

Attendees: Mike Weasner, 520-289-3402, mweasner@mac.com; Evaline Auerbach 520-610-8742, evalineja@gmail.com; Cathy Blasic, 520-896-2360, mskathyg@yahoo.com; Jim Blasic, 520-896-2360, jblasic@hughes.net; Wendy Ostrander, 520-896-2951; Rebecca Weirda Ranger, wierda@azstateparks.gov; Chip Parfet, 303-257-9475, cparfet@gmail.com; Deb Gaines, 520-609-0278, desmodium3@yahoo.com; Mike Powell, *Paris Review* writer, 203-858-1045, revelatory@gmail.com; Megan Bonham, researcher, 574-596-4023, megan.albaugh@gmail.com; Richard Spitzer, Saddlebrooke Star Gazer, 920-825-3116, rspitzer@whhsi.net; Roddy Wilder, photographer and hiker, 520-500-6077, Anne Lucic, 520-896-9869; Chris Mobley, Saddlebrooke, 425-239-2938; chrismobleytelus@msn.com; Bill John, 520-825-0488.

Weasner called the meeting to order at 6:30. People introduced themselves. Minutes were approved as sent out to members previously.

Reports on their projects were given by visitors Mike Powell, *Paris Review* writer, and Megan Bonham, researcher. Bonham reported that she will be observing the night time programs at Kitt Peak National Observatory and at Saguaro National Park.

Reports

Treasurer: Acting Treasurer Mike Weasner gave the treasurers report. Anne Lucic will be taking over as treasurer. soon.

Expenses = 0.

Last Saturday Weasner, Lucic and others manned the table for Friends of Oracle State Park & ODSC. ODSC received a donation of \$10.00. The money goes to FOSP, but is designated for ODSC use. The Current balance for ODSC is \$275.00.

Community action:

- Weasner said that one requirement for IDA designation is community action. As part of that, on Jan 26 Weasner attended the Oracle Park (not the Oracle State Park) planning open house. Pinal County wants to remodel it and so had invited University of Arizona students to propose designs. Students presented five designs. One design had a light pillar but all others were dark skies compliant. Four plans addressed the dark skies issue specifically. One had a playground with playground equipment that represented the planets in the solar system. It also had a sky observing platform.
- Weasner has been approached about problems with light pollution that people in the community have seen. Mary Helen Vasquez has asked him to help write a letter to a company that has a light glaring into her house. Weasner is taking pictures and will help her.

Announcements

- Rinio is doing dark sky readings at OSP. All readings are still in the silver category.
- Weasner is still on IDA International Dark Sky Places committee which reviews applications to be designated "Dark Sky." One park could have entered at a "gold" level. But, they wanted to start with a silver rating so they could "Go for the Gold".
- Another Arizona State Park is looking to be approved as an International Dark Sky Park.
- Texas has increasing numbers of DS parks. Their Fish and Game Department has made it a point that all parks must be dark sky compliant. Weasner and Dr. Barentine (IDA) met with Sue Black, Arizona State Parks Director, last year. There is a "tacit" competition with Texas and other nearby states.

- The “Arizona Dark Sky Highway”, a Weasner and John Barentine (IDA) idea, is slowly getting some traction. It would be hopefully promoted through the Arizona Department of Tourism.
- Weirda reported new plans for the Oracle State Park. It is to be open seven days a week, possibly by March 1. There will be a staffing increase, including hiring a park manager for Oracle alone. (Currently, Catalina and Oracle Parks are under the same manager.) Future plans include providing cabins so people can stay overnight for sky viewing and other programs. The A-3 planning document includes holding regular star parties. All this may be formally announced at the Friends of Oracle State parks meeting March 12. New staff may be in place by then. Sue Black, Arizona State Parks Director, may be down for that. IDA people will be invited.
- Mobley is going to help with the Park’s Vixen telescope mount.

Upcoming Events:

Sat, Feb 11: Adventures with the Moon. 7:00 - 9:30. The talk and participation event will be at OSP. Telescope support will be from the Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club. Table volunteers are needed at 6:30.

Art Show: Adam Block’s art show was going to open the first week-end in March, but Block is going to be out of the country. However, Dan Blanco’s work is going to be shown soon. ODSC has been approached by Danielle Neibling about Dan’s show in April, taking full advantage of the Oracle Art Tour publicity. It will be shown the whole month of April at the Oracle Art Station. They have not requested a star party because his work is not really related to astronomy His paintings are from those found in the Caves (in France); he projected what was on the walls onto his canvas.

Sunday, March 18: Second Anniversary Celebration of receiving the designation as an International Dark Sky Park

- **2:00 - 4:00** Weasner giving a class on Beginner Digital Astrophotography from 2-4 pm. There will be door prizes the registered participants. After dark the participants will practice what they learned, weather permitting.
- **4:30 - 6:30** Music on the patio. There will be tables after the workshop and during the music: ODSC, IDA, FOSP.
- **7:00 - 9:00** Evening star party, weather permitting (the last two times there was a star party, the weather didn’t allow for viewing).
- Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association will be doing telescope support.

Tues, March 21. Family reading night at Mt. Vista. 6:00 - 9:00 Dennis Blauser, Superintendent of Schools, asked for a star party during this event at Mountain Vista School. They want to rotate people into classrooms and outside to use telescopes. There will be an ODSC table to pitch light pollution issues to the parents and teachers. Blauser definitely supports dark skies. Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club will assist.

Future:

- A **Star Party and Camping event** had been discussed but will be deferred until the infrastructure is in place for camping at OSP — late summer or next year.
- **Southern Pinal County Star Party is being considered** at Saddlebrooke Ranch, possibly in April/ May. Any later would lose some residents to summer travel.

- **Mon. August 21 is a total solar eclipse.** Weasner and most of those with telescopes will be out of town viewing at spots on the direct path. But it will be a partial eclipse at OSP. The Park will most likely be on a seven days a week schedule, so could be open for that.
- **A Star Party is scheduled for September, OSP.**

Other business:

The committee has been discussing Developing educational programs on the six topics under light pollution The project is in abeyance until after contact with Casey Egan, who had expressed interested in working on this project.

Next Meeting

March 2: Next meeting at Saddlebrook MVCC - Cactus room 6:30. April's meeting will be at Saddlebrooke Ranch.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

ODSC Income & Expenses

2017 ODSC Income										
Date	Item	Description	Amount	Donations & Fundraising	Sales	Outreach & Education	Events & Projects	FOSP Donations	ODSC Grants	
01/01/17	2016 Carry Over balance		\$24.00							
01/28/17	AZ Trail Oracle Rumble	FOSP table	\$10.00	\$10.00						
	Actual Income		\$34.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Budgeted Amount									
2017 ODSC Expenses										
Date	Item	Description	Amount	Fundraising	Office Expenses	Outreach & Education	Events & Projects	Equipment Purchase	Equipment Maintenance	Travel
	Actual Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Budgeted Amount									
2017 ODSC Net Balance			\$34.00							
1/13/17	Cash Balance		\$24.00	to FOSP	Available balance retained by FOSP:			\$265.18		
	* pending reimbursement to Weasner									