



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Meeting Announcement

This month's meeting will be held on May 8th at the Ott Planetarium at 7:30. The topic of the meeting is not yet confirmed.

OAS Minutes, April 2008

The monthly meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held at the Ott Planetarium on the campus of Weber State University on April 10, 2008. It was called to order by President Mike Klein at 7:30pm.

Announcements:

- We still have copies of the Star Diagonals available on DVD. We also have OAS window stickers available. You can pick these up at meetings and most star parties.
- April 11 – Young Intermediate School star party, Brigham City.
- April 12 – Antelope Island star party.
- April 24 – Bountiful Jr. High star party.
- May 1 – Adams Elementary star party.
- May 2 – Antelope Elementary star party.
- Kay Hargis still has a couple of Green Laser pointers for sale. They are \$35.

A report was given on the trip to Dead Horse point. Those that attended enjoyed a lot of day time activities. Thursday night was clear, windy and cold. The sky was beautiful. Saturn was fantastic. Friday night was cloudy and calm. Saturday night, the sky cleared off right at the end of the Ranger program that we put on. We had the other campers come by and look thought the telescopes. It was windy but the seeing was pretty good.

The Messier Marathon at Curlew was cancelled.

There is interest by some of the club to hold an autumn Dead Horse Point star party. We will look for a date that we can do this.

After the announcements and business, the time was turned over John Boom. He is a student that works in the Planetarium. His presentation was on how to communicate large numbers to people. This can be a difficult thing to do. He had nice ideas like putting water drops in a 6 in cube, about a million would fit. Or you could put a billion water drops in 21 Olympic pools.

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

David Dunn

Star Party Schedule

The proposed dates for the public star parties are as follows.

May 3	Antelope Island
May 10	Astronomy Day (TBA)
Jun. 7	Antelope Island
Jul. 19	Snowbasin
Aug. 16	Snowbasin
Aug. 23	Antelope Island
Sep. 6	Antelope Island
Oct. 4	Antelope Island

Requested Star Parties

May 1	Adams Elementary (Layton)
May 2	Antelope Elementary (Syracuse)
May 22	Sunset Jr. High (Sunset)

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Jul. 30-Aug. 2 Monte Cristo
Aug. 27-30 Monte Cristo
Oct. 24-25 Messier Marathon (TBD)

Green Laser Pointers

Kay Hargis still has 2 or 3 Green Laser Pointers. If you are interested, please contact Kay or Mike Klien.

Requested Star Parties

We have three star parties that we have been requested to host.

The first star party is at Adams Elementary in Layton on May 1st. The address is 2200 E Sunset Dr. in Layton. As we have in the past, we will hold this star party on the south-east corner of the soccer field behind the school. From Hwy-89, take Sunset Dr. west. Turn Left at 2275 E. Turn right on 2400 N.

This is the parking lot for the park. If you come from I-15, take the Antelope Drive exit and head east. You will continue east passing Fort Lane, Fairfield and Church St. Church St. is a 4 way stop. After Church St. you will go down into a gully and back up the other side. The first left at the top is Sunset Dr.

Follow Sunset Dr. past the school and turn right on 2275 E. and right on 2400 N. We will set up on the grass behind the houses. This school is giving us a donation so your support would be appreciated.

The second one is at Antelope Elementary in Syracuse on May 2nd. The address is 1810 S. Main in Clearfield. To get there, take I-15 to Antelope Dr. Head west. After you cross the viaduct, you will turn left at the Chevron station. This is Main St. We will

set up behind the school. This school is giving us a donation so your support would be appreciated. The third star party is on May 22nd at Sunset Jr. High. Sunset Jr. High is at 1610 N. 250 W. in Sunset. We meet on the soccer field on the hill to the east of the school. You can drive up on the hill by driving past the temporary classrooms. Sunset Jr. High always has a big turnout for these events so a big turnout of astronomers would really help out.

Bode-Titus Law:

The Bode-Titus law is an empirical rule giving the approximate distances of planets from the Sun. It was first announced in 1766 by the German astronomer Johann Daniel Titius and only popularized, from 1772, by his fellow countryman Johann Elert Bode. The rule may be given as follows: Write down the sequence 0, 3, 6, 12, 24, etc. To each number add 4. Divide each result by 10. Of the first seven answers (0.4, 0.7, 1.0, 1.6, 2.8, 5.2, 10.0), six closely approximate the distances from the Sun, in astronomical units (AU's, the distance between the Earth and the Sun), of the six planets known when Titius devised the rule: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

At about 2.8 AU's from the Sun, between Mars and Jupiter, the asteroids (sometimes called minor planets) were later discovered. The rule also holds for the seventh planet, Uranus, which lies at about 19 a.u. Bode's law fails for the eighth planet, Neptune. However, Pluto/Charon, the ninth planet from the Sun, is at a distance (39 AU's) roughly equal to that given by the rule for the eighth planet.

Tom Dougherty

	Planet	D(A.U.)	Orbital Pd. (yr)	Rot. Pd.	Discovered	Rings	T/J	Bode-Titus Rule
Inner SS	Mercury	0.39	0.24	58 ^d	-	N	T	0.3
	Venus	0.72	0.62	243 ^d	-	N	T	0.7
	Earth	1.00	1.00	24 ^h	-	N	T	1.0
	Mars	1.52	1.88	25 ^h	-	N	T	1.6
	(minor planets = asteroids)				1801			2.8
Outer SS	Jupiter	5.20	11.86	9.8 ^h	-	Y	J	5.2
	Saturn	9.54	29.46	10 ^h	-	Y	J	10.0
	Uranus	19.18	84.01	15 ^h	1781	Y	J	19.6
	Neptune	30.06	164.79	17 ^h	1846	Y	J	38.8
	Pluto/ Charon	39.44	247.70	6.4 ^d	1930	N	T	77.2