



2009 Mulberry Mountain Star Party

The [Arkansas/Oklahoma Astronomy Society](#) is proud to announce their second annual **2009 Mulberry Mountain Star Party**, to be held on June 19th & 20th, 2009.

Once again, this year's event will take place at [Mulberry Mountain Lodging & Events](#), which is a 650-acre facility located 16 miles north of Interstate 40, on Arkansas Hwy 23, near the city of Ozark, Arkansas. Highway 23 is otherwise known as the Pig Trail Scenic Byway. The facility boasts some of "The Darkest Skies in Arkansas," at GPS coordinates N 35° 42' 36": W 93° 47' 44"



Mulberry Mountain offers cabins, pull-through RV sites and improved tent campsites with water, electricity & showers. Virtually unlimited primitive campsites are also available. Contact [Mulberry Mountain Lodging & Events](#) by phone at (866) 667-1919 or by e-mail at mulberrymountain@aol.com for lodging information and reservations,

AOAS plans to set up a Public Observation Area on the south side of the resort on Friday and Saturday evenings. Several of our members' telescopes will be available. Non-members may set up their equipment in the Public Observation Area if they wish. All scopes are welcome. Amateurs who do not wish to participate in public viewing or who require a "lights-free" area will be located away from established light sources.

NOTE: *It is our sincere hope that this event eventually grows to the point that we will someday require enforceable lighting regulations.*

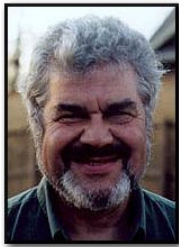
Vendors are being invited, and a "Swap Meet" will take place Saturday afternoon in the Main Lodge Meeting Room, where anyone will be able to buy, sell, or trade any astronomical items.

For more information, contact Leonard Lynch, AOAS Mulberry Mountain Star Party Coordinator:
Phone: 479-782-1131, E-Mail: nspace01@swbell.net.

2009 AOAS Mulberry Mountain Star Party – Speaker Line-Up

This year's Star Party includes an exciting line up of speakers!

High-lighting this line up first is **Dr. Derek Sears**, is from the University of Arkansas' Arkansas-Oklahoma Center for Space and Planetary Sciences. Dr. Sears has been on the forefront of planetary science for many years. Dr. Sears will be presenting an engaging lecture on the relationship between the Earth, Asteroids, and Meteorites.



Ménage à Trois: Earth, Meteorites, and the Asteroids

by Dr. Derek Sears

Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Fulbright College

Director, Arkansas-Oklahoma Center for Space and Planetary Sciences

Author, [Thunderstones: A Study of Meteorites Based on Falls and Finds in Arkansas](#)

The relationship between the Earth, Asteroids and Meteorites has all the complexities and intricacies of the menage a trois, so often depicted in classic literature, modern plays, and the movies. It is in many senses a very personal tale of curiosity and fascination, of coming to the central truths of who we are and why we are here, because understanding meteorites and asteroids and their relationship has the potential to reveal multiple aspects of the origin and history of the solar system and the formation of life. But it is also a tale of pain, of unbelievable suffering, of the planets with battered surfaces, of impact cataclysms, of global life extinctions, of threats to our existence that are with us today and much as they were in the past. Finally, it is a tale of exquisite adventurism, with an almost romantic drive, of moving our species out into space, to the Moon and to Mars, by way of asteroids, which are a natural stepping stone between the two. Like all threesomes, it is complex and multifaceted but I will try to present a sense of some of the story by describing research performed at Fayetteville, some in collaboration with Al Grauer at Little Rock.

For more information:

[Done Deal: Liquid water CAN exist on Mars](#)

[Cosmochemistry Group, University of Arkansas](#)

Another exciting speaker comes to us from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Department of Physics and Astronomy, **Dr. Marc Seigar**. Dr. Seigar has conducted recent research and published results in various periodicals concerning "Massive Black Holes and the Structure of Spiral Galaxies". This lecture promises an insight into some of the most basic cosmological questions about the Universe.



Black Holes and Dark Energy Research

By Dr. Marc S. Seigar

Assistant Professor Dept. of Physics & Astronomy

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

For more information:

[UALR, WAF Professors Land NASA Grants for Black Hole Research](#)

[Dr. Marc S. Seigar - UALR Dept. of Physics and Astronomy](#)

[Dr. Marc Seigar, Ph.D. Honored by Cambridge Who's Who for Excellence in Astronomy and Cosmology Research and Education](#)

AOAS is also proud to welcome **Dr. Daniel Kenefick** and **Dr. Juia Kenefick**, both Assistant Professors of Physics at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Dr. Daniel Kenefick's research falls in to two areas: the physics of gravitational waves and their sources and the history and sociology of Modern Physics.



"Not only because of Theory": Eddington, Dyson and the 1919 Solar Eclipse Expedition which tested General Relativity

By Dr. Daniel Kenefick and Dr. Julia Kenefick

Assistant Professors, Dept. of Physics
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

In recent years quite a few historians and scientists have alleged that the data analysis of the 1919 British eclipse expedition which tested the light bending prediction of relativity was flawed or even close to fraudulent as a result of bias. In particular they charge Arthur Stanley Eddington with fudging the result by throwing out some data which did not agree with relativity, motivated by his political and scientific prejudices. We show that this viewpoint is not supported by the historical facts either regarding the allegations of bias, or the details of the data analysis.

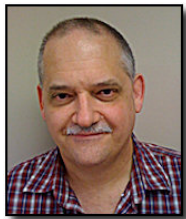
For more information:

[Dr. Daniel Kenefick – U of A Dept. Of Physics](#)

[Dr. Julia Kenefick – U of A Dept. of Physics](#)

[Testing relativity from the 1919 eclipse—a question of bias](#)

Coming to us from CAAS is our final speaker, **Wade Van Arsdale**, who hails from Little Rock and is well-known in the amateur astronomy community. Wade is an accomplished astro-imager. He will be presenting an excellent introduction to astro-imaging for the beginning and intermediate amateur astronomer.



Getting Started In Astro-Imaging

by Wade Van Arsdale

Member of the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society (CAAS)

Vice President and Co-founder, Arkansas Section, International Dark Sky Association.

For more information:

[Wade Van Arsdale Gallery](#)

In addition to the distinguished speakers listed above, the **Arkansas Section of the International Dark Sky Association** will hold its 2009 annual meeting at the Mulberry Mountain Star Party – 10:30 AM on Saturday morning.

The program will begin with the IDA-AR hosting a **RALLY FOR DARK SKIES**, which will include "*Protecting the Night Environment*," a presentation on light pollution issues as well as a discussion on ways you can carry the IDA mission into your community. This will be followed by a brief business meeting. During this event a door prize of one free annual individual membership to the IDA will be given away to one lucky non-IDA member. This event is free and open to all members of the public and attendees of the MMSP. For more information on this event and the International Dark-Sky Association-Arkansas Section please contact Arkansas Section Leader Jim Fisher at DarkSkyArkansas@gmail.com or 501-366-0948.



A \$5.00 donation will be requested for Guest Speaker (non-IDA) events and tickets will be used in drawings for donated door prizes.

Note: Additions or changes to the guest list or planned events will be announced as soon as possible.