



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



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Meeting Announcement

The monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society will be held on February 11th at 7:30 in the Ott Planetarium at Weber State University.

President's Message

Hi All,

We have our OAS meeting This Thursday March 10th at 7:30 in the Ott Planetarium. Dale Hooper will give us a presentation on "Hubble's Law of Cosmic Expansion"

Please bring a calculator which supports scientific notation, we won't be doing any complex calculations we just need something that supports larger numbers. Most smart phone calculators will support what we need. Also it will be helpful if you can bring a ruler that can measure in millimeters.

We had a great trip to St George, no viewing because of clouds but it was nice to get together and spend time in the warm weather.

We picked up all the telescopes from WSU and there are a few that need homes. I have a Celestron 8" SCT available for anyone interested.

Thanks,
Lee Priest

OAS Minutes

The meeting began on February 11, 2016 at 7:30 with Lee Priest conducting

The meeting started at 7:30 with Lee Priest welcoming members and special guest John Barentine from the International Dark-sky Association. He was joined by Janet Muir to talk about efforts to have some of the Utah State Parks designated as dark sky parks. Antelope Island and Dead Horse parks, among others are in the process of getting there dark sky designation. John also wanted to thank OAS for its participation in the effort with North Fork Park. At that point John and Janet were thanked for their visit and they left to go to another appointment.

Lee continued the meeting with announcements,

Dr. Palin is teaching an astronomy class, and several members have already signed up. The cost is \$39.00 each and the class will be three nights, April 6, 13, and 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

We have our St George star party March 4, 5. Several members have motel reservations and anyone else interested can make reservations and contact Lee Priest or David Dunn so we can all stay in contact with each other.

Lee will post a list of telescopes available from WSU to our Yahoo Group, those interested can pick what they want. We will make a list of who wants what scope and they will be available to pick up before the meeting on March 10. The larger scopes that won't fit in your car will need to be picked up before then so they don't sit out in the parking lot during the meeting.

Lee showed a video on The Cosmic Reach of Gamma-Ray Bursts but the video player broke down part way through it. We then played a YouTube video from JPL showing a fly by view of minor planet Ceres by the Dawn space craft.

Next month's meeting will be Dale Hooper talking about the Hubble Law.

There was a short discussion about the Solar Eclipse in August of 2017 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 where several members went to Village Inn.

Lee Priest

Astronomy Class

There is a Lifelong Learning class that Dr. Palen will be teaching on Wednesdays in April, from 6-8 pm:

<http://continue.weber.edu/communityed/classespring2016/astronomy.aspx>

Registration is open now!

Star Parties

Public

- 4/9 – Antelope Island
- 5/14 – Antelope Island (Astronomy Day)
- 6/4 – Antelope Island
- 8/6 – Antelope Island
- 9/24 – Antelope Island
- 10/1 – North Fork Park
- 10/22 – Antelope Island

Requested

Private

- 5/6-5/7 – Curlew
- 7/27-30 – Monte Cristo
- 8/31-9/5 – Monte Cristo
- 9/30-10/1 – North Fork Park
- 10/28-29 - Curlew

External

- 5/1-8 - <http://texasstarparty.org/get-started/>
- 6/1-4 – Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival
- 6/4-11 – Grand Canyon Star Party
- 8/2-7 – www.oregonstarparty.org
- 9/29-10/1 – Great Basin Astronomy Festival
-

Year in Space calendars

Lee still has 2 Year in Space calendars. They are \$11.95 each, if you want one but won't be to the meeting you can contact me at levae@aol.com

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The Closest New Stars To Earth

By Ethan Siegel

When you think about the new stars forming in the Milky Way, you probably think of the giant star-forming regions like the Orion Nebula, containing thousands of new stars with light so bright it's visible to the naked eye. At over 400 parsecs (1,300 light years) distant, it's one of the most spectacular sights in the night sky, and the vast majority of the light from galaxies originates from nebulae like this one. But its great luminosity and relative proximity makes it easy to overlook the fact that there are a slew of much closer star-forming regions than the Orion Nebula; they're just much, much fainter.

If you get a collapsing molecular cloud many hundreds of thousands (or more) times the mass of our sun, you'll get a nebula like Orion. But if your cloud is only a few thousand times the sun's mass, it's going to be much fainter. In most instances, the clumps of matter within will grow slowly, the neutral matter will block more light than it reflects or emits, and only a tiny fraction of the stars that form—the most massive, brightest ones—will be visible at all. Between just 400 and 500 light years away are the closest such regions to Earth: the molecular clouds in the constellations of Chamaeleon and Corona Australis. Along with the Lupus molecular clouds (about 600 light years distant), these dark, light-blocking patches are virtually unknown to most sky watchers in the northern hemisphere, as they're all southern hemisphere objects.

In visible light, these clouds appear predominantly as dark patches, obscuring and reddening the light of background stars. In the infrared, though, the gas glows brilliantly as it forms new stars inside. Combined near-infrared and visible light observations, such as those taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, can reveal the structure of the clouds as well as the young stars inside. In the Chameleon cloud, for example, there are between 200 and 300 new stars, including over 100 X-ray sources (between the Chamaeleon I and II clouds), approximately 50 T-Tauri stars and just a couple of massive, B-class stars. There's a third dark, molecular cloud (Chamaeleon III) that has not yet formed any stars at all.

While the majority of new stars form in large molecular clouds, the closest new stars form in much smaller, more abundant ones. As we reach out to the most distant quasars and galaxies in the universe, remember that there are still star-forming mysteries to be solved right here in our own backyard.

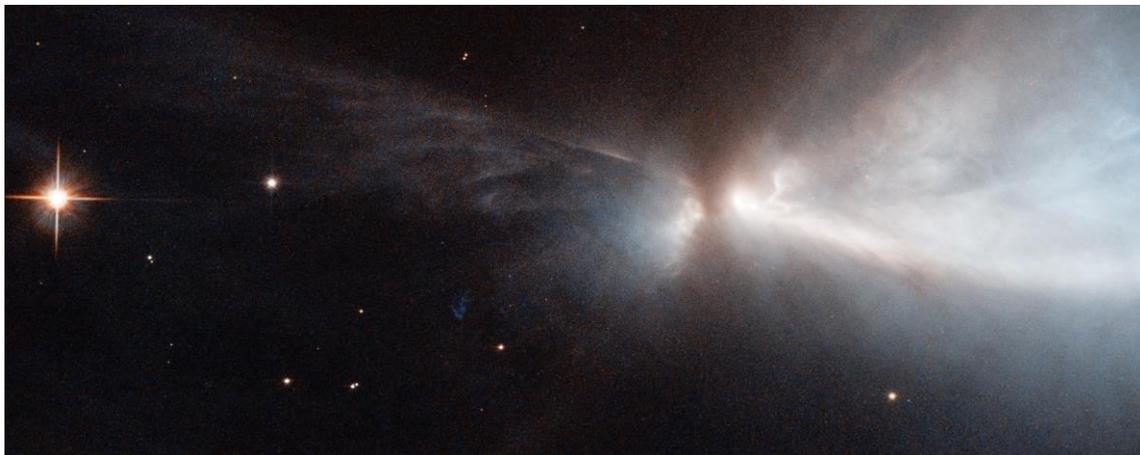


Image credit: NASA and ESA Hubble Space Telescope. Acknowledgements: Kevin Luhman (Pennsylvania State University), and Judy Schmidt, of the Chamaeleon cloud and a newly-forming star within it—HH 909A—emitting narrow streams of gas from its poles.