



Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 10, 2005

ATTENDENCE:

Twenty-two guests and members attended the September meeting.

BUSINESS:

Larry Owens gave an update on the Byers mount project that is proceeding a little more slowly since Mars began its close approach run and 'requires' him to image it every morning <GRIN> (see the CEC web site for images and details). Steve Bieger and Phil Haines have helped with the project – thanks. The AAC has approved a \$1,000.00 budget for the 16" truss tube project. Refiguring/resurfacing the mirror will most likely take the bulk of that – contributions to the project will be appreciated (contact Larry Owens for details). The CEC Website could use contributions of images members have taken. The CEC October 1 meeting time changes to 3:00 PM.

OBSERVING REPORT – What's Up Tonight:

Steve Bieger presented "What's Up Tonight". His presentation included objects in the constellations Scutum, Aquila, Sagitta, Vulpecula, Cygnus, and Lyra. Steve included information on history, myth, science (and scientists) for many of the objects - Very

informative and entertaining! Steve will have a list of objects for next month's viewing posted on the CEC Web-site as well as links and information on this month's objects. If you have suggestions, Steve welcomes them and can be contacted at sbieger@bellsouth.net

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT:

Clevis Jones covered the completion of the STS-114 mission, very active Sunspot 798, the planetary candidate 2003 UB313, the 40th discovery of a Super Nova by Robert O. Evans, Deep Impact update, the Tiger Stripes on Saturn's moon Enceladas, Mars Rovers, and an update of Larry Owens' excellent images of Mars. See his images here: <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/>

SPECIAL REPORT:

Marc Sandberg presented an informative program titled, "Why Do We Tolerate Bad Lighting". Thanks, Marc !

You can download the PowerPoint presentation here: http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/images/Why_do_we_tolerate.ppt

FEATURED PROGRAM:

Larry Owens presented an excellent program entitled, "Deep Sky Imaging With Digital Cameras". Included in his program were comments by Michael Covington on his recent head to head evaluation of the Canon Digital Rebel vs. the Nikon D70 – very informative – thanks Michael! Larry's program began with a few minutes of beautiful music and images. He explained the advantages of using a digital camera to image deep sky. He covered some characteristics of the CMOS chip and why there are now 'astronomy' specific digital cameras available. Other topics included techniques for guiding and focusing. His demonstration of image processing, which included stacking and the use of a multitude of adjusting techniques, clearly showed there is hidden detail in a seemingly bland image that can, with the image processing software, bring new life to that image. Michael Covington suggested a 'sharpening' technique. Larry showed how that could work on some images and not on others – or you can use a combination of masking with the sharpening to enhance certain parts of the image and not other parts. It was a wonderfully presented, eye-opening program. Thanks, Larry!

OBSERVING SESSION:

Skies were good for viewing for a change and many folks stopped by the observing filed after the meeting.

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS:

October 1, 2005 3:00 PM – 6:30 PM THIS IS A TIME CHANGE to 3:00 PM: the Fall/Winter schedule !

- Astronomy Current Events – Clevis Jones
- What's Up Tonight – Steve Bieger

Feature Presentation: "Basic Telescopes", A program by Steve Bieger.

Lecture. Have you ever wondered what's meant by "Schmidt Cassegrain" or wanted to know the difference between a "reflecting"

and a "refracting" telescope? Steve Bieger will present a program for beginners in astronomy, on how to choose and use an astronomical telescope, with a bit of theory thrown in for good measure.

Everyone is welcome

Place: [CE Visitor's Center](#) presentation room. Enter through the left side door nearest the back of the building.

Observing. Everyone is invited to the Charlie Elliott observing field after the meeting for an evening of viewing and imaging through member and club telescopes.

FOR UPDATES:

PLEASE check the CEC website for the most current meeting information!

<http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/>

Submitted:

Clevis JonesCEC

Recording Secretary

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