



Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 1, 2005

ATTENDENCE:

Fifteen guests and members attended the October meeting.

BUSINESS:

Larry Owens gave an update on the Byers mount project. Missing bolts and parts have been obtained so reassembly should proceed at a quicker pace now. The 16" mirror for the Truss Tube project is scheduled to ship to Galaxy Optics for refiguring and coating the week of 10/03/05. Larry will begin obtaining parts for the Truss Tube assembly in October. If you'd like to help with either project, please contact Larry: planetographer@comcast.net

Larry also reminded us that Earth and Mars are headed for another close encounter at the end of October. NOW is a great time to start viewing and imaging Mars. The next 'best' close approach (due to higher elevation for us) will be October 14, 2020!!! If you miss it this time, you'll have a 15 year wait for your next best shot! Get out there!

To have your images included on the CEC Web site, send them to Larry Owens at planetographer@comcast.net .

Don't forget these events:

October 29, 2005 - Mars party at Villa Rica (see the AAC Web site for info: <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org>)

November 2-6, 2005 - Peach State Star Gaze <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org>

The 2006 Charlie Elliott Chapter meeting schedule is as follows:

Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 25, Apr 22, May 20, Jun 17, Jul 15, Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

Any changes will be listed on the CEC Web site <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/>

OBSERVING REPORT - What's Up Tonight:

Steve Bieger presented "What's Up Tonight". His presentation included objects in the constellations Cassiopeia, Cepheus, Lacerta, Ursa Minor, and Draco. Steve included information on history, myth, science (and scientists) for many of the objects. Included was information on Earth's precession of its north pole through Draco - 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 presentation was short and sweet for a change (and thus liked by all ;-) In total it was, MARS is here and growing bigger nightly: get out and view and image it now!

FEATURED PROGRAM:

Steve Bieger presented BASIC TELESCOPES: a very informative coverage of the types and uses, advantages and disadvantages of the various types. He covered several types of mounts, including how to make an alt az mount into basically a German equatorial. He included suggested ways to learn before you buy, including the really inexpensive and rewarding way to begin - learn the sky with your eyes first, then add those binoculars you may have at home already. Learn about dark adaptation, and keep a log book on all you learn. From experience, he suggested ways to budget your purchases when you do begin to buy a telescope (or two) and all the essentials that go with it (like bug spray :-). Steve included some useful tips like read the manual thoroughly, make a check list, and practice setup/takedown in the daylight. Equipment lists can get long, so make a check list for that too. Finally, remember that astronomy requires curiosity, patience, persistence, an attitude of fun, there is no dumb question, and don't forget the observing etiquette.

Thanks Steve, very enjoyable - and thanks to all who brought telescopes to set up for everyone to see.

OBSERVING SESSION:

Skies appeared a bit "iffy", but several folks stopped by the observing field after the meeting for some viewing.

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS:

November 12, 2005 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM at OXFORD COLLEGE just north of Covington, GA. (See the CEC Website for directions)

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

Feature Presentation: "Planetary Imaging Workshop", A program by Larry Owens.

Lecture. Mars is here and it's time to fine-tune your planetary imaging skills! This November, Larry Owens will reveal all of the

secrets the best imagers use to get those stunning images of the planets. From frame rates to gain settings, Larry will show you the best techniques in an interactive workshop format. The program will cover acquiring images with popular "WebCam" imagers from Philips and Celestron, including detailed processing techniques using RegiStax and PhotoShop, plus anything else you'd like to discuss.

Mars won't be this close again till 2018! Don't miss your chance to get some great images and some great pointers.

Place: [Oxford College Science Building \(Pierce Hall\)](#)

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.

December 3, 2005 - TIME CHANGE TO 5:00 PM SHARP to about 6:30 PM (closer to dinner time).

Potluck, as in food, is scheduled - Bring something good and let's eat :-)

Place: Charlie Elliott Visitor's Center

FOR UPDATES AND DIRECTIONS:

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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