



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

Meeting Announcement

This month Ron will be presenting the subject that he didn't get to last month on the Fibonacci Sequence. Also a short video Cassini recorded of Saturn and its moons.

THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Earthlings,

So what's your sign? We really didn't know what to expect at the last Antelope Island star party. Reason being the Standard Examiner headlined our event "Astrology meeting at Antelope Island". But the New Agers, Dead Heads and Oprah book club members failed to materialize, along with clear skies. So a dozen of us OAS'ers spent a couple hours showing off and talking about our telescopes before packing it in early. I stayed around for another 40 minutes talking to Wendy and a few other people when the skies opened up to the S.E. and Saturn graciously beckoned. As we started viewing the ringed marvel about eight other people showed up and a dozen of us got to spend some quality eyepiece time with the planet. Included in that small group were a couple that said they had met at the Island at one of our star parties a couple years ago, started dating and finally got married. They were anxious to return to an Island star party, relive the magic and tell us their story. Now I know those starry nights can be romantic. I have heard Doug propose to many women as they looked thru BOB at our star parties over the years.

On another note, we have discussed how rewarding it is to see a kids face light up when they first look thru our scopes at a school star party. Well, at these events I have discovered another class of people that could use this same enlightening. It is the nonchalant, seemingly disinterested father of some

of the kids. This man lurks in the back ground as his kids marvel at the views. Despite their pleading for him to look also, he is prepared to just let "the kids" have their fun. He is more refined than that. Lately I have been approaching this man as he makes his exit insisting that he "be a kid" for a minute and have a look. I give him some light coaching at what is being observed, let him breath at the eyepiece, then watch the smile emerge. It is a different person that steps away from the scope. Lets' face it. Getting a kid interested in Astronomy is great. But if you can get the old man's wonder button pushed the odds of a telescope sitting in the garage someday are greatly increased.

On a final note, April 2012 new moon + Curlew + clear skies + 25 inch f/4 + 22 Naglar + M- 51 = OMG !!!! The image was textbook. Knots could be seen in the spiral arms where star forming regions were. Lee said it was too bright for him to look at. Dave said he could hear the 2001 Space Odyssey theme when he looked. Les just cried. I gloated.

The Prez

OAS Minutes – April 2012

Minutes for Ogden Astronomical Society April 12, 2012 meeting

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

Announcements:

Thank you to all that helped out with the Layton Library. The event was very successful. It was a lot of fun to get to so many people.

4/12 – Syracuse Elementary

4/13 – Heritage Elementary in Ogden

4/24 – Adams Elementary

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.

This month the presentation was a show and tell. Several people had things to show.

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

May 20 Annular Eclipse Star Party

We will be having a Star Party and Eclipse watch from May 17 to May 21 at Parawan Gap. The Annular Solar Eclipse will be on Sunday evening beginning at 18:22 and ending at 20:37.

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. It is not right under the center line so it will be off to the side a little although it will still be total. You can camp on BLM land at the Gap or will stay in motels in Cedar City or Parawan. I have reservations at the Travelodge 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.

Here is the details of the eclipse for 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.

Star Party Schedule

Public Star Parties are as follows.

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|--------|---------------------------------|
| May 12 | Antelope Island |
| 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).

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|--------|------------------|
| May 11 | BSA Jamborall |
| May 24 | Adams Elementary |

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

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|-----------|-----------------------|
| May 18-21 | Parawan Gap + 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 |

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.