

## Minutes of the September 11, 2010 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The quarterly potluck dinner meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on September 11, 2010 at the CE Wildlife Visitor Center, beginning at approximately 5:20 PM with socializing and dinner. While we were enjoying dinner, moon phase calendars were distributed to everyone present, compliments of Charles Turner. Ken Poshedly also handed out copies of the ALPO Journal's summer 2010 issue. The final meeting attendance was 27 members and guests.

The evening's program was "Dinner and a Movie". While dining we were treated to a viewing of NASA's movie "Passport to Pluto" about the New Horizons mission to Pluto-Charon and beyond. The flyby of Pluto will occur in July of 2015 and will give football-field resolution of Pluto's surface. The movie chronicled the discovery of Pluto in 1930, the launch of the New Horizons spacecraft in 2006, and the expected rendezvous with Pluto and its moons in 2015.

After the movie, chapter director Theo Ramakers announced that there will be five outreach events in September, including "International Observe the Moon" night on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Covington library. See the chapter calendar at <http://ceastronomy.org> for details. Theo congratulated Carlos Flores and Tim Geib for their beautiful new images of M8. Tim won the Meade DSI challenge in July with his image of the Lagoon, currently on the home page of the chapter web site.

Theo reported that two ISS transits were captured last month and explained some of the planning involved in catching the transit. He showed a slide with outlines of the differing areas of the moon captured by different scope and focal reducer setups (80 mm refractor, a C11 and an Antares FR). There will be two more ISS transits coming up this month, one solar and the other lunar.

Steven Philips, Observing Supervisor, presented "Observing 101", highlighting current sun, moon and planet rise set times as well as observing targets and challenges. The inner planets are now low in the evening sky; the outer planets are rising in the east soon after sunset. Steven reported that a transit of Jupiter's Great Red Spot (GRS) would occur that evening at 10:14 PM but unfortunately the evening's thunderstorms would probably prevent observation. Steven recommended trying a light green, blue or violet filter to view the GRS later in the week. Steven also handed out helpful September Sky Maps from <http://skymaps.com/downloads.html>. In addition to the astro events listed on the Sky Maps calendar, Steven mentioned that on September 24<sup>th</sup>, the four Galileans moons will be visible all on one side of Jupiter. He also encouraged members to look for Comet 103P/Hartley, possibly brightening to mag 5. In October it will travel through Cassiopeia, Perseus & Gemini.

Beginner's Target List for September: M31, M13, M15, M22, M55, M11, M25, M27, M57, Herschel's Garnet Star (Mu Cephei / SAC Red 77 Carbon Star).

Intermediate/Advanced NGC Target List for September: NGC 7331, 185, 6712, 6642, 6629, 7209, 7243, 7000, 7662 and 650/651 (M76, the Little Dumbell).

Art Zorka spoke about the Astronomical League and its observing programs. They are a good way to learn the sky and to get more familiar with your equipment. See <http://www.astroleague.org/observing> or talk to Art for more information.

Theo announced that there will be a Saturday work session soon to help move the safety zone signs to their correct locations around the observing field. The observing field is being renamed in memory of Jon Wood. Steven Phillips will collect donations at the next meeting for a memorial sign for the field. Alesia Rast gave club members advice about observing amidst the wildlife& hunters at Charlie Elliott. Alesia suggested playing a radio at night while out observing to help deter roaming coyotes and other animals. Wild hogs are active again and it was recommended to get into your car if hogs approach you on the observing field. Also, there should be no large game hunting at night with firearms, so if shots are heard at night, call 911 and ask them to send a DNR game ranger or sheriff to check for possible poachers.

The next meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter will be held October 2, 2010 at 4 PM. Stephen Ramsden will give a talk entitled "Binaries and Conspiracies" (speculations on Jupiter as a binary to our sun)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 PM. There was no observing after the meeting due to passing thunderstorms.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott  
Recording Secretary