

MINUTES OF THE JULY 26, 2008 MEETING OF THE
CHARLIE ELLIOTT CHAPTER OF THE ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB

The July 26, 2008 meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by chapter director Theo Ramakers. Present were 20 members and guests; overcast weather prevailed, thus, no activities were scheduled on the the observing field following the meeting.

Following the welcoming remarks by Theo, Debbie Jones took the stand and explained the Astronomical League's requirements of the Messier Club program. Following the explanation, she did once more present an award to a longstanding member: Ray Major.

Ray had completed the requirements for Honorary Messier Club from the AL some time ago and was now awarded the Honorary Messier Club membership which included the pin and a certificate along with a letter signed by the president of the Astronomical League. Ray was congratulated for this excellent achievement. This was an inspiration to all of us!

Next on the agenda was the feature presentation by Fred Buls on "Solar System Probes". Fred's presentation provided a fairly detailed look at both U.S., European and Asian probes and included details of even the multi-instrument probes. Fred has a great website at <http://facstaff.gpc.edu/~fbuls/astindex.html>

There was a brief recess after Fred's program. Following the recess, official proceedings continued:

- The minutes of last month's meeting were unanimously approved.
- Theo Ramakers provided a wrap-up about the good work contributed by our members at the CEWMA Outreach programs on July 9, 16, 20 and 23; recognized imaging work by Clevis Jones (solar image testing), Stephen Ramsden (more solar imaging), Jon Wood, Carlos Flores and Jim Honeycutt (whose lunar image was featured on the cover of the latest issue of the Journal of the Assn of Lunar & Planetary Observers), Larry Owens (with a neat time-lapse series of images called "One Hour in the Life of Jupiter"); Theo also presented a NASA video about the GLAST project (Gamma Ray Large Area Space Telescope), invited all to explore the chapter's revamped website at www.ceastronomy.org and announced that Carlos Flores has donated a number of astro DVDs to the chapter.
- In his latest installment of "Observing 101", Jon Wood covered a number of sky events over the following weeks; repeated the announcement from last month that the sign-up form mailbox for those; and presented a great series of visual slides on his upgrades to his web page at <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/observing>; he also spoke highly of various software programs which he himself finds useful including Celestia, Lunar Phase Pro and the Virtual Moon Atlas.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

(Submitted by Ken Poshedly, recording secretary)

