

Minutes of the March 13, 2010 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 4:10 p.m. by CE Chapter Director Theo Ramakers. The final meeting attendance was 31 members and guests; due to poor weather conditions, no sky observing activities were held after the meeting.

This being a pot-luck dinner / meeting, business was suspended after welcoming remarks by Theo until mealtime was completed.

Afterwards, seven members of the Chapter received Night Sky Network Star Awards for their outstanding contributions to the Chapter's outreach program during 2009. The seven topped the list of members who participated during the year in outreach programs in schools, at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and elsewhere. The CE chapter reached out to over 1,100 children and adults and volunteered a total of over 280 hours.

Those individuals receiving the award were: Marie Lott, Debbie Jones, Clevis Jones, Stephen Ramsden, Frank Garner, Theo Ramakers and (posthumously) Jonathan Wood.

The outreach program does not only let individuals share in the views of the universe through the club's scopes, but actually teaches children about astronomy, including the stars and constellations, the size and relative distances in the solar system, craters, how telescopes are made, and how the universe evolves. Thanks to all members who participate in these important events.

It should be noted that our good friend and chapter Observing Director Jon Wood passed away in early January after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in late December. A request is being submitted to the CE management to in some manner have the observing field at Charlie Elliott designated as the Jon Wood Observing Field in his memory.

An e-mail of thanks from Janet Wood, Jons widow, was received by Theo during the meeting:

Dear members,

I would like to thank you all for the warm thoughts, visits, and prayers before and after Jonathans passing. It is a huge comfort to know that he was loved and will be missed by so many. Also, a special thanks to the members who bought Jonathan's scopes and other odds and ends (though they may not have necessarily needed them). It was a big help in hard times and I know they are in good hands. Jonathan would have been grateful as I am now.

Again, thank you all!
Janet Wood

The featured speaker for the evening was Stephen Ramsden whose talk on the Sun covered everything from general information to the most minute details of its chemical composition, how it functions and everything else. Topics ranged from its size when compared with the member planets of the solar system to its size when compared with a number of other stars in our galaxy. Stephen also went into much detail about the Suns inner workings, its atmosphere, its magnetic field, its sunspot cycle, and what its demise will be like and its effect on Earth. (Hint: No more Earth.)

Finally, he covered various methods and types of solar observing, describing the kinds of solar filters and solar telescopes available, and distributed several items for attendees to keep, including special viewing glasses (with built-in solar viewing filters as lenses), a brochure and a CD of solar images.

Video of the program is available for downloading:

- On the CE astronomy website at <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/PresentationDownloads/OurSun.pdf>
- In both PowerPoint and pdf versions at www.charliebates.org

Or you can simply sit back and view it on Youtube:

- [Part One](#) , [Part Two](#) , [Part Three](#) , [Part Four](#) , [Part Five](#)

Member Jim Sobelski followed with two PowerPoint presentations, the first on the construction a homemade Movable Tripod Dolly with caster wheels for easier transport of a tripod-mounted scope, and the second on Jims own progress with his 20-inch, f/5 Dobsonian scope project.

Next was Atlanta Astronomy Club ALCor (Astronomical League Correspondent) Art Zorka, who provided an overview of the AL and its various observing programs; Art also announced presentation of the AL Lunar Club Certificate to member Shaknar.

Theo's February and March Current Events in Astronomy & Space Exploration presentations can be viewed online, by clicking on the following hyperlinks:

([February](#)) and
([March](#))

Steve Bieglers "Observing 101" segment featured the stars and other deep sky objects associated with the constellation of Orion and can be viewed online by [clicking here](#).

The next CE astronomy chapter meeting will be 5 p.m., Saturday, April 17, when we will hold mini astronomy workshops that focus on a number of items related to our hobby of amateur astronomy. Included will be a presentation on the Byers mount for the 16-inch scope, a workshop about imaging and astrophotography, carry cases for telescopes, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Posedly
Recording Secretary