



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



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Vol. 42 Number 5

February 2014

<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

Meeting Announcement

Our monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday**,
February 13, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Ott Planetarium.

Message from the President

Hi All,

We are getting closer to spring and I know I have the bug to get out and do some observing we have St. George coming up soon it will be nice to get to some warmer weather and maybe do some observing and we always have a good time doing things during the day.

I do not have a speaker as of today but I am working on it and if not I will come up with something hopefully interesting. I will keep you all informed through our email.

I am excited to see that Cosmos is coming back to T.V. I remember as a kid watching the old series and being excited to watch it every week. Neil deGresse Tyson is no Carl Sagan but he can be entertaining to watch and he does have passion on teaching astronomy to the masses.

Clear Skies
Craig

OAS Minutes – January 2014

The annual meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on January 9, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Ott Planetarium. President Craig Browne conducted the meeting.

Announcements

- St. George Star Party – 2/27-3/1
- Messier Marathon – Curlew – 3/28-29
- North Fork Park – 5/23.
- Boy Scouts – 2/26

We also discussed buying new signs to direct the public to our star parties. We would like to have signs that have artwork on them and say Public Star Party and then an arrow to show them which way. We want 5 of them. Craig has priced them out at \$150 per sign. A motion was taken, seconded and approved by vote of the club members present to purchase these signs.

We then discussed the Great Basin activities that we have planned this year. Great Basin would really like us to partner with them in putting on their annual Astronomy Festival. This is similar to what SLAS is doing with Bryce. We feel that this would be a great opportunity to do public out-reach. For Great Basin's activities, they start at about 8:00PM and start out

with a 30 to 45 min ranger program then they come out to the picnic area to observe. They currently like to have all the telescopes look at the same object so that they can move the large group of people thru the first 5 objects quickly. This also lets them have a theme for the night that is part of the ranger program.

They would also like to have solar observing which would formally start at 3PM. That is when the ranger staff can start doing it but they would like us to do it most of the day if possible.

The reserve two group campgrounds for volunteers and any members with RVs can also camp in the traditional campgrounds. They waive the camping fees from Thursday to Sunday morning. They can't hold the RV sites for us so we would need to get there and obtain one if we wanted one. For the festival in September, they do a special dinner for the volunteers on Saturday.

One other suggestion that Kelly had was that we could set up a "club table" during the solar viewing to advertise our club and give people information.

The members in attendance felt that this was a good thing for us to pursue so Craig and I will work to get it set up.

We then adjourned with many of us going to Village Inn for additional socializing.

Tribute to John Dobson
9/14/1915 – 1/15/2014
By Brent Watson

He will be remembered by many. I especially will remember him from when I first met him about 1980. He helped design my 22 inch scope. I asked him how he ground mirrors so quickly. His response? "What takes you so long? Grinding mirrors is caveman work - eat well, sleep well, and work like hell!"

He stayed at my home on several occasions, and my family visited him in San Francisco whenever we were there. They especially remember the offer of a snack of figs, and his serenading us with his guitar.

Once while in San Francisco on business, I visited him and took him to Jurassic Park. He wondered if dinosaurs really could vocalize - we have no evidence one way or another. On the way home he asked me "Is it cold in San Francisco because it is foggy, or is it foggy because it is cold?" His mind was always working.

Once when getting ready for a telescope class, I was expecting a shipment of telescopes from the old Coulter Optical. I called to find out why they were not shipped, and John was there. He told the president of the company (I don't remember his name right now.) to get them shipped ASAP. They arrived within the week.

Once at Riverside I saw him and he immediately came over to me and we talked for a bit. Someone came up to him and he politely excused himself because he was talking to an old friend. That made me feel good anyway.

Some of you attended a fund raiser for him I organized. We ground, polished, and figured a 13 inch f6 mirror in my back yard - with his help. I purchased that mirror and still have it. He signed it with a diamond scribe. He was not all that anxious to get the money we raised for him, and he would not take the cash. I had to send him a check, which he later cashed - I imagine reluctantly.

He also endorsed my books early on and gave me permission to use his name and a quote in my initial advertising.

His 1990 signature in my Antonin Becvar "Atlas of the Heavens" reads:
"Orbits closed and open, orbits curved and straight
But why are we weightless in orbit, and what is man and weight?
We move in conic sections, but why do we move at all?
And once we're set in motion, why do we coast and fall?"

Rest in peace, John, my friend. I shall miss you.

Star Party Schedule

Public Star Parties are as follows.

Apr 5	Antelope Island
May 3	Antelope Island
Jun 21	Antelope Island (Sun)
Aug 2	Antelope Island
Sep 27	Antelope Island
Oct 18	Antelope Island

Our Requested Star Parties (Schools, etc).

Feb 26	Boy Scouts
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May 23 North Fork Park

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Feb 28 – Mar 2	St. George
Mar 28-30	Messier Marathon – Curlew
Apr 25-27	Curlew
May 30-Jun 1	Parawan Gap?
Jun 27-29	Monte Cristo
Jul 25-28	Great Basin
Aug 22-24	Monte Cristo
Sep 18-20	Great Basin Astronomy Festival
Oct 24-26	Curlew