



## Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 18, 2006

[See photos and additional information about the meeting here.](#)

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** The CEC now has its own Yahoo group: **If you're planning to head out to the field for observing or just have something on your mind about astronomy or the chapter, post a message. Here's how:**

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/charlie\\_elliott\\_chapter](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/charlie_elliott_chapter)

### ATTENDANCE:

Thirteen guests and members attended the February meeting held at the Charlie Elliott Visitor Center.

### BUSINESS:

Chapter Director, Larry Owens, began the meeting with a report on the FIRST LIGHT of the newly coated 16-inch mirror for the Newtonian on the Byers mount. The event was scheduled for after the club meeting on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>. But, due to a forecast of deteriorating weather, first light took place Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> in Alpharetta, GA. The mirror appears to be excellent! A tracking problem with the Byers mount was discovered. Larry has since experimented and tested – swapping the RA and Dec motors (which have different rotational speeds) should correct the problem. Capella was the first in the field of view – diffraction rings looked very good and were very symmetrical on both sides of focus. Left to do: 1. obtain the 3.1-inch secondary mirror as recommended by Galaxy Optics, 2. resolve the tracking issue, 3. wiring for the auto guider, 4. install a lunar/sidereal switch, and 5. lots of work to do on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 16-inch truss tube project

**CEC Recording Secretary note:** the Byers mount, 16-inch Newtonian, 16-inch truss tube, and the 6-inch Criterion are all club projects. Larry has spent several hundred hours, a lot of sweat (the Byers is HEAVY), and more than four hundred dollars on the superb restoration of the Byers and first 16-inch thus far. He is also taking the lead on the 16-inch Truss-Tube project. To those of you who have donated – MANY THANKS. More donations of money and time would be greatly appreciated: If you would care to donate either to help defray costs and labor, contact Larry Owens at [planetographer@comcast.net](mailto:planetographer@comcast.net)

Jim Honeycutt of Oxford College gave an overview of what is on tap for next month's meeting (see below):

### OBSERVING REPORT: What's Up Tonight:

Steve Bieger presented "What's Up Tonight" with a theme of "Galaxies". February is the Full Hunger, or Full Snow Moon. Close

encounters with the Moon will be Jupiter 2-20, Mars 3-5, Saturn 3-9, and the Vernal Equinox is on 3-20.

### **CURRENT EVENTS REPORT:**

Clevis Jones' "Current Events" covered the Mars Rovers and Cassini ... with a bit of humor thrown in – intended and not.

### **OBSERVING SESSION:**

No observing due to overcast.

### **MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS:**

**March 25, 2006 - 3:00 p.m.**

- What's Up Tonight - Steve Bieger

**Feature Program: "Stellar Spectra and Hubble's Law"** Jim Honeycutt, Instructor in astronomy at Oxford College, will host a hands-on class on taking stellar spectra and calculating the distance of galaxies using Hubble's Law. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how spectra are taken and analyzed and how astronomers calculate the distances to the galaxies!

**Place: Oxford College, Pierce Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor** - directions: [http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/oxford\\_directions.html](http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/oxford_directions.html)

After the meeting there will be observing at the Charlie Elliott Observing field, weather permitting: [http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/satellite\\_hires.htm](http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/satellite_hires.htm)

**The remaining 2006 Charlie Elliott Chapter meeting schedule is as follows:**

Mar 25, Apr 22, May 20, Jun 17, Jul 15, Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 09.

### **FOR UPDATES & DIRECTIONS:**

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

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

Submitted:  
Clevis Jones, CEC Recording Secretary

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