

## Two OCHS students conduct research at Arizona observatory

For the third time in four years, Oil City High School students and science teacher Timothy Spuck were selected to conduct research at Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, Ariz.

Spuck and two students, Jason Dillion and Inga Saathoff, recently returned from the observatory where they spent two nights using the facility's 0.9 Meter Telescope.

The research team is working to identify a new method of identifying young, sun-like stars in their early stages of formation using small-scale optical telescopes.

If the method can be verified, it will open up new opportunities for amateur astronomers to participate in the discovery and understanding of the young stars.

Each year, the National Optical Astronomy Observatory awards limited observing time at the National Observatory to several teams of high school students from across the United States. The Oil City team was again awarded observing time on the basis of its research proposal.

"This is a great opportunity for Inga and Jason, and they have worked extremely hard to make it happen. Very few high school students ever get this far, and we're looking forward to reducing the data and looking at our results," Spuck said.

The results of the study will be presented on March 26 at the Pittsburgh Regional



**Oil City High School students Jason Dillion and Inga Saathoff stand next to the 0.9 Meter Telescope at Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, Ariz. The students and science teacher Timothy Spuck used the telescope for research on a recent trip to the observatory.**

Science & Engineering Fair and at the 2010 American Astronomical Society meeting in Miami, Fla.

The findings will also be published in the RBSE Jour-

nal and, if the results demonstrate a method that could be used by amateur astronomers, will be submitted for publication in Astronomy Magazine and/or Sky & Telescope.