

Attendees: Mike Weasner (520-289-3402, mweasner@mac.com); Tim Lawler (408-823-5439, timlawler12@att.net); Vince Micallef (480-244-4910; vmicallef@azstateparks.gov)

The meeting was called to order at 4:13pm MST. The late start was in the hopes that more members would arrive. (They didn't.)

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

Treasurer Report: Acting Treasurer Mike Weasner gave the treasurer's report.

Donations = Totaled \$85 since the previous meeting.

Expenses = none

The Current balance for ODSC is \$789.18.

(See spreadsheet attached.)

ODSC T-shirts to sell was discussed once again. The Committee has previously approved using paintings by local artist and ODSC member MaryHelen Vasquez and her granddaughter. Parfet and Weasner contacted the Oracle Zipline, who has T-shirt printing capability. We have given up on the Zipline printing. Lawler suggested contacting Richard Spitzer of the Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club to learn about the T-shirts they had printed. Weasner suggested that we have the artwork nicely framed and put on display at the Kannally Ranch House. Park Manager Micallef supported that idea and noted that he wants to set up a "Dark Sky Corner" at the Ranch House for displaying pertinent items. Weasner noted that Ranger Rinio and he had discussed that concept shortly after the Park was awarded with the "International Dark Sky Park" designation.

Community action (IDA requirement):

- Weasner noted that a representative of the Pinal County Lighting Code office visited Oracle the previous week to check on some local lighting. Weasner had not yet received a report of the results.

Repair of the Park's Vixen telescope mount

This is still in work by Chris Mobley. Most of the delay in completing the work is because the needed parts are no longer available from the manufacturer.

Telescope Donations:

- Weasner discussed the Raffle of two telescopes that had been donated to the Friends of Oracle State Park. Tickets are now available for purchase in the Park Gift Shop. Tickets will also be available the day of the Raffle, Saturday, 30 June. The drawing will be held at 6 PM that day. A star party will following in the evening. (See the attached info sheets on the telescopes.)

Past Events:

Thursday, 15 March 2018, 5:30-7:30pm: Family Reading Night at Oracle Mountain Vista School

ODSC had an information table and a telescope. The Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club provided telescopes. The 4th grade students had two Light Pollution posters on display. The telescope viewing was limited to a few hardy souls who braved the cold temperature.

Sunday, 18 March 2018, 5-8pm: Astronomy Art Show Closing at Triangle-L Ranch, Oracle
Artist Catherine Nash gave a talk on her awesome Astronomy Artwork. Weasner and Lawler provided telescopes. The Reception was well attended.

Saturday, 24 March 2018, 6-9pm: Talk and Star Party at Oracle State Park

Dr. John Barentine of the International Dark-Sky Association, returned to give a talk: "Under Ancient Skies: The Archaeo-astronomy of the Desert Southwest". ODSC will have a table 5-6pm. As usual, his talk was well attended. TAAA and the Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club provided telescopes for a star party, which although there were some clouds, was a very successful night.

Saturday, 31 March 2018, 5-7pm: Blue Moon Trail Music Event at Oracle State Park

There was planned to be rising Full Moon viewing after sunset through telescopes provided by the Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club. Unfortunately, the viewing was clouded out.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, 30 June 2018: Star Party and Dark Sky Special Event at Oracle State Park

This will be a Live Music, Telescope Raffle, and Star Party at the Park, 5-10 PM. The Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club has been invited to provide telescopes by its members.

Saturday, 1 September 2018: Star Party at Oracle State Park, Saturday

This is the big semi-annual Star Party at the Park.

Other business:

Weasner noted that he conducted telescope training at the Park in April.

Park Manager Micallef briefly discussed the approved state budget of \$4 Million for improvements at Oracle State Park. Potential locations for a new dark sky viewing area was discussed.

Weasner mentioned that Ranger Rinio continues to take Dark Sky Quality Measurements for the Park (as required by IDA).

Weasner also reminded Park Manager Micallef that he will be responsible for doing this year's Annual Report to IDA, which is due 1 October. ODSC will assist as needed but the primary work will be done by the Park Staff using last year's report as the template.

Next Meeting:

6 September 2018, 4:00pm MST, at Oracle State Park, Kannally Ranch House

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm MST.

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

Friends Of Oracle State Park Telescope Raffle



Ticket (RED): \$10 each;
10 for \$80

Available in Gift Shop anytime or
at FOSP table 30 June 5-6 PM

Drawing: 30 June 6 PM
(need not be present to win, must
pick up)

Orion SkyQuest XT8i IntelliScope Dobsonian Telescope

- f/5.9, 8-inch aperture, 1200mm focal length
- GOTO handset computer
- Many accessories and accessories case included
- Condition: Excellent

Friends Of Oracle State Park Telescope Raffle



Actual photos of the Moon taken
through the telescope using an iPhone

**Ticket (WHITE): \$1 each;
10 for \$8**

**Available in Gift Shop
anytime or at FOSP table
30 June 5-6 PM**

**Drawing: 30 June 6 PM
(need not be present to
win, must pick up)**

Refractor Telescope

- 60mm aperture, 700mm focal length
- Two eyepieces included: 7.5-22.5mm zoom, 4mm
- Diagonal, Finderscope
- Tripod included
- Condition: Fair, some cosmetic scratches
- (Observatory not included)