



Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 14, 2006

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

HEADS-UP: Wednesday afternoon, NOVEMBER 8, 2006: Weather permitting, we'll meet about 1 p. m. on the CE observing field for the transit of Mercury. 1st contact is at 2:12 p.m. EST. This is the last Mercury transit we'll have the opportunity to see for about 10 years.

Special Note:

Many thanks to Lee Nelson and Jon Wood for mowing the CE observing field !!!

ATTENDENCE:

Fifteen guests and members attended the October CE chapter meeting.

BUSINESS:

Larry Owens briefly covered the clubs equipment and the "Telescope Baby-sitting Program", including who has what. He also talked about next month's SHORT meeting in that there are three events happening, **1.** A visit to Deer Lick Astronomy Village for those interested – **note:** on the last turn, it is 0.3 miles to the entrance, NOT 3.0 miles [thanks Lee], **2.** Dale Harrison will bring some students from the George Walton Academy in Monroe to the meeting with possible observing afterwards (**VOLUTEERS?**), **3.** Camp Twin Lakes (a camp near Rutledge, GA for children with special needs) asked us to give an observing session there between 10:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. the night of our meeting, November 11 (**VOLUNTEERS?**) – More on these as the time draws near - for the latest breaking news or questions, tune in to the:

CE Yahoo-group message board:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/charlie_elliott_chapter/

or the *CE Web-site*:

<http://www.ceastronomy.org/>

VOLUNTEERS, **please** contact Larry Owens at:

Director@CEastronomy.org

2006 remaining schedule – **November 11 (3rd Qtr.) & shift to 3 p.m. for the winter schedule**, December 9 (Wn Gib).

2007 schedule for the 2007 CEC Meetings is as follows:

January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14 (back to 5 p.m. for the summer), May 19 (JAKES DAY – volunteers needed, and ELECTION of Officers), June 9, July 7, Aug 18, September 15, October 6 (note: Peach State on the 13th), November 3 (back to 3 p.m. for the winter), December 15.

CURRENT EVENTS:

Clevis Jones not so briefly covered Anousheh Ansari's visit to the ISS, Atlantis and the STS-115 crew's installation of the port solar array on the ISS, Cassini, Smart-1, the partial Lunar eclipse, the upcoming November 8th transit of Mercury, and the IAU's recent decision to rearrange our solar system to 8 planets and, currently, 3 dwarf planets.

FEATURE PRESENTATION:

Jim Honeycutt, Instructor of Astronomy at Oxford College in Oxford, GA (just north of Covington) presented two lab sessions: After first explaining some terms, like the H-R diagram of stars and the B-V color index characteristics of stars, the first lab was on determining Jupiter's mass by observing its moons. Everyone had use of a school computer (THANK YOU Oxford college!). You controlled a virtual telescope, took data on one of Jupiter's moons' cycle via the software program, plugged that into formulas Jim gave out and determined Jupiter's mass! For the second lab, this time using a computer's virtual telescope photometer, you measured the V (visual), and B (blue filter) magnitude of a star. Then you used the data to determine the distance to that star in the Pleiades star cluster. As you work on the labs, Jim swings by every one's position helping to get you over any hurdles you may encounter. Personal note – these labs Jim gives are **ABSOLUTLY FASCINATING** – a must attend! As I mentioned on the CE Yahoo message board prior to this meeting at Oxford, for these labs at Oxford, we may want to take a vote to forego the What's up Tonight and/or Current Events features to get more lab time. We look forward to more lab work, very soon! THANK YOU, JIM!

OBSERVING SESSION:

About 20 folks with telescopes up to 22-inches were on the CE observing field to take a look at comet Swan and other fine objects – a very nice, cool evening of viewing, with everyone sharing information and the views through their telescopes.

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS:

NOVEMBER 11, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. - TIME CHANGE TO THE WINTER SCHEDULE.

FEATURE PRESENTATION:

SHADOWS & SILHOUETTES: Chapter director, Larry Owens, will give a NASA Night Sky Network presentation about

eclipses, transits, lunar and planetary phases and how scientists are attempting to use transits to detect Earth sized planets around other stars! Everyone is welcome.

Place: [Charlie Elliott Visitor's Center](#)

Time permitting after the feature presentation,

What's Up Tonight: by Steve Beiger

Current Events: by Clevis Jones

DECEMBER 9, 3:00 p.m.: TBD

FOR UPDATES & DIRECTIONS: PLEASE check the CEC website for the most current meeting information!

<http://www.CEAstronomy.org>

Submitted:

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