



THE STAR DIAGONAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE OGDEN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Meeting Announcement

The annual meeting of the Ogden Astronomical Society will be held on September 8, 2011 at 7:30pm at the Ott Planetarium at Weber State University.

THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings Earthlings,

So I didn't finish the Astronomy magazine I started in July so there is no update on the remainder of the contents there of. But that is old news anyway. So in order to keep OAS'ers abreast of current Cosmologically Significant Info aka C.S.I. I have been scouring the current posts from sciencedaily.com. A site I heartily recommend. They will send you on a daily or weekly basis e-mail updates on breaking science news from all scientific disciplines. So here are some of the gleanings I recently read there.

From ESOs' observatory in Chile a massive galaxy cluster was discovered that dates back to less than 1/4 the age of the Universe. According to the article galaxy clusters that size should not exist at that stage of the evolution of the Universe. To add to the enigma many galaxies in the cluster were large and mature resembling modern day galaxies.

Going back to less than 10% of the age of the Universe, the Spitzer telescope discovered an "ancient" galaxy that is producing stars at the rate of 4000 per year! Compare that to the 15 stars per year our Milky Way is purported to produce. Again, this is unexpected at this stage of the early Universe.

In fact a large percentage of the articles concerning the early Universe reported that star formation was much more rapid

than previously thought. One outfit said as much as 100 times faster than anticipated.

O.K. now this one is really cool. A team of astrophysicists from England and Australia have uncovered evidence revealing the laws of physics are different in different parts of the Universe. A "magic number" known as the fine structure constant, appears to vary thru out the Universe. A study of 300 distant galaxies exhibited variations in this constant, lending credence to the findings. "The implications of our current understanding of science are profound" said one of the team, "If our results are correct, clearly we shall need new physical theories to satisfactorily describe them". This coincides nicely with Einstein's statement that "clocks in the Universe all run at different speeds".

It is findings such as this that could go a long way toward explaining why many theories in Cosmology are being rewritten so frequently. Maybe astronomers need to consider the "exchange rate" of the laws of physics from one part of the Universe to another, or from one epoch to another epoch.....I'm just sayin'....

I guess I am running for Prez again. As usual my campaign slogan is; "Vote for me and get a free side of corn"

The Prez.

Elections

The following are candidates for this year's officers. There are others who expressed that they might be interested. Nominations are allowed at the meeting provided that the person being nominated has agreed to be nominated.

President
Ron Vanderhule

Vice President
Craig Browne

Secretary
David Dunn

Treasurer
Tom Dougherty
Doug Say

Monte Cristo

Several of us had a great time at Monte Cristo in August. The forecast was poor with thunder showers and partly cloudy skies. It ended out be mostly clear and we observed late into each night. The views of the comet and various galaxies were great. We had good food at the Pot Luck dinners and enjoyed our tea parties. Thanks to all who came and to Ron for sharing his scope.

Star Party Schedule

Our Public Star Parties are as follows.

Oct 1	Antelope Island (Sept)
Oct 8	Kent's Market
Oct 22	Antelope Island

Our Requested Star Parties (Schools, etc).

Our Private Star Parties are as follows.

Sep 23-25	Curlew
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