THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Meeting Announcement

Our Annual meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society will be held on November 13, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Ott Planetarium.

President's Message

With summer coming to an end and our list of star parties completed we can reflect on the good times we had in spite of the bad weather at some of them. Our last Antelope Island had clear skies and was well attended it was a great way to end the season.

We have an opportunity to help Wayne Sumner with his astronomy outreach in Kiribati; it is an island in the Central Pacific Ocean where he is serving an LDS mission. Wayne would like a set of Brent Watson's finder charts. I will offer a proposal at the November meeting to buy the finder charts and ship them to Wayne. The price for the charts is $90.00 and shipping will be extra.

At the November 13th meeting we will have a 30 minute video lecture, The Center of the Milky Way, from the Great Courses Series, A Visual Guide to the Universe. With Christmas coming we can also have a discussion on the best Telescopes and accessories to buy.

Thanks,
Lee Priest

OAS Minutes – October 2014

The monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held on October 9, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Ott Planetarium. President Lee Priest conducted the meeting.

Announcements

- Antelope Island 10/18
- Summit (Powder Mountain) 10/17

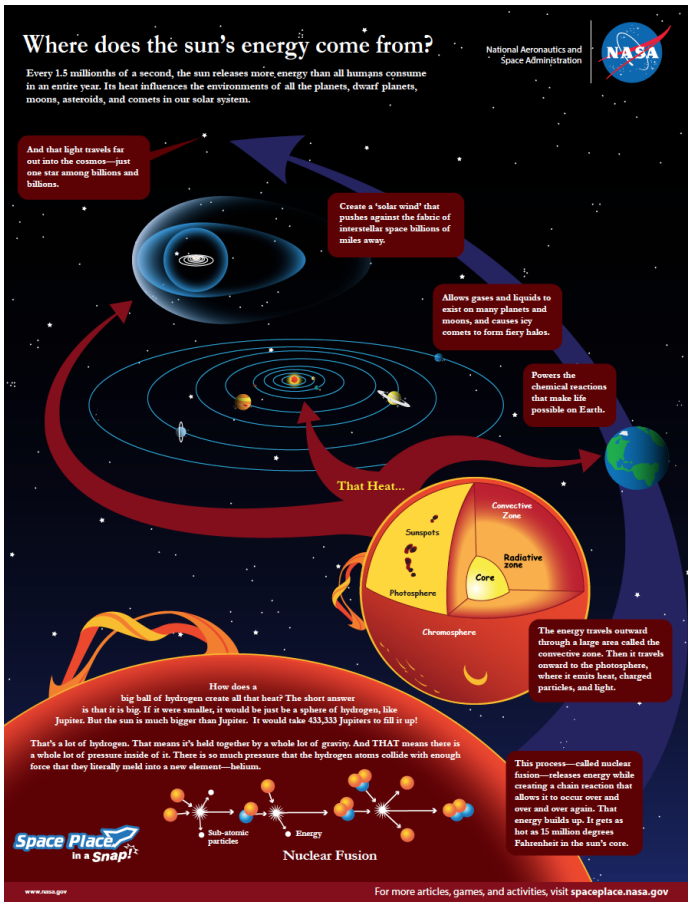
We watched a teleccom from the Night Sky Network titled "Asteroids, Ion Propulsion and NASA's Dawn Mission".

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

Space Place in a Snap: Where Does the Sun's Energy Come From?

This month, the Space Place is doing something a little bit different for our monthly column—providing you with a beautifully informative and educational poster about the mechanics of our sun. This poster accompanies our latest "Space Place in a Snap" animation. This "Snap" series is a set of narrated videos and posters that, together, explain basic scientific concepts in a dynamic new medium. Entertaining in their own right, we also wish to bring this new resource to your attention as an educational tool. In this edition, we address the important question of why our sun is so hot.

To see the video that goes along with this poster, visit: http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sun-heat.



Picture from Lunar Eclipse

Dale Hooper

Local Views of our Recent Solar Eclipse

On Thursday afternoon October 23, 2014 I brought out my 4" refractor with the attached sun screen and I had also borrowed the OAS Coronado H-Alpha telescope to observe the partial solar eclipse. My back yard horizon is totally gone now only leaving me a significant oval above the house and between the trees through which I can point my 'scopes. At least I have a significant opening of the ecliptic about 20 degrees either side of zenith. However since this eclipse started a bit after 3:00 p.m. and ran to about 5:30 I decided that I would set up in my front driveway, that's the south side of my house. This allowed a view of the entire event and the added advantage for passers-by to 'take a peek'.

I hadn't looked at the sun in a couple of weeks and was really amazed to see that massive sunspot group almost dead center. That made the focusing even easier and the detail I was getting from both of the telescopes was terrific. The images of the eclipse on this page were taken with my Nikon D70S and its 18 – 70 mm lens, zoomed up a bit. Not too scientific I'm afraid.. I only photographed the image on the sun screen mounted on the draw tube under the eyepiece. The image may appear a bit foreshortened because it was snapped slightly to the side of the eyepiece not directly above.

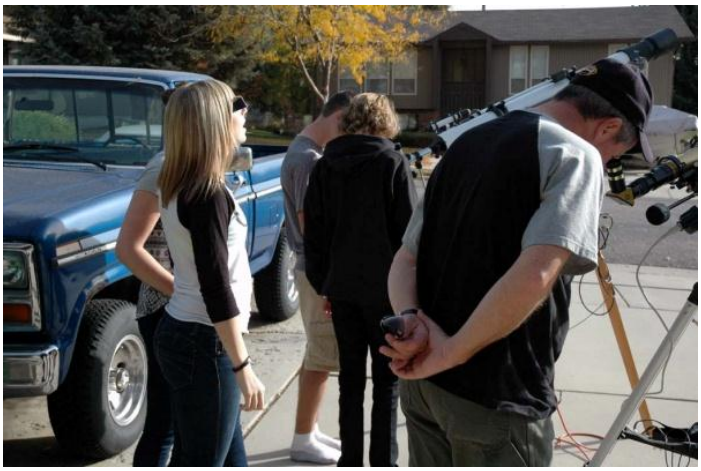
As predicted, at about 3:04 p.m. I could see the first

contact. Some of my neighbors came by to see and some of the school kids returning home stopped by too. My own kids and grandkids also stopped over. The weather was perfect, except for the few high clouds. It was a lot of fun and the questions from the 'observers' were fun to answer. When you point out a tiny sunspot and tell them "That is about the size of the Earth" the responses are varied and

more than amusing. I had a reasonably sized crowd of folks for almost the entire eclipse. By around 4:45 though the sun had reached the heavier cloud bank on the western horizon and I had to

call it quits. I didn't get to see or time the Final Contact.

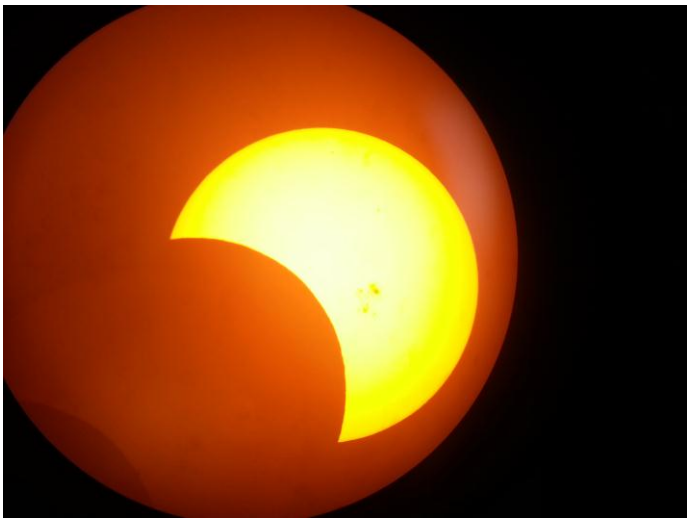
I hope you guys all had as much fun with this one as we all did. I have included a few photos of the local observers from our observing station in Roy.



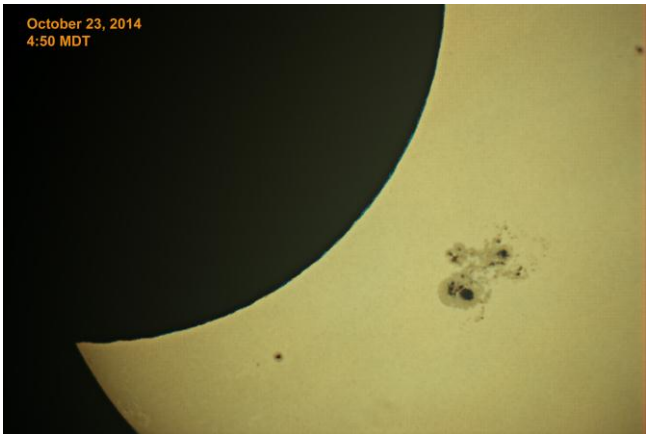
Bob T.

More Pictures of the Eclipse

Tony Habovstak



Aaron Barson



Jim McCormick