

Minutes of the October 2, 2010 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The October meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at the CE Wildlife Visitor Center, beginning at approximately 4:15 PM. Meeting attendance grew from 22 members and guests at the start to over 50 at the end due to students and parents visiting from George Walton Academy.

Suki Owens brought out a surprise birthday cake and the club sang "Happy Birthday" to Larry's dad, Angus Owens, who was celebrating his 92nd birthday. [Sadly, Angus died ten days later. Our condolences go out to Larry, Suki & family. Angus will be greatly missed.]



Chapter director Theo Ramakers announced that in the past month, our chapter held seven outreach events. Kudos go to Frank Garner, Steve Bieger, Phil Sacco, Art Zorka and Theo Ramakers for assisting with these events. In the next month nine more outreach events are scheduled. See the CE chapter calendar at <http://ceastronomy.org> for details.

Theo announced that the PSSG begins tomorrow. Many of our members will be attending. The 2011 Charlie Elliott Chapter meeting schedule has been submitted to the CE Wildlife Center for approval. Proposed meeting dates for 2011 are: January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, July 30, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 5, and December 17.

At 4:40 PM, Stephen Ramsden presented the evening's program, "Binaries & Conspiracies in Fact and Fiction", a program about our sun, Jupiter & binary stars.

Steven Philips, Observing Supervisor, wound up the meeting with "Observing 101", a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, observing targets and challenges. Venus and Mars are currently setting before 9 PM, but Jupiter, Uranus & Neptune are good to observe this month as they rise just before sunset and set shortly before dawn. In November, Venus and Saturn return to the morning sky. Comet 103P/Hartley will be peaking in October as it passes down the side of Cassiopeia and the Double Cluster in Perseus. On Oct. 31st, moons Ganymede and Europa will transit Jupiter at 1:35 AM. Steven pointed out that the Jovian moon Ganymede is bigger than Mercury and is more than twice as big as Pluto. The Orionid meteor showers peaks October 21st, but will likely be hard to see due to the full moon. October star charts from <http://skymaps.com> were distributed to our visiting students.

Beginner/Small Telescope/Binocular Target List for October: M31 (Andromeda Galaxy); Globular Clusters M2, M12, M13, M15; Open Clusters M11, M39; the Perseus Double Cluster (NGC 869/884); Nebulas M8 (the Lagoon), M17 (the Swan); and asterism Cr399 (the Coathanger).

Intermediate/Advanced Target List for October: NGC 185, 205 (=M110), 6629, 6712, 6934, 7209, 7008, 7009 (the "Saturn Nebula") and NGC 6913 (M29, the "Cooling Tower" cluster).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:50 PM. Many members and guests went to the Jon Wood Field to set up telescopes for observing.

The next meeting of the Charlie Elliott chapter will be November 6, 2010 at 4 PM. Phil Sacco will be presenting "The Howl-eeen Hunt list: 13 of the Unluckiest Heavenly Objects".

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott
Recording Secretary