

Meeting Minutes of the August 7, 2010 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The meeting was held at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Visitor's Center and called to order at 5:00 PM by chapter director Theo Ramakers. There were approximately 16 members and guests in attendance.

Theo started the meeting with a few announcements: Our next meeting will be "Dinner and a Movie", September 11, 2010 – this will be a potluck dinner with an astronomy related movie shown during dinner (to be announced). Future presentations: Steve Ramsden will present "If Jupiter was a Star", and Rich Jakiel will present a program in December. Outreach events: Please see the "Alerts" section of our website for the latest events: <http://ceastronomy.org/blog>

The featured speaker was Theo Ramakers with a program called "Building your own Observatory".

Here's an outline of Theo's presentation:

The problems amateur astronomers face

- Setting up and taking down equipment in the dark
- Dew and cold winter months

Solutions

- Mark a location on the driveway
- Pour a concrete footing or install "pavers" at your observing site
- Ultimate solution – build your own observatory

Observatory design goals

- Solid pier
- Easy open roof
- Make it weather and bug proof
- Avoid a building permit
- Self sustained power

Construction

- Easy "roll off roof"
- Minimal closing/opening noise
- Plenty of vent space and insulation
- Batteries/power inverter in special cut-out under floor
- Garage door rails and casters to support the roof
- Roof roll-off extension

Open house

- Several chapter members admired Theo's hard work

Next steps

- Solar panels to charge a 125 amp hour battery from the sun

Please see Theo's entire presentation at (2010-08-07): <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/events>

Theo then presented a few current events: Steve Ramsden, Theo Ramakers and Frank Garner were able to image a solar transit of the International Space Station on July 30th, and received a nice write-up in the Covington newspaper.

The next presentation was "August – Observing 101" by our Observing Supervisor, Steve Phillips.

Here's an outline of Steve's presentation:

Astro Events for August

Featured Objects

Deep Sky Object Catalogues

Robert Trumpler

August Target List

Please see Steve's full presentation at this link (2010-08-07): <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/events>

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

The next CE astronomy chapter meeting will be at 5:00 PM, Saturday, September 11.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Owens (filling in for Recording Secretary Marie Lott)