

Minutes of the November 6, 2010 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The November meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, November 6, 2010 at the CE Wildlife Visitor Center at 4 PM. Attending were 36 members and 13 guests from the Atlanta Outdoor Club. A dozen Georgia Perimeter College students and teachers joined in afterwards for observing on the field.

Art Zorka presented two Astronomical League Outreach awards (Outreach and Stellar levels) to Steve Bieger for his extensive volunteer work at the Fernbank Planetarium. Art recommended visiting www.astroleague.org/observing to learn more about Astronomical League's many observing programs.

Phil Sacco was the featured speaker. Dressed in a friar's robe, Phil performed magic card tricks before presenting a highly entertaining talk entitled "Howl-een Hunt". His talk highlighted naked eye observing treasures Job's Coffin, Cetus the Sea Monster, Draco, the False Cross, the Horse & Rider, the Sickle, Cerberus the Hell Hound, asterisms by Father Hell, the Demon Star plus 13 unlucky telescopic objects in the autumn sky. Phil's presentation can be found online at <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/events> in the 2010-11-06 Chapter Meeting section.

Chapter director Theo Ramakers announced that the Charlie Elliott chapter is ranked #11 for outreach events on the Night Sky Network (<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>). Theo complimented chapter member Jimmy Choy and Tim Geib on some outstanding images made this past month.

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 right after sunset. Jupiter & Uranus set before dawn as Saturn & Venus are rising. Comet 103P/Hartley can be found this month between Sirius and Procyon. Asteroid Hebe can be found in Cetus the Whale. The Leonid meteor shower peaks November 17th. On December 2nd there will be a nice grouping of Venus, the crescent moon, Spica & Saturn, all within 10° of one another in the southeast before sunrise.

Beginner/Small Telescope/Binocular Target List for November: M31 (Andromeda Galaxy), M33 (Pinwheel Galaxy), NGC 253 (Sculptor Galaxy); Globular Clusters M2, M15, M30; Open Clusters M34, the Perseus Double Cluster (NGC 869/884), M45 (the Pleiades); Nebulas M27 (Dumbbell Nebula), M57 (Ring Nebula).

Intermediate/Advanced Target List for November: Galaxies M110, NGC 6946 & 7331; Globulars NGC 6934 and 7006; Open Clusters NGC 6866, 6882, 6885, 6910; Nebulas NGC 6543 (Cat's Eye) and 7662 (Blue Snowball).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM followed by an observing session on Jon Wood Field.

The next meeting of the Charlie Elliott chapter will be December 4, 2010 at 3 PM. This will be the annual holiday potluck dinner meeting, so bring your favorite dish to share. Rich Jakiel will be the featured speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott
Recording Secretary