

Minutes of the July 30, 2011 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The July 30th meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held in the CEWC Visitor Center in Mansfield, GA at 5 PM with twenty two people in attendance.

Rich Jakiel gave the evening's feature presentation "Imaging on a Budget", an informative and inspiring survey of DSLR imaging with an 8" Newtonian. His talk is posted online on the CE web site at <http://bit.ly/Jakiel73011>.

Observing supervisor Steven Philips presented "Observing 101", a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, observing targets and challenges. In August, Saturn is low in the West in the early evening. By the end of August Venus will be hidden in the glare of the sun. Jupiter rises before midnight and is best viewed in the South before dawn; Mars can also be found well up in the East in the pre-dawn skies. The August lunar libration offers the opportunity to view the maria on the extreme edges of the lunar nearside: Australe, Orientale, Marginis and Smythii. Comet Garradd C/2009 P1 is brightening and is moving into the constellation Sagitta. Asteroid Vesta can be caught travelling through Capricornus.

Small Telescope/Binocular Target List for August:

Globular clusters M10, M12, M13 (Hercules) & 92; planetary nebulas M 27 (Dumbbell) & M57 (Ring); open clusters NGC457 (Owl/ET), M11 (Wild Duck), M24 (Small Sgr Star Cloud) & M25; double stars gold/blue Albeirio (β Cygnus) & red/yellow Rasalgethi (α Hercules).

The featured object for the month is the nebula NGC 6826 – The Blinking Planetary.

In a telescope this nebula appears neon green with a central bright star. The brightness of the central star overwhelms the eye when viewed directly, obscuring the surrounding nebula. When an observer looks from side to side, the outer nebula appears to "blink" in and out of visual perception. Astro-images show two reddish symmetrically-positioned blobs called "FLIERs" (Fast Low-Ionization Emission Regions).



The Blinking Nebula

from Wikipedia Commons

Despite the clouds, 16 individuals made it with 7 scopes and a few binoculars to the observing field.

The next meeting of the chapter will be Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 5 PM in the Charlie Elliott Visitor Center. Dr. Richard Schumde will present a talk entitled "Jupiter Tonight".

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott

Recording Secretary