

## Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting August 22, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chapter Director Theo Ramakers. The meeting was attended by 34 members and guests. Theo explained the agenda briefly and introduced Alesia Rast, our coordinator at Charlie Elliott and Paul Tankersley. Paul did donate a [beautiful framed picture](#) of the Pelican Nebula that he made in 2008 for display in the presentation room of the Visitors Center .

Subsequently Theo introduced Fred Bulls, the Lab Supervisor for Astronomy and Physics at the Georgia Perimeter College for his presentation "[Back out of the Harbor](#)", about NASA's efforts to get us back to the Moon and on to Mars.

Mr. Bulls took us back to the in Space Exploration and after talking about the early NASA programs such as the Apollo, quickly went on to explain the third phase in NASA's programs, the "Constellation" program to get back to the Moon and on to Mars. He then went on explaining the use of the Orion Capsule and the two main vehicles being developed to get us back to the moon and beyond, the Ares I and the Ares V and how they would be used in the different missions. He explained the workings of the solid rocket booster motors and the liquid rocket motors, the plans and dates for the test firings and test launch if the Ares 1X. And he explained the differences in the plans for missions to Mars using 4 Ares V launch vehicles and one Ares I, vs. the ideas of some to use only one launch vehicle. [Click here for more info.](#)

The pictures, posters, and videos shown by Mr. Bulls were fantastic and made you wanting to be part of the program. Young and old did appreciate the presentation that gave a lot of insight to NASA's plans. One can only hope that in the end sufficient funding will be available for NASA to make this dream come true as currently planned.

After the main presentation Dale Harrison showed how she was inspired by our Solar events and showed a quilt she made. I believe she called it [Solar Expressions](#).

A brief pause was used by Theo to teach the very young in the audience a little about our Solar System, and used some material provided by NSN to show them how small our world is in relation to the rest of the solar system and the Universe. They were very proud to go home after the meeting with some posters and stereo postcards of the Sun.

The last presentation was Theo's Current Events in Astronomy and Space Exploration. Theo's presentation in form of a short movie went through the outreach events and the highlights of the month, especially the strike of Jupiter, or "Bird's Strike" as he called it, after Anthony Wesley (the bird) who discovered the dark spot on July 19<sup>th</sup>. NASA had its place in his presentations as usual this time showing parts of the Kibo module and pictures of the Ares I vehicle.

After the meeting, most of the members and visitors went to the observation field, where others joined us for a passionate evening of [observing and sharing of the views of the night sky](#), including a number of kids bussed in by the Methodists Church from Madison.

Submitted by:

Theo Ramakers, Chapter Director  
in absence of Ken Poshedley