

Oracle Dark Skies Committee
Minutes May 5, 2016
La Hacienda Club, Saddlebrooke Ranch

Attendees: Mike Weasner 520-289-3402, mweasner@mac.com; Evaline Auerbach 520-610-8742, evalineja@icloud.com; Wendy Ostrander, 520-896-2951; Zenia Fera 520-773-474-6821, xenya3923@hotmail.com; Charlotte Poole 520-850-4641, charpoole@q.com; Dale Readies, 520-896-2425, dredies@azstateparks.gov; Chip Parfet 303-257-9475, cparfet@gmail.com.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written and sent to the members.

Treasurers report: Weasner reported \$66.18 in the account. No reimbursements were needed. **See report attached.** The Arizona State Parks fund that had given stipends for volunteers at star parties is probably no longer in existence.

Business: A discussion of the designs for a “No light pollution” pin led to a decision that the middle one (**see attached**) without text was best. Fifty (50) will be purchased for \$17.00. Most of these will be given to those who donate \$5.00 to ODSC at events.

The State Park Gift shop has produced a magnet with Weasner’s timed photo of the stars “circling” sky above the Kannally house. They are \$4.95 at the gift shop there.

Light pollution community report - Weasner

Circle-K has now completed their project to make their lighting fit the strict Pinal County Code (although they weren't required to, as they were grandfathered in). The problem with the one that wasn't working had to do with a glitch in the electrical system. Weasner will have a picture soon. Weasner read a proposed thank-you letter that would go out to the same people as did the original letter requesting a change in the lighting, along with Before and After pictures. **See attached.** The Board Approved the letter to send.

Past event

April 9, Oracle State Park: John C. Barentine gave a presentation on the topic of his new book: *The Lost Constellations: A History of Obsolete, Extinct, or Forgotten Star Lore*. After the presentation, three telescopes set up by the Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club were used to see some of the constellations and other dark sky objects. Parfet reported that he has purchased the book: unfortunately it's not in color; it discusses 27 lost constellations, one chapter each. (Info about the book appended below.)

Upcoming Events this year

- May 28-29 Open date for stargazing
- June 25 Star party 6-8pm w/ music This will be while Northwestern U's Megan A. Bonham is in the area. She wants to meet with people about how night sky influences them.
- July/August - night event - bat night, bug night.
- September 10 - Star Party with telescopes from Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association (second one for year)
- October - trail music and astronomical event
- December 18, 2016: The Oracle Piano Society and the Oracle Dark Sky Committee will present, jointly, a Celestial Concert. Evaline Auerbach is organizing it overall; the OPS is

organizing the music and the venue set-up; Mike Weasner is organizing the stargazing after the party. Adam Block's astrophotography will be shown between music pieces and Fr. Chris Connolly of the Vatican observatory will present a talk on the Bethlehem Star just after the Concert. Food from a local restaurant will be available.

Announcements

- Dales Redies: Oracle State Park had received calls about the park being a dark sky park but not being open at night. The rangers are explaining the use of the remote parking lot for viewing. They are logging calls from people wanting more dark sky events or wanting the park open at night more often.
- Megan A. Bonham (see above) who will be in Tucson/Oracle in June wants to meet with people about how night sky influences them. She wants to talk with people about the dark sky community. Perhaps Patio cafe chats could be set up.
- On April 9 a woman gave Mike some astronomy books; he gave one away at this meeting.
- The Park received a large binder of astronomy activities for various ages of children provided by Dan Blanco. Included were some pages on celestial music, copies of which have been turned over to the Oracle Piano Society artistic director Stephen Cook for possible use at the Celestial Concert (above).
- Dates for events in 2017 are:
 - March 18 - TAAA
 - September 23 - TAAA
- After Auerbach said that Cook (OPS) was considering doing a concert with a Buffalo Bill Cody theme, Parfet announced that one of his grandfathers performed the burial service for Cody at Golden, CO: George William Parfet, Jr. (Chip Parfet is William George.)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55. The next meeting is June 2 at the same place.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

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addendum:

The Lost Constellations: A History of Obsolete, Extinct, or Forgotten Star Lore. John Barentine. Softcover, ISBN 9783319227948. Publisher: Springer International Publishing AG, © 2015: Casual stargazers are familiar with many classical figures and asterisms composed of bright stars (e.g., Orion and the Plough), but this book reveals not just the constellations of today but those of yesteryear. The history of the human identification of constellations among the stars is explored through the stories of some influential celestial cartographers.





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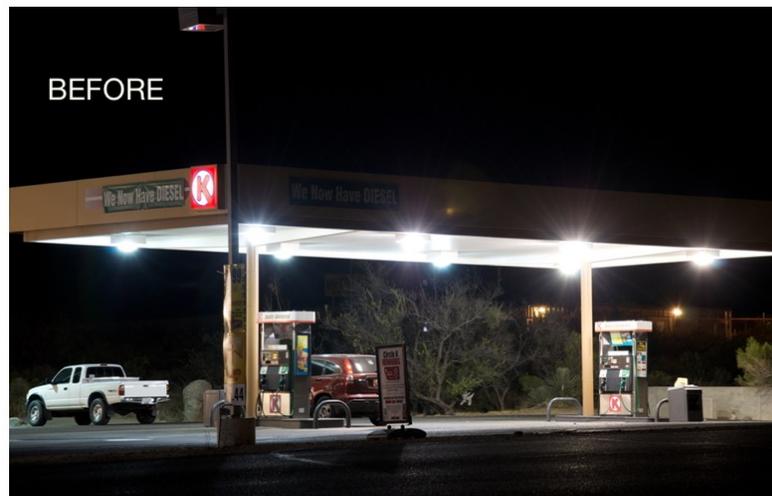
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6 May 2016

TO: Circle K Stores Inc
Office of the President
1130 W Warner Rd
Tempe, Az 85284

Alimentation Couche-tard Inc
Attn: Brian Hannasch, CEO
4204 Boul Industriel
Laval, QC H7I 0e3
Canada

As Chair of the Oracle Dark Skies Committee, I am following up on our 15 January 2016 letter to you which discussed an issue with Circle K Stores that was first raised in 2014. We are thrilled to report that the local Circle K store (#2702928) has completed installation of the fixtures over the pump area with dark sky friendly lighting. The difference is dramatic, as seen in these before and after photos:



The effect of the new dark sky friendly lighting has improved safety in the area and is a significant contribution to maintaining the night sky quality in Oracle, Arizona, thereby helping to protect Oracle State Park's "International Dark Sky Park" status.

At the "Celebrate Connections to Nature at Oracle State Park" special event held on Saturday, 5 March 2016, the Committee and Arizona State Parks publicly thanked Rodney Anderson and Jong Sim, local Circle K store managers, and Craig Boswell and Paul Nuno, Circle K Phoenix, for their support to the Community of Oracle and Oracle State Park.

We hope that you will also thank these employees of Circle K for living up to Circle K's commitment to be a good corporate citizen. They bring great distinction to your company.

Sincerely,

Mike Weasner
Chair, Oracle Dark Skies Committee
Preserving Arizona's Oldest Natural Resource: the Night Sky