

**Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club**  
**Minutes of the Meeting July 18, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chapter Director Theo Ramakers. The meeting was attended by 20 members and visitors, of which four were new to the chapter.

Following welcoming remarks by Theo, Larry Owens began his presentation "The Philosophy of Astronomy". The meeting room was dimmed to very low light and the image slide show and the new space background music put everyone in the right mood to follow Larry's presentation.

Larry took us on a ride from the well-known surroundings of our homes and cities to places far away in the universe and made every one think of those places as far away homes / locations rather than objects. Soon, our minds started spilling over with thoughts about the vastness of the universe and how little we on Earth are within the universe. Put in perspective, it would take 12,675 Earth years to visit every star in the Milky Way even if we spent one second there and the travel time was zero. Now, multiply this for the billions of other galaxies. Larry explained that we, as amateur astronomers, have the capability though our telescopes to show this to many others who normally relate only to our normal everyday issues. Larry urged us to reach out to everyone we can to show this through our scopes.

Larry will attempt to produce a streaming video from this presentation so others can experience similar feelings we had during this great presentation!! Thanks Larry for taking us on this great journey.

Jon Wood, observing supervisor, and Ken Poshedly, CE chapter recording secretary, were not present at the meeting, so after a short break, Theo presented the July version of his "Current Events in Astronomy and Space Exploration". This month's presentation covered:

- The past month's evening and solar outreach programs.
- The observing and imaging of the occultation, as well as an eclipse of one Galilean moon by another.
- An update and initial images from the LRO (Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter); the images included the Apollo Moon landers and foot paths by the astronauts.
- The shift in focus for planetary observers to observe Jupiter.
- The results of the 2009 Dark Sky event which we participated in earlier this year and other recent events in astronomy and space exploration.

Our next meeting will be 5 p.m., Saturday, August 22, when Fred Buls will give us a detailed update on NASA's Constellation Program.

The observing session following the meeting was attended by 24 members and guests.

Respectfully submitted,

Theo Ramakers  
Chapter Director