

THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



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Meeting Announcement

Our monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday**, June 12, 2014 at 7:30pm at the home of Doug Say. It will be a BBQ with Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Drinks supplied by the club. You can show up early and golf or visit. You may also bring a side or dessert if you wish to, it is not required.

Doug Say
2060 W. 1025 N.
Farr West, UT 84404

OAS Minutes – March 2014

The annual meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on May 8, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Ott Planetarium. President Craig Browne conducted the meeting.

Announcements

- Young Intermediate star party 5/9
- Parawan Gap is moved to Curlew 5/30-31
- North Fork Park – 5/23.

- June 12 – Annual BBQ at Doug Say's home.
- June 6 – Help Wayne and Stan with students learning to use their new telescopes. Don't need to bring our telescopes
- June 21 – Antelope Island
- June 26-29 – Monte Cristo
- July 24-27 – Great Basin

Craig then introduced one of our new members, Janet Muir. Janet has been working with the Ogden Valley and North Fork Park to get their IDA designations. Janet talked about the IDA Dark Sky Park Accreditation process that they have been working on. Our star party on 5/23 is part of this process.

It is exciting to see IDA actions gaining traction in northern Utah.

After Janet talk, we watch a planetarium show about "Dark Matter". It was produced in Australia and was very enjoyable.

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

Star Party Schedule

Public Star Parties are as follows.

Jun 21	Antelope Island (Sun)
Aug 2	Antelope Island
Sep 27	Antelope Island
Oct 18	Antelope Island

Our Requested Star Parties (Schools, etc).

9/5	Park City Girl Scouts
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Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

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

Monte Cristo Star Party and Family Camp Out

With summer heating up it's time to start thinking about our premier activity of the year, the family camp out and star party at Monte Cristo. For those not familiar with this activity it will be held Friday and Saturday June 27th and 28th and August 22nd and 23rd at the Monte Cristo campground. We have several people go earlier in the week and some who just come up for the evening and don't camp, whatever will fit your interest and schedule.

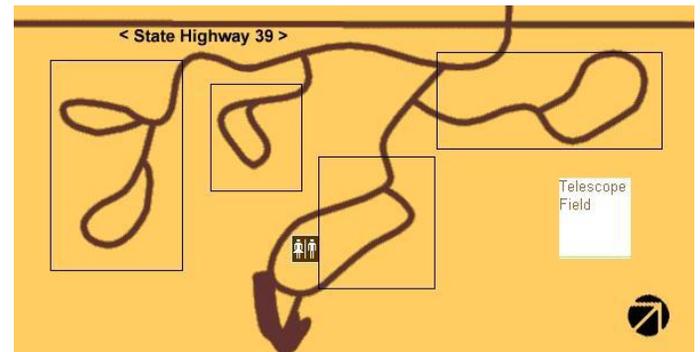
To get there from Ogden, go East on Highway 39 about 40 miles up Ogden Canyon to the top of the mountain, you will be about 9000 ft. elevation when you get there.

We try to get in loop E, to get there just keep turning left after you enter the campground. Monte Cristo is a National Forest camp ground, they don't take reservations. They have paved roads with tables and fire pits at each camp site, a restroom with flush toilets and a few water taps located around the loop. Last year the fee was \$18.00 per night.

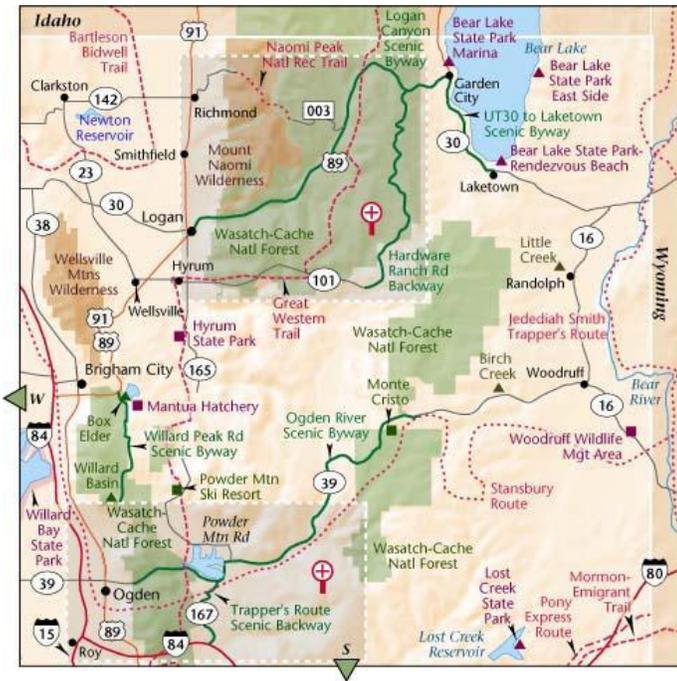
We set up telescopes in a field east of the campground and have permission from the Forest Service to drive out there. Day time activities include Tea parties in late morning on Friday and Saturday location to be determined. These are informal gatherings bring your own beverage, if you have a snack to share bring it, we always have plenty so come and enjoy. We also have pot luck dinners Friday and Saturday evening at 6:00; bring your own something to BBQ and a dish to share. We have a few BBQ grills set up for everyone to use, if you have a portable grill we could use them.

If you have any questions contact anyone on the Executive Committee.

Lee Priest



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.



Editor's note. The following article is from NASA's "Space Place". We should be getting one each month. This is a child safe website at NASA. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/>

The Hottest Planet in the Solar System

By Dr. Ethan Siegel

When you think about the four rocky planets in our Solar System—Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars—you probably think about them in that exact order: sorted by their distance from the Sun. It wouldn't surprise you all that much to learn that the surface of Mercury reaches daytime temperatures of up to 800 °F (430 °C), while the surface of Mars never gets hotter than 70 °F (20 °C) during summer at the equator. On both of these worlds, however, temperatures plummet rapidly during the night; Mercury reaches lows of -280 °F (-173 °C) while Mars, despite having a day comparable to Earth's in length, will have a summer's night at the equator freeze to temperatures of -100 °F (-73 °C).

Those temperature extremes from day-to-night don't happen so severely here on Earth, thanks to our atmosphere that's some 140 times thicker than that of Mars. Our average surface temperature is 57 °F (14 °C), and day-to-night temperature swings are only

tens of degrees. But if our world were completely airless, like Mercury, we'd have day-to-night temperature swings that were *hundreds* of degrees. Additionally, our average surface temperature would be significantly colder, at around 0 °F (-18 °C), as our atmosphere functions like a blanket: trapping a portion of the heat radiated by our planet and making the entire atmosphere more uniform in temperature.

But it's the *second* planet from the Sun -- Venus -- that puts the rest of the rocky planets' atmospheres to shame. With an atmosphere **93 times as thick as Earth's**, made up almost entirely of carbon dioxide, Venus is the ultimate planetary greenhouse, letting sunlight in but hanging onto that heat with incredible effectiveness. Despite being nearly twice as far away from the Sun as Mercury, and hence only receiving 29% the sunlight-per-unit-area, the surface of Venus is a toasty 864 °F (462 °C), with *no difference* between day-and-night temperatures! Even though Venus takes hundreds of Earth days to rotate, its winds circumnavigate the entire planet every four days (with speeds of 220 mph / 360 kph), making day-and-night temperature differences irrelevant.

Catch the hottest planet in our Solar System all spring-and-summer long in the pre-dawn skies, as it waxes towards its full phase, moving away from the Earth and towards the opposite side of the Sun, which it will finally slip behind in November. A little atmospheric greenhouse effect seems to be exactly what we need here on Earth, but as much as Venus? No thanks!

Check out these "10 Need-to-Know Things About Venus":

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/profile.cfm?Object=Venus>.

Kids can learn more about the crazy weather on Venus and other places in the Solar System at NASA's Space Place:

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/planet-weather>.

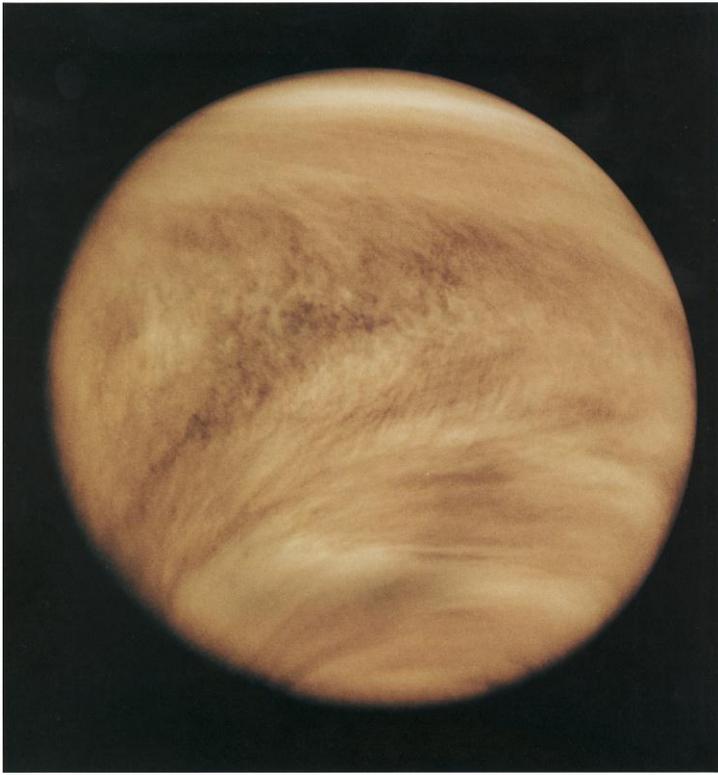


Image credit: NASA's Pioneer Venus Orbiter image of Venus's upper-atmosphere clouds as seen in the ultraviolet, 1979.