



# THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## OAS Executive Committee

President- Dustin Klein  
(801) 309-1233  
Vice Pres- Pam Smith  
(435) 723-3691  
Secretary- David Dunn  
(801) 544-7705  
Treasurer- Doug Say  
(801) 731-7324

Vol. 38 Number 2

October 2008

<http://ogdenastronomy.com/>

## Message for the President

Hello Everybody,  
Now that elections are over and a new President and Vice President have been elected it is time to start looking toward the future. For those of you who were unable to attend last month's meeting. Dustin Klein is the new President, Pam Smith is now Vice President and as always Dave is still in charge of writing these newsletters and keeping the club organized, and Doug still plays with our money. I would like to remind everyone that our next meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Ott Planetarium at 7:30pm; I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. We also have some Star Parties coming up: our last Antelope Island is October 4, on October 24-25 there will be a Messier Marathon at Curlew Campground, and on October 29 Bountiful Junior High has requested a star party to begin at 7:00pm. This is the time of year for schools to request star parties, aside from Bountiful there is a possibility of 2 additional school star parties this month, so please make sure you are receiving the e-mails from the yahoo group as these events are posted there. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunset Junior High had their star party it was quite an amazing turn out of members and students. With about 9 members and a few hundred students the night was a complete success. I am looking forward to many more star parties with such an amazing attendance. Also if you have not done so already please remember to pay your dues, and pick up your membership card from Doug Say.

This month many exciting things are happening in our night skies. NASA will be

launching the Atlantis shuttle for the fifth and final mission to repair and upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope. As this mission is extremely risky, due to the high volume of space junk, we hope the brave astronauts return home safe. Also the Asteroid Vesta will be making an appearance this month. During October 13-November 14, Vesta will be at its brightest and closest to Earth, if you find the constellation Cetus' head you will be able to easily see the asteroid through binoculars. Back in January an extraordinary event occurred, a supernova. Now I know you are probably thinking big deal, it happens a lot. However what makes this supernova so fantastic is that it was recorded for the first time ever! Using NASA's Swift satellite, astrophysicist Alicia Soderberg, was hoping to prove a link between radio and x-rays in regards to supernovae. However, once data was received from the Swift satellite she did not receive the data she was hoping to in fact it showed an extremely bright light source that washed out anything surrounding it. Moving satellites and telescopes in the direction of the light, it was recorded that a supernova had just taken place and the entire process had been recorded. With the advances in technology and with incredible luck some of the universes most extraordinary events are being seen for the first time. With the completion of CERN's particle collider (which due to some technical repairs will be offline until the spring of 2009) even an event similar to the "BIG BANG" will be witnessed for the first time.

Until Next Time,  
Dustin Klein

## OAS Minutes, September 2008

The annual meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society was held at the Ott Planetarium on the campus of Weber State University on September 11, 2008. It was called to order by Secretary David Dunn at 7:35pm.

Announcements:

- Snowbasin Lunar Party this Saturday at 6:00. Meet at the Gondola. We need help for this one since most of the people that normally attend are out of town.
- There is a star party on the calendar for Moab on September 26-28. This is being moved to the Curlew Campground at Stone Reservoir. The campground is about 6 miles north of Snowville. We will also be holding our Mini Messier Marathon on October 24-26 at the Curlew Campground.
- October 4<sup>th</sup> is our last Antelope Island Star party for the year.

Dave read a thank you letter from Crystal Carpenter. As the Naturalist at Antelope Island she thanked us for doing our star parties on the Island.

Our Dues are due today. They are \$20. Doug also has Astronomy Calendars available for \$10.

Dave asked if there were any last minute nominations for our elections. There were none. Craig Browne moved that we accept the officers as nominated. Doug seconded. A vote was taken and all were for accepting the officers. Dave read an acceptance speech from Dustin. Dustin was out of town and couldn't attend the meeting.

Time was turned over to Crystal Carpenter and Chris Haramoto. Chris is the Assistant Manager of Antelope Island. They apologized for some of the negative

feedback that we had received from the gate at Antelope Island. They want us to know that we are appreciated and that they want us to continue doing our star parties in their park. The website for Antelope Island is <http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/antelope-island/>

Doug Say gave a financial report. We currently have \$2059 in the bank.

A question was asked about the equipment that the club owns. A complete inventory will be available at the next meeting. Currently we have the following.

### Telescopes

18.5" Dobsonian Telescope

10" Orion Intelliscope

16" Mead Lightbridge

4" Celestron Refractor on Equatorial mount.

Coronado MaxScope 40 (This runs piggy back on the Celestron).

Bear 15 X 70 binoculars with Parallelogram mount.

### Night Sky Network Kits

Planet Quest

Our Place in the Universe

Black Holes

Our Solar System

Super Nova

We also have a library of books.

Lee Priest talked about doing a shirt order next month. We worked together picking the types of shirts that we want to order. Lee will get prices and build an order form for next months meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was taking money and passing out membership cards. Several of us then adjourned to Village Inn for a snack.

## Star Party Schedule

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

Oct. 4            Antelope Island

Requested Star Parties

Oct. 29           Bountiful Jr. High

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Oct. 24-25      Messier Marathon - Curlew  
Campground

## Shirt Orders

We are planning to put in an order for T-Shirts, Shirts, Hoodies, Sweatshirts and Hats with the OAS logo on them. We will take orders and money at our October meeting. The shirts will be delivered in our November meeting. Lee Priest will have the current prices, a catalog and an Order Form at the meeting.

