

Attendees: Mike Weasner (520-289-3402, mweasner@mac.com); Gary & Ruth Warren (503-846-1801; gary.ruth@gmail.com); Vince Micallef (520-896-2425; vmicallef@azstateparks.gov); Bill John (520-825-0488); Vince Tramazzo (520-979-5583; vincetra@centurylink.net); Richard Spitzer (520-825-3116; rspitzer@wbhsi.net); Waldo & MaryHelen Vasquez (520-955-2914; mhv17@live.com); Tom Meehl (619-213-2001; tmeehl@san.rr.com); Roddy Wilde (roddywilder@yahoo.com); Meg Rau (847-816-6730; megsinbox@yahoo.com); Bruce & Dorothy Anderson (502-818-3699; dotbru@yahoo.com);

Weasner called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

The Committee still needs a volunteer to be a Secretary/Recorder. Julie Formo has volunteered for this whenever she can attend the meetings. Weasner took notes for this meeting.

The previous meeting minutes were approved as sent out to members.

Treasurer Report: Acting Treasurer Mike Weasner gave the treasurer's report. Donations = Totaled \$17 since the previous meeting (20 May OSP talk and star party). Expenses = \$0. The Current balance for ODSC is \$611.18. (See spreadsheet attached.)

More "No Light Pollution" pins need to be ordered. Our last order of 50 cost \$17 about a year ago. The order of an additional 50 was approved by the attendees. Weasner will place the order soon.

ODSC T-shirts to sell was discussed. Local artist and ODSC member MaryHelen Vasquez volunteered to help with this project. Some basic concepts were discussed, notably photographic vs painted. Vasquez and Weasner will work on a preliminary design to present to the Committee later this summer. Park Manager Micallef mentioned that the Oracle Zipline now has T-shirt printing capability and perhaps they would be willing to assist with the printing.

Community action (IDA requirement):

- Weasner helped Mary Helen Vasquez, ODSC member, draft a letter (with day/night photos) to the Arizona Water Company that has a light glaring into her house. No response has been received. Weasner and Vasquez will pursue this further with the non-responsive Arizona Water Company.

Announcements:

- Mobley continues to work the Park's failed Vixen telescope mount. Parts are needed.
- Park Ranger Rinio continues to do dark sky readings at OSP. Recent readings have been consistent readings over the past three years.
- IDA is donating additional amber LED lights to Oracle State Park. Weasner will pick them up in June.

Past Events:

Saturday, May 20: Talk and Star Party at Oracle State Park

A talk on "Arizona's Night Skies: Past, Present, and Future" was given by Dr. John Barentine, IDA. The ODSC had an information table. The Saddlebrooke SkyGazers

Club provided four telescopes for the star party following the talk. This was another awesome event at Oracle State Park. The last telescope left the Park at 10:15pm.

Upcoming Events:

June/July: Evening Event and Star Party at Oracle State Park

Details to be announced.

Saturday, September 9: Event and Star Party at Oracle State Park

Details to be announced.

Saturday, October 14: Friends of Oracle State Park Membership Event and Star Party

Details to be announced.

Other business:

Park Manager Micallef told the members that the Park continues to receive phone calls from people who want to come to the Park for stargazing and astrophotography. The Park does all it can to accommodate such requests, typically at the "remote area" off AZ-77. A "primitive campground" is being established at the Park. The Park's rules and regulations for visitors will need to be updated with guidance about outdoor lighting at campsites/cabins to protect the night sky.

Weasner reminded ODSC members that they should document their "volunteer" hours when supporting night sky events at the Park. Members do NOT need to be an official Park Volunteer; just contact the Ranger in the Gift Shop to log the hours. This is important to help Oracle State Park and Arizona State Parks with grant and other funding requests.

Weasner mentioned that he will provide some basic telescope training to ODSC members and Park rangers this fall at the Park. Some of the Park's telescopes will be used for the training.

Park Manager Micallef discussed the possibility of Peppersauce Campground, currently managed by the US Forest Service, being turned over to Oracle State Park. Discussions are underway with implementation possible in 2018. Weasner had contacted IDA to see what would be required to include Peppersauce Campground in the Park's "International Dark Sky Park" designation. Basically all that would be required is a letter from Park Manager Micallef stating the following:

1. Peppersauce Campground remains part of the US Forest Service
2. Oracle State Park will be responsible for the management of Peppersauce

Campground

3. Peppersauce Campground will be compliant with the dark sky policies of Oracle State Park

A brief discussion was held on the possibility of establishing an observatory at Oracle State Park. There is definite interest by Arizona State Parks to do that. Grants and other funding sources can be available. A presentation center, laboratories, and perhaps even dormitories might be included in the funding request.

Weasner told the members that the Oracle Dark Skies Committee had prepared a revision of the Kartchner Caverns State Park IDA "International Dark Sky Park" (IDSP) application that was originally submitted in 2015. The original submittal was not approved by IDA as more information was needed in the application. In May 2017 Weasner reformatted the original submittal to match that of the successful Oracle State Park IDSP submittal in 2014. He worked

with Kartchner Caverns State Park to obtain new materials. The revision has been submitted to IDA and is being internally reviewed at this time.

Weasner mentioned a dark sky conference coming up at the end of June in Page, AZ. As the focus is on parks and communities who are interested in becoming "International Dark Sky Places", Arizona State Parks received an invitation to to the conference.

Park Manager Micallef noted that Oracle State Park weather information and animal sightings are shown in Gift Shop. He thought he would be great if night sky highlights (planets, Milky Way, International Space Station, etc.) could also be included. Weasner will send some online sources of that information. Weasner noted that night sky quality measurements could also be displayed. Currently, Park Ranger Rinio takes readings using an handheld Sky Quality Meter on clear dark nights. Weasner said there is an automated sky quality measurement system available and could be included with the observatory funding request.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Next Meeting:

The July meeting has been cancelled due to the 4th of July holiday.
3 August: Oracle State Park, Kannally Ranch House, 6:30pm

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						
02/14/17	ODSC member donation	Bill John	\$200.00	\$200.00						
02/18/17	OSP IDSP Celebration & Star Party	Donations	\$102.00	\$102.00						
02/21/17	Mountain Vista School	Family Reading Night	\$5.00	\$5.00						
04/29/17	OSP Open House & Star Party	Donations	\$12.00	\$12.00						
05/20/17	OSP IDA talk & star party	Donations	\$17.00	\$17.00						
	Actual Income		\$370.00	\$346.00	\$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			\$611.18							
1/13/17	Cash Balance		\$24.00	to FOSP	Available balance retained by FOSP:			\$611.18		
	* pending reimbursement to Weasner									