

Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club



Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting Minutes Saturday, June 9, 2007

See photos and additional information about the meeting here.

ATTENDANCE:

Twenty-two guests and members attended the June Charlie Elliott Chapter meeting.

BUSINESS:

Director, Larry Owens, requested ideas for future programs. Jon Wood, Philip Sacco, Fred Buls, and Patrick Durusau stepped forward – THANKS!

The July 7, 2007 Feature Program will be given by Jon Wood – the subject is ‘building your own observatory’ – please check our CE Web-site for the updated title and subject matter:

<http://www.CEastronomy.org>

Jon Wood also volunteered to present an astronomy program to the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center’s Overnight Camp (30 teenagers) on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 6:45 p.m. with observing on the field beginning about 9 p.m., ending about 10:30 p.m. Theo Ramakers and Steve Bieger volunteered to set up telescopes on the field – any **volunteers to assist Jon and more telescopes** would be greatly appreciated. Please contact any club officer:

Larry Owens Director@CEastronomy.org

Steve Bieger Observing@CEastronomy.org

Clevis Jones Secretary@CEastronomy.org

Larry Owens and Steve Bieger gave an update on the progress of the 16-inch and 12.5-inch projects. Steve has requested anyone with some spare high quality plywood scrap material contact him:

Steve Bieger Observing@CEastronomy.org

SUNSET ALERT was given.

2007 remaining schedule for the CE Meetings is:

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.

FEATURE PRESENTATION:

“POT LUCK” – and was it ever good! Thanks to all the hands (some of whom stayed home – some of whom came a long way, like Ray) who took the time and care to make the goodies for us – much appreciated. Thanks to everyone who supplied utensils, food, and clean-up! During the meal, our ‘planetarium atmosphere’ was maintained along with music and a slide show of past events. Thanks, Larry!

What’s Up Tonight

Steve Bieger opened this month’s program by familiarizing us with the “**International Initiative In Defence Of The Quality Of The Night Sky As Mankind’s Scientific, Cultural and Environmental Right**” – the “Declaration” and other supporting information can be found here:

<http://www.unescocan.org/starlight/starlighteng.htm>

Steve’s What’s Up Tonight covered Mercury, Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter. June 12 & 13 Venus near is M44. June 14 is the New Moon. June 18, Saturn, Moon, and Venus will be close. June 19th Regulus gets occulted by the Moon for about 25 minutes (Thanks for the reminder Jim Honeycutt - **POSSIBLE CE “LIVE BROADCAST”**). Featured Constellations covered included Leo, Virgo, and Coma Berenices with a few double stars thrown in. A new feature was How To Plan Your Observing covering the measuring of time, field considerations and object lists. The next featured area was The Great Reflectors (Palomar’s 60 and 100-inchers) along with the scientists who used them – such as Hale, Hubble, Baade, Russell, Sandage, and Schmidt. Steve’s final coverage was on AstroPlanner’s features. Thanks Steve!

Current Events

Clevis Jones gave everyone some nap time by covering Astronomy Round Up (thanks Kenpo), SOFIA and its “Clipper Lindbergh”, Mars Rovers Opportunity and Spirit, spacecraft Cassini’s recent activities including the upcoming June 13, 2007 rise of the Sun through Titan’s atmosphere, a new space radiation hazard early warning method discovered by Arik Posner using SOHO’s data, new exo-planet discoveries, Hubble’s M-81, Spitzer’s Dwarf Galaxies, 4 definitions of Blue Moon, Imaging of Altair’s Face with the CHARA Interferometer, Messenger, AR10960, SOHO’s surprise comet, Shuttle Atlantis & STS-117’s, Suni’s ISS Marathon Run, CEWC Overnight Camp to be given by Jon Wood (thanks Jon), and M-3. Whew!

OBSERVING SESSION:

Thirteen folks went to the observing field to catch Venus & Mercury early – the sharing of observing tools and the beautiful night – what a delight !

MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS:

July 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Feature Presentation: Jon Wood on building your own observatory. Then What’s up Tonight by Steve Bieger and Current Events by Clevis Jones, followed by Observing on the field, weather permitting.

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

Next Meeting: August 18, 5:00 p.m.

Feature Presentation – Philip Sacco on Astronomical Mythology.

FOR UPDATES & DIRECTIONS & LIVE broadcasts: PLEASE check the CEastronomy website for the most current meeting information !

<http://www.CEastronomy.org>

Submitted:

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