

Minutes of the April 18, 2009 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Visitor Center by CE Chapter Director Theo Ramakers. The final attendance was 19 members and guests.

Following welcoming remarks by Theo, the feature presentation movie "Eyes on the Skies, 400 Years of Telescopic Discoveries" was screened. Go to <http://www.eyesontheskies.org/movie.php> for more info on this movie.

After a short break was Jon Wood's "Observing 101" segment which included:

- * Computer software renditions from Stellarium.com of the upcoming elongation of the planet Mercury on April 26.
- * Announcement that the Space Shuttle Atlantis was scheduled for night-time lift-off on May 12 and possible plans to view it from the CE observing field.
- * A calendar of upcoming meteor showers including the Lyrids on April 22 (estimated at 10-20 per hour and no Moon in the early morning sky), and the Eta Aquarids on May 6 (estimated at 20-40 per hour and a waxing Gibbous Moon in the southwest at 1:30 a.m.).
- * A computer rendition of the Moon-Mercury-Pleiades assembly on April 26.
- * An image by Christopher Go of the Philippines showing what seems to be a new white spot on Jupiter's North Equatorial Belt.
- * A computer rendition of Venus's progress in the morning sky March 20 thru April 24.
- * Sky charts and images of currently visible comets including Comet C/2008 T2 Cardinal (to be in Gemini by end of April), Comet C/2006 W3 Christensen, and Comet C/2009 F6 Yi-Swain (in Cassiopeia).
- * A lunar calendar (from a subscriber-only area of www.astronomy.com)
- * A reminder and review of current observing resources on the chapter website to assist fellow members in finding lots of interesting nighttime targets, along with the addition of a real time sky chart on the chapter observing page.

Following was Theo's "Current Events" PowerPoint segment which included:

- * A recap of the various outreach efforts by the CE chapter.
- * How things shaped up with the recent Globe at Night event held worldwide.
- * Great images from the CE chapter's "100 Hours of Astronomy" activities.
- * A movie of the transit of six moons across the globe of Saturn made by the Hubble Space Telescope.

The next CE chapter meeting will be 5 p.m., Saturday, May 16, when the feature presentation will be the movie "400 Years of the Telescope". Go to <http://www.400years.org/> for info on this film.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. Several members and guests set up scopes on the observing field hoping for breaks in the clouds, but apparently with no successful observing.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Posedly,
Recording Secretary