

Minutes of the February 5, 2011 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The February meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, February 5, 2011 in the CEWC Visitor Center at 3 PM. Twenty nine people were in attendance.

Chapter director Theo Ramakers shared recent news articles about the chapter which were published in two local papers, the Rockdale Citizen and the Covington News. Theo then gave outreach pins and award certificates from the Night Sky Network to eight members of the chapter. Recipients of these awards for 2011 were Frank Garner, Art Zorka, Theo Ramakers, Alan Bolton, Marie Lott, Stephen Ramsden, Steven Phillips & Steve Bieger.

Theo was the featured speaker this month, presenting "Imaging the Unusual". His talk gave tips and examples of how to take photos of special celestial events. Theo discussed taking images of Jovian moon occultations and eclipses, the changing views of Saturn's rings as the planet tilts, and object impacts on Jupiter. He also shared stories of capturing images of comets, rocket fuel dumps, artificial satellite trails, Iridium flares, and SST-ISS-ATV close ups and transits across the sun, moon & Venus. Theo's presentation, along with his movie of "Current Events in Astronomy and Space Exploration", can be viewed online by clicking on the "Past Events" tab of the club web site at <http://www.ceastronomy.org>. Tim Geib's beautiful image of NGC 253 (the Sculptor Galaxy) is currently featured on the home page of the web site.

Steven Philips, Observing Supervisor, gave the monthly "Observing 101" talk, a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, observing targets and challenges. In February, Jupiter sets before 10 PM, Saturn rises after midnight and Venus rises before dawn. There will be a nice conjunction of February 28th of Venus and the Moon. Asteroid Iris will cross the area of Cancer this month.

Small Telescope/Binocular Target List for February: M31 (Andromeda Galaxy) & nearby M110, M33 (Pinwheel Galaxy); Supernova remnant M1 (the Crab Nebula); Diffuse Nebula M42 (Orion Nebula); Open Clusters M34-38, M45 (the Pleiades) and NGC457 (known as the Owl, ET or Kachina Doll cluster - the two brightest stars, Phi-1 & Phi-2 Cass, can be imagined as the eyes).

Steven announced that the club has \$361 in the Jon Wood Fund. This money will be used to purchase a commemorative sign for the observing field, which is being renamed in Jon's memory. The chapter will have a Saturday work day to move the Safety Zone signs to their correct positions to protect the observing field from hunters.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM. There was no observing after the meeting due to high humidity & a soggy field.

The next meeting of the chapter will be on March 5, 2011 at 4 PM in the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center's Visitor Center. The meeting will be "Dinner and a Movie" featuring National Geographic's "Journey to the Edge of the Universe". Bring your favorite potluck dish to share and enjoy a grand tour of the cosmos!

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott
Recording Secretary