



Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 25, 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

ATTENDENCE:

Twenty-three guests and members attended the March meeting held at Oxford College of Emory University at Oxford, GA.

BUSINESS:

Chapter Director, Larry Owens, began the meeting with a report on the corrections of the problems encountered during the FIRST LIGHT of the newly coated 16-inch mirror Newtonian mounted on the Byers mount. 1st - the RA and Dec motors were reversed – so, the tracking problem has now been corrected. 2nd – The worm wheel clutch has a bit of a slippage problem that will have to be overcome manually during use. 3rd – The slow motion control is too slow. Larry is working with Michael Covington to get the right parameters into the PIC controller chip so the slow motion control will be smooth and correct.

CEC FUND RAISER: Money is needed to complete our CEC club projects: new secondary mirrors for both 16-inch scopes, the truss tube material for the 2nd 16" scope, refiguring and recoating by Galaxy Optics of the 2nd 16-inch scope, and completion of the Byers mount. To help raise money, Larry has developed two prints of some of his images. For a \$15.00 donation each: The Mars 2005 close approach, and the recently taken Saturn image which I think is EXTRAORDINARY. Each print is 13 by 19 inches and is on photo quality paper. A preview of the quality of the images is here:

Mars 2005:

http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/mars_122705_IR_RGB.htm

Saturn 2006:

http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/saturn_single_031606_2.htm

All his images – I think he'd print whichever one you would like for the \$15 donation: http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/larry_owens_images.html

Contact Larry Owens at:

planetographer@comcast.net And thank you very much for your support!

OBSERVING REPORT: What's Up Tonight:

Steve Bieger presented "What's Up Tonight" with a continuing theme of "Galaxies". March is the Full Worm month. [On April 1, the Pleiades will be occulted by the Moon](#) [NOTE: from my viewing location near Conyers, at 7:46 p.m. the Moon will be a huge black hole (with a thin sliver of crescent) in the Pleiades surrounded by the outer members of the Seven Sisters – a gorgeous photo or visual opportunity!]. Steve pointed out many of the galaxy clusters viewable over the next month AND he pointed out that NOW is the best time to do your Messier Marathon!

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT:

None: - in the interest of time for the feature presentation.

FEATURE PRESENTATION:

"Stellar Spectra and Hubble's Law" by Jim Honeycutt: Instructor in Astronomy at Oxford College of Emory University: WOW! What a great meeting. Jim gave a quick overview of the spectrum of light and how it is used to determine the elements of stars and galaxies and of Hubble's Law. Then he helped everyone do computer labs to determine the spectra and, using Hubble's Law, determine the rate at which the object of interest is moving away (red shifted) or toward (blue shifted) us. It was a fascinating time and gave you the feeling of accomplishing something because you were actually "doing" with the computer instead of just listening. You got to apply what he had just explained – THANK YOU, JIM.

OBSERVING SESSION:

Cold and wind did NOT deter several folks from observing after the meeting.

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS:

April 22, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. NOTE: THAT IS A TIME CHANGE TO THE SUMMER SCHEDULE

What's Up Tonight: by Steve Beiger

Current Events: by Clevis Jones

Feature Presentation:

“Imaging and Processing with the Autostar Suite” by Jonathan Wood. The Meade Autostar Suite includes a planetarium program, telescope and dome control, planetary ephemerides and even an imaging program that controls all of Meade's cameras.

Jonathan will guide us through this complex software and share his imaging expertise with the Meade DSI camera.

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

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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