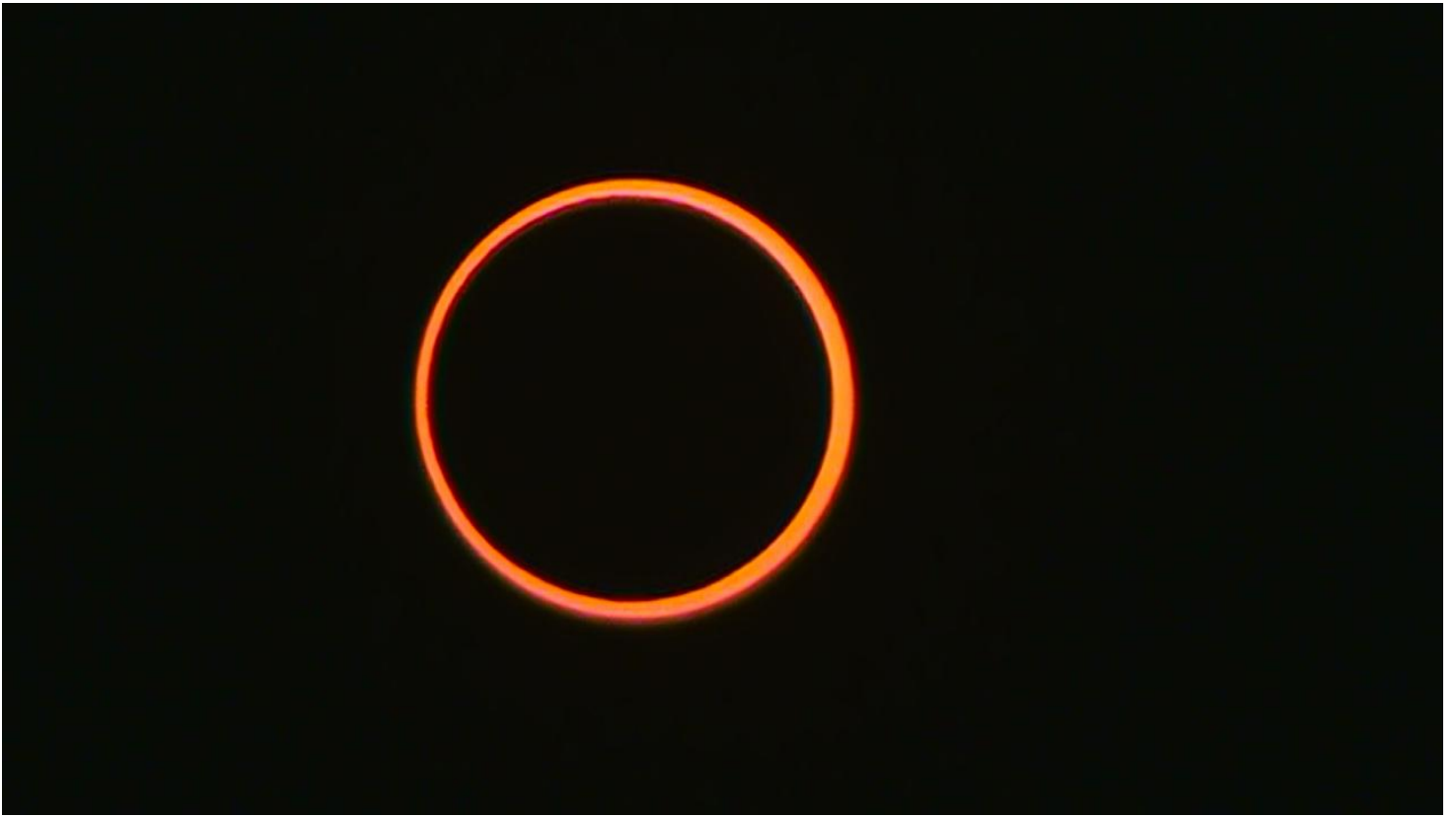


From Parowan - Lee Priest

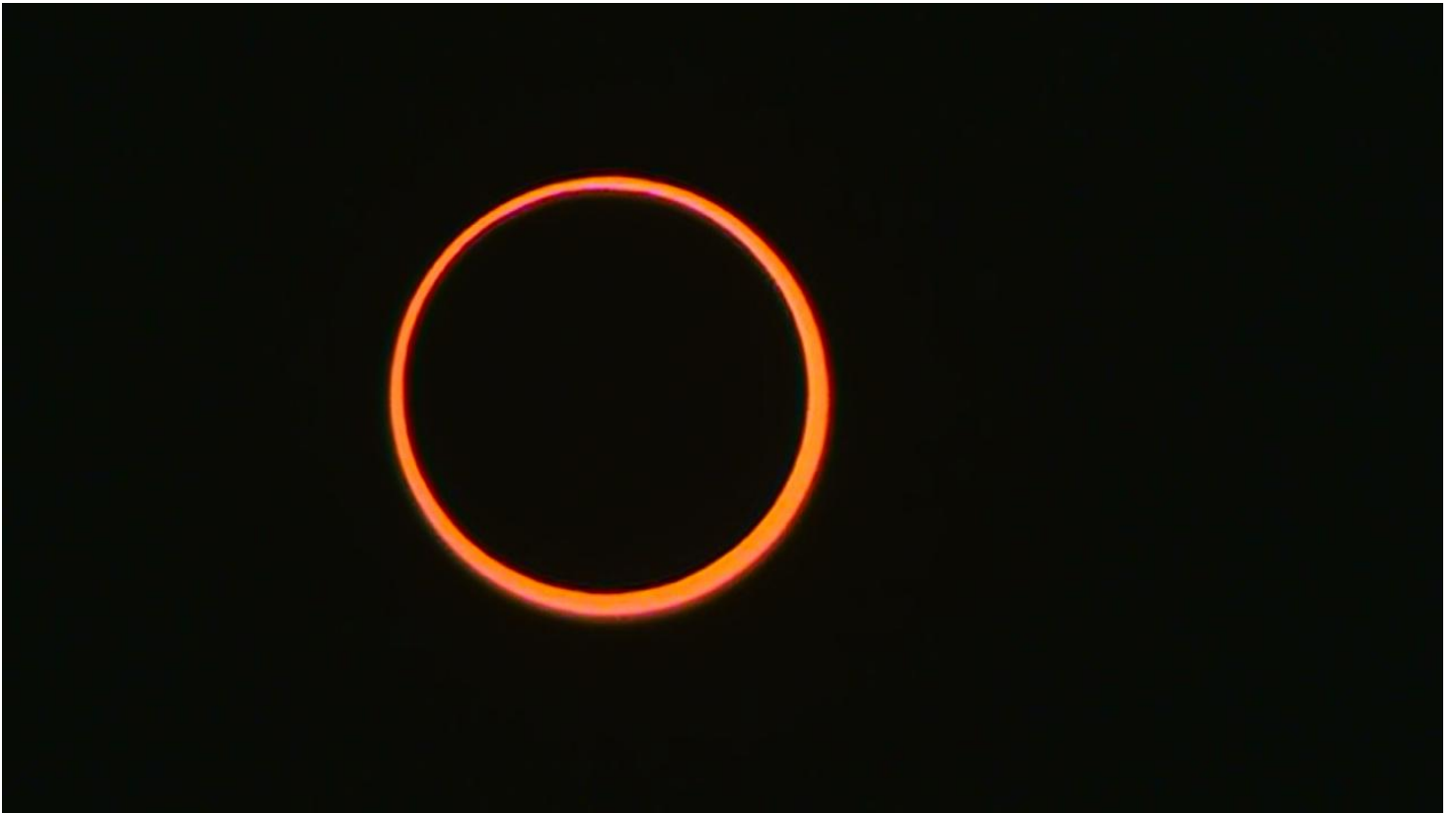


2<sup>nd</sup> Contact from Parowan – Lee Priest





Ring of Fire from Parowan – Lee Priest





Just about 4<sup>th</sup> contact. Sun going behind mountain – Lee Priest



Jet passing in front of eclipse – Lee Priest