



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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## President's Message

David Dunn

Hi everybody,

This month our meeting will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching the next two lectures from My Favorite Universe. My Favorite Universe is a series of lectures by Dr. Neil dGrasse Tyson.

## OAS Minutes, November 2007

The monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held at the Ott Planetarium on the campus of Weber State University on December 13, 2007. It was called to order by President Mike Klein at 7:30pm.

Our St. George Star Party is scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Most of us stay in a motel for this star party. A few of us have reservations at the Motel 6 in St. George. Make sure and let me (David Dunn) know if you are planning to come. We can trade cell phone numbers so that we don't lose track of anyone.

The main part of the meeting was a presentation by David Dunn and Dale Hooper on occultation recording and timing. On the morning of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we recorded a grazing occultation of Regulus by the moon. The presentation started out with a demonstration of Occult 4.0, which is the latest version of software that is used to predict Occultations and Grazes. Dale demonstrated how he recorded the timing and how he submitted his results.

The meeting then adjourned and some of the members met at Village Inn for some refreshments and further conversation.

## Tentative Star Party Schedule

The board of directors met on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to plan some of our star parties for the year. The following is the tentative plan for the star parties.

Feb. 1-2	St. George
Mar. 7-8	Messier Marathon (Snowville?)
Apr. 2-5	Dead Horse Point
Jul. 30-Aug. 2	Monte Cristo
Aug. 27-30	Monte Cristo
Oct. 24-25	Messier Marathon (TBD)

The public star parties still need to be discussed with Dr. Palen and Antelope Island. We will announce them at a future date.

## Mars.

If you haven't taken the time to get out a view Mars yet this year, you should do it this month. Mars reached opposition on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. It will remain large and bright enough to view surface features for the rest of the month. The disk of Mars is very small, just 15". This means that you need steady sky patience to see the details. You will want to use as much power as the conditions will allow. You may need to build an aperture mask to reduce the brightness. You can also use Orange, Red, Violet or Moon filters. They can help you see rough detail but the image is better if you can view without the filters. A mask can be made from cardboard. Make a piece that will cover the end of the telescope and then cut a two to four inch circle midway between the center and the edge.