

## Minutes of the January 8, 2011 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The January meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, January 8, 2011 in the Wildlife Center's Shepherd Room at 3 PM. Fifty seven people were in attendance, including a number of physics students visiting from Monroe Area High School.

Chapter director Theo Ramakers started off the meeting by welcoming Jim Soboleski back from service in Afghanistan. Theo also welcomed the students from Monroe to our meeting and immediately involved them in a demonstration of the Earth's distance from the sun. Theo congratulated the chapter on sponsoring over 50 outreach events in 2010. See the CE chapter calendar at <http://ceastronomy.org> for details of upcoming events. Contact Theo if you'd like to help.

Guest speaker Anita Westlake, president and co-founder of the Meteorite Association of Georgia, gave a talk about the types of meteorites and how to do simple tests to determine if a found object is a meteorite or a "meteor-wrong". Anita had two tables full of meteorites on display as well as a few pieces for sale.

Theo had prepared two multimedia shows of current events in astronomy and our local club but technical difficulties with the conference center's equipment prevented their projection. Theo's movie of recent images made by our members is now posted on the chapter's web. Go to <http://bit.ly/eAZAPz> to see Jimmy Choy's Orion Nebula and Andromeda Galaxy, Tim Geib's first solar image with his new H-alpha scope, the recent lunar eclipse as photographed by Clevis Jones and Larry Owens, and Theo's CaK solar flare movie. Also in the video is the same flare captured by the SDO, French photographer Thierry Legault's fantastic shot of the ISS transit over the eclipsed sun, Brian Combs' recent images of the return of Jupiter's SEB and Anthony Wesley's capture of the storm on Saturn. Theo also put together a multimedia clip of the chapter's Images of the Month for 2010, available for viewing at <http://bit.ly/gidEga>. All of the featured images were made by chapter members.

Next, Art Zorka presented all three levels of Astronomical League Outreach awards (requiring over 100 volunteer hours) to Theo Ramakers & Frank Garner. Well done!

Steven Philips, Observing Supervisor, followed with "Observing 101", a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, observing targets and challenges. January will see the final conjunction of Jupiter & Uranus. Saturn rises after midnight and Venus rises before dawn. Asteroid 17 Fides will be passing though the Pleiades and comet 103P/Hartley is in Canis Major this month.

Small Telescope/Binocular Target List for January: M31 (Andromeda Galaxy), M33 (Pinwheel Galaxy); Supernova remnant M1 (the Crab Nebula); Diffuse Nebula M42 (Orion Nebula); Open Clusters M34, M35, M36, M37, M38, and M45 (the Pleiades); and variable star Mira.

Two telescopes were given away at the end of the meeting. Lunt Solar Systems and Stephen Ramsden's "Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project" donated a Meade ETX60 to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center's Outdoor Discovery School and an 8 inch Newtonian to Monroe Area High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM followed by observing on the field. The next meeting of the chapter will be February 5, 2011 at 3 PM in the Charlie Elliott Visitor Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott  
Recording Secretary