

Minutes of the December 19, 2009 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The meeting was held at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Visitor Center and called to order at 3:10 p.m. by CE Chapter Director Theo Ramakers. The final meeting attendance was 29 members and guests; poor weather prohibited sky observing after the meeting..

This being a pot-luck dinner / meeting, business was suspended after welcoming remarks by Theo until mealtime was completed. Official proceedings resumed at 4:10 p.m. when our featured speaker, Rich Jakiel, gave his presentation, "Ice Planet Hoth - Err, I mean Earth".

Rich's program covered the various ice ages experienced so far by planet Earth. "For the past couple decades, there has been a lot of discussion over global warming. But technically, Earth is still locked into an ice age -- this is only a warm interglacial period. At least a half-dozen "ice ages" are known -- mostly tens or even hundreds of millions of years. Several have been so intense that nearly the entire planet froze over, giving rise to the "Snowball Earth Theory". At the CE meeting, there was discussion of the main causes of the great ice ages and a look at four of the best studied periods. Rich's presentation can be seen on-line at: <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/PresentationDownloads/IcePlanetHothImeanEarth.ppt>

After a short break and filling in for Jon Wood was Steve Biegler's "Observing 101" segment which included his always striking renditions of planetary positions, meteor showers and cometary phenomena for the next several weeks. Steve's presentation can be seen online at: http://ceastronomy.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/PresentationDownloads/wu_dec_09_04.ppt

Theo's "Current Events in Astronomy & Space Exploration" presentation can be viewed online at <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/PresentationDownloads/CurrentEvents2009-12YE.wmv>

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The next CE chapter meeting will be 3 p.m., Saturday, January 16, when Professor William R Shea, Galileo's Chair from the University of Padua (Italy) presents "The New World of Galileo".

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Poshedly
Recording Secretary