



O.A.O.G. NEWS

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1) Report on Feb 23 public star party...

The OAOG held its first public star party on February 23 to view the planets Jupiter/Venus conjunction. Despite a -12C temperature, the event was well attended with 25-30 observers at the Rockcliffe Parkway parking lot. It was nice to meet some of the new members. The OAOG will certainly setup many more of these observing sessions this year. Our main goal is to encourage outdoor amateur astronomy as much as possible. We currently use a number of different sites in the region, each offering a certain advantage compared to others. We hope you will join us again. Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

2) Updates on web site...

Recently, there has been a number of updates and improvements on our web site. You will notice better and faster load times and adequate performance overall. Our site has been optimized to run reasonably well on 28K modems. The page containing “Links to more astronomy pages” is in the process of re-structuring. We have noticed that the several pictures and logos on this page slows down load time. This will be much improved very shortly.

NEW on the site main page is a section called “SideWalk Stories”. This section will cover reports on public observing, star parties, photos and other “stories”. Feel free to send your own special “sidewalk stories” to us.

Also updated are the sections “Upcoming Sky Events” (now March & April) and “Latest Data from Pierre Martin” in the Meteor Section.

If you are curious to see what some of us look like, we now have a group photo in the section “About Us”.

To visit our web site, go to:

<http://members.home.net/observers-group/>

3) Summer camping/observing weekend under dark skies...

The OAOG is considering a summer weekend fun of camping and observing at night. Although the idea is very preliminary, we would really appreciate your feedback. This event would happen on a weekend, near the new moon to obtain darkest possible skies. The location would be in a campground reasonably close to Ottawa, yet distant enough to get away from most forms of light pollution. One possibility might be to a NCC campground near Perth, Ontario. We would choose a campground with all the necessary facilities, daytime activities, and wide open skies for excellent observing at night. If this idea appeals to you, please let us know! We need an idea how many of you would consider attending this.

4) Our next meeting...

The OAG holds its monthly meetings on every first Friday of each month. Our meetings are in an informal manner. We gather to discuss and plan our activities. Then we head off to the RASC Ottawa meeting, for a nice evening of informative astronomy talks and slides. Our next meeting will be on March 5, at 6:30pm. Location is either Tim Horton or Burger King restaurant on St-Laurent Blvd, near the Museum of Science & Technology. This time and location is ideal for many of us attending the RASC Ottawa meeting at 8:00pm that same evening at the museum's auditorium. You are invited to join, if you wish to meet us and share ideas! Everyone is welcomed to attend both meetings, even if you don't currently have a RASC membership. Please send us a note in advance to confirm the OAG meeting of 6:30pm.

5) Contact information...

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