

## Minutes of the September 19, 2009 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The September 19, 2009 meeting of the Charlie Elliott chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by chapter director Theo Ramakers at the CE Visitors Center. A total of 28 members and guests were present, including a group from the Atlanta Outdoors Club, led by former AAC member Charlie Cottingham. After opening remarks by Theo welcoming all, the meeting was recessed for the potluck dinner.

The meeting was called back to order at 5:55 p.m.; at that time, CE member and extremely proficient solar observing expert Stephen Ramsden gave his presentation about all NASA missions launched to primarily study the Sun in many wavelengths of energy, how those satellites function and where their orbits are in the Solar System. At one point, souvenir special viewing glasses were distributed to all in attendance for a 3D portion of the presentation. After the talk, Keith Burns and Rich Jakiel posed for promotional photos of merchandise exchanged for donations to the “Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project”, Stephen’s own solar astronomy outreach project named for a close friend and coworker who passed away. Go to the website at [www.charliebates.org](http://www.charliebates.org)

After another short break, Theo’s “Current Events in Astronomy and Space Exploration” was presented.

- No previous outreach (sidewalk) astronomy events were held, but there was an appeal for participation in the upcoming Galilean Nights event (Oct. 22 - 24) being coordinated by the IYA (International Year of Astronomy) 2009 project.
- There were extended coverage and comments about the recent impact -- nicknamed “Bird’s Strike -- into the South Polar Region of Jupiter’s cloud tops. Discovered on July 19 by amateur Anthony Wessley of Australia, credit for his finding was completely overlooked in a NASA announcement – complete with a Hubble image. After many complaints from the amateur observing community, NASA issued a subsequent announcement about the impact a few days later acknowledged Wessley. Our own Theo Ramaker’s polar projection map of Jupiter showing the impact location was carried on a number of sites including [www.Spaceweather.com](http://www.Spaceweather.com), [www.SkyandTelescope.com](http://www.SkyandTelescope.com) and NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day (<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>).
- There was a reminder of the upcoming LCROSS impact into or very near the 98-km far-southern crater Cabeus (much of whose floor is permanently shadowed) on Friday morning, October 9; amateurs from Hawaii and eastward are being asked to monitor the impact and report their observations to NASA which plans to study the chemical makeup of any observed ejecta from the impact to determine if signs of water may be present. The event will take place at 7:30 a.m. here in the Eastern Time Zone, thus it will already be daylight. (The impacts will be broadcast on NASA TV and <http://www.nasa.gov> . For more info, go to <http://www.nasa.gov/lcross> and <http://lcross.arc.nasa.gov/>)

Next were reminders of the current and beautiful appearance of both Mars and Venus in our pre-sunrise sky, with some great images by Larry Owens and Theo.

The next meeting of the CE chapter will be 4 p.m., Saturday, October 17, when the featured speaker will be Dan Schmitt who will give a talk on “Our Home Galaxy: The Milky Way”. Note the slightly advanced start time. For more info on the Charlie Elliott chapter of the AAC, go to [www.ceastronomy.org](http://www.ceastronomy.org)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. Due to the overcast skies, no sky observing activities were held.

Respectfully submitted,

-- Ken Posedly  
Recording Secretary