



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## OAS Executive Committee

Pres - Ron Vanderhule  
(801) 726-8554  
Vice Pres- Craig Browne  
(801) 388-6556  
Secretary- David Dunn  
(801) 544-7705  
Treasurer- Doug Say  
(801) 731-7324

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## Meeting Announcement

The March meeting agenda is still being finalized and will be announced on OAS\_News.

## THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings, Earthlings

You gotta love this information age we live in. Fresh information, on demand, from a variety of sources and the attendant ability to explore different aspects of any of it. This month's column is a couple of tidbits I have siphoned from the many streams of astro related material I indulge in frequently.

This from Astronomy magazine 8/11, and an article entitled "Storm Warnings". Heidi Hemmel of MIT has been studying the atmospheres of Uranus and Neptune over the last several years. At the conclusion of her section of the article she states "I don't think we understand atmospheres and why they warm, as well as people think we do. There may be mechanisms that we are not fully accounting for as we model planetary atmospheres. That includes Earths".... If Heidi worked at NASA those last three words would have her back tending goat herds, but documented warmings of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars in the last several years give credence to her assessment.

The Alternative Cosmology Group is dedicated to collecting peer reviewed work on alternative views within Cosmology. One of their contributors has several papers and open letter debates with other astronomers concerning the existence of Black Holes. Many of the papers are written in "fairly" layman friendly terminology and coincides nicely with the Hawking/Susskind debates on the same

subject. Go to <http://www.cosmology.info/letter> and search Stephen J. Crothers /black holes. Good stuff.

Of course there is YouTube and the vast array of useful astro material presented there. Definitely a M.V.O.(must visit often). So hopefully you are jumping into the many streams of fresh information available. Doing so keeps you sharp and current. It also allows you to be more impressive when encountered at the star parties by the inquiring public.

The Prez

## OAS Minutes – February 2012

Minutes for Ogden Astronomical Society February 9, 2012 meeting

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

### Announcements:

3/16 – Layton Library – 6 to 8pm. 2 demonstrations, info table and telescopes outside. Ron and Dave for the presentations. Mike and Dustin for the info table. Lee and others with telescopes. Could be 500 people.

3/10 – WSU Davis Star Party

Friends of Antelope Island would like OAS participation in events (Balloon Festival, etc) at the island. More info to come.

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

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

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

Our speaker this month was Dr. Dan Schroeder. He is a professor of Physics at WSU. He spoke on taking pictures at night. It was a really informative talk about using and digit SLR cameral to take pictures of the sky and your surroundings at night. He demonstrated how to balance the limits of the cameras and the movement of the stars to make some really nice pictures.

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

### **May 20 Annular Eclipse (Updated)**

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 have chosen the west side of Parawan Gap to be our primary location down south. It has a good horizon to the west and is in the total eclipse zone. Some of us will camp on BLM land at the Gap. Others will stay in motels in Cedar City or Parawan. I am currently planning to get a motel in Cedar City. We are planning to be there for a star party on Friday and Saturday nights and may have a star party Sunday night if there is interest.

From Parawan Gap, 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. There will be 4m21.2s of annularity.

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

Some people will be planning to observe this as a partial eclipse from home. There will also be planned observing parties at various locations. We will announce those closer to the event.

### **Webmaster Desired**

We 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 CS4. 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.

### **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).

Mar 10	WSU Davis
Mar 16	Layton Library Read-a-thon
Apr 19	Adams Elementary
May 11	BSA Jamborall

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