

## Oracle Dark Skies Committee Minutes March 19, 2015

Attendees: Mike Weasner, Evaline Auerbach, Stan Bembenek, Wendy Ostrander, Charlotte Poole, Chip Parfet, Anna Lands, Jennifer Rinio, Mary Helen Vasquez, Waldo Vasquez

Called to order 6:30 pm by Weasner, Chair

### **Updates:**

Kent Taylor, Pinal County head of Parks and Open spaces would like to attend the next meeting to begin a discussion about County incentives. He is available for the proposed next meeting date and time on April 9. at 6:30 pm. Kent also told Weasner that the dusk-to-dawn lights at Oracle Town Park are now dark sky compliant.

The lights along the walkway into the Kannally patio is now amber, which works better than the red because people's eyes are directed toward the red. The amber light nearest the parking lot seems to provide more light because it is dusty and refracted more. The red lights from IDA have been moved to the group area and to the lower patio behind the Kannally house.

### **Public Outreach:**

Future: The Committee may have a table at the Riverfest, Sat. 25th of April. Probably not at the Oaks Festival in Oracle April 18.

### Past:

- "Adventures with the Moon" program with Dick Boyer: Weasner, Bembenek, Poole and Auerbach attended. Weasner: "It was a great program. Hands on. Kids loved it." Clouds and some sprinkles precluded using the telescopes.
- REI party. Weasner and Auerbach attended. It was an awards meeting for REI employees from all over the United States. These "outdoors people" were "very impressed" with the Park. Even though the weather precluded bringing out the telescopes, Weasner filled them in on the Dark Skies program and showed them some features in the sky that they could see with the naked eye.
- Weasner has been nominated to be on the IDA "Dark Skies Places Committee", meeting by telecon to decide on which parks or regions should be accepted as "International Dark Skies Places" by IDA. He will of course recuse himself when it comes to proposals from parks with whom he has worked.

### **Plans for March 21 Event:**

None of the telescope manufacturers will be here - Weasner will "unveil" them and tell about them and from whom they came. Mary Heubner's telescope is now ready to go. It's the 1st telescope. Hers is donated to the FOSP. The other three are donated to the OSP directly.

A telescope tripod has been donated by Gil Esquerdo, professional astronomer at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory on Mt. Hopkins. This one should be sturdy enough for the donated Explore Scientific telescope that did not have one. It should be here by Saturday, but a back-up tripod plan is in place by Weasner and Bembenek.

The Battery Pack for the Vixen telescope needs 8 D-cell batteries.

Seven booths, all informational, will be there: Mt Lemmon SkyCenter, MMT, Cascabel Conservation Association, Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance, Arizona Trail, Friends of Oracle State Park, IDA, and ODSC. Will all be under canopies, with shade at the Group Use Area. The stage will serve for the band and then for the award presentations.

**Schedule:**

8:00 am - Park open as usual, including Kannally house tours at 10 am and 2 pm.

Before 1:00 pm - booth providers and the band people will arrive, unload and set up. Parking at the parking lot there.

1:00 - 3:00 - Live music at the stage

1:00 - 5:00 - Booths active.

4:00 - 5:00 - Certificates will be awarded for supporters, telescopes donated, and the OSP IDSP gate sign unveiled.

Steve Haas will be Master of Ceremonies

The Certificates had to be corrected but are now available.

The agenda for the awards ceremony is attached.

5:00 - 7:00 - Music by a different band at the Kannally patio

Name Tags were handed out at the meeting.

Evaline will be available wherever needed to sit with equipment, etc.

A date for telescope training will be established at the next ODSC meeting.

Weasner presented an appropriate dark skies bookmarks to each committee member as a token of his appreciation for their work.

The next meeting will be at the Kannally house at 6:30 pm on April 9.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

# **OSP "Dancing with the Stars" - IDA IDSP Celebration 4-5pm Presentations Agenda**

**Welcome to Oracle State Park - Ranger Jennifer Rinio**

**Jennifer then introduces Park Manager and “Master of Ceremonies” Steve Haas**

**Steve gives his welcome and then introduces Sue Black  
Sue Black, Executive Director, Arizona State Parks**

**Thanks to supporters, booths organizations, attendees**

**Presentations by IDA - J. Scott Feierabend, Executive Director  
International Dark Sky Park award to Oracle State Park  
(Sue, Steve, Jennifer accept)**

**Dark Sky Defender Award 2014 to Oracle Dark Skies  
Committee (Mike accepts for ODSC)**

**Pinal County Resolution - Supervisor Tony Smith,  
Pinal County Board of Supervisors**

**Certificates of Appreciation - Mike Weasner, Chair, Oracle Dark Skies Committee, & Sue Black**

*(Letters of Support for Nomination, alphabetical order)*

**Arizona Trail Association, Matthew Nelson,  
Executive Director**

**Cascabel Conservation Association, Mick Meader, Director  
Cherry Valley Ranch B&B, Susan Woodruff, Manager  
Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition,  
Elizabeth Magallanez, President**

**Friends of Oracle State Park - Jim Walsh, President**

**Hair Country, Mary Helen Vasquez, Owner (ODSC member)**

**Keith Krueger - IDA Pinal County Chapter Leader,  
Gold Canyon, AZ**

**Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance, Peter Else,  
Chairperson, Anna Lands, Director**

**MMT Observatory, Dr. George Williams, Director**

**The Nature Conservancy, Celeste Andresen, Manager &  
Outreach Liaison**

**Oracle Elementary School District #2, Dennis Blauser,  
Superintendent**

**Oracle Historial Society, Susan Schiek, Administrator**

**Pinal County Board of Supervisors**

**Pinal County Supervisor Pete Rios**

***(lighting improvements, in chronological order)***

**Oracle Ford, Mark Phelps, Manager**

**Circle K, Yong Sim, Manager (Rodney Anderson,  
previous Manager)**

**Ernest & Maria Gonzales, Oracle Resident**

**Jones Outdoor Advertising, Dwight Jones, Owner**

**Arizona Dept of Transportation, Mike Heedy**

**[note: future outdoor lighting improvements will be  
acknowledged at future events]**

*(donations, in chronological order, show donation)*

**Mary Huebner (telescope, also a Letter of Support)**

**MrStarGuy Inc, Brian Deis (Vixen telescope)**

**Oceanside Photo & Telescope, Craig Weatherwax  
(green laser pointer)**

**Meade Instruments Corp, Victor Aniceto, President  
(telescope)**

**Explore Scientific, Scott Roberts, President (telescope)**

**Gilbert Esquerdo, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory  
on Mt. Hopkins (tripod for ES telescope)**

*(in recognition of their support and ongoing commitment)*

**International Dark-Sky Association**

**Oracle State Park gate sign unveiling - Steve, Jennifer, Mike**

**Closing - Sue Black, Executive Director, Arizona State Parks**