

Minutes of the June 4, 2011 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The June meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, June 4, 2011 in the Visitor center at 5 PM. This was the quarterly potluck dinner, with twenty two people were in attendance.

Outreach coordinator Theo Ramakers announced that the chapter sponsored eight community astronomy events in May and has several major events planned for June. See the chapter calendar for details at www.ceastronomy.org. Let Theo know if you can help out with any of the upcoming outreach events.

Elections were held in May for all chapter offices with the exception of director. Ken Poshedly agreed to fill the open position of chapter director and was elected unanimously.

Marie Lott gave the evening's talk, "Stargazers, Starfarers and Kepler", a Night Sky Network presentation about the Kepler Mission and the search for exoplanets.

Steven Philips, Observing Supervisor, presented "Observing 101", a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, observing targets and challenges. In June Saturn will be visible in the evenings and Jupiter, Mars, and Venus will rise before sunrise. For most of June, Saturn will be within a degree of the bright double star Porrima (Gamma Virginis). June 19-22 the Moon will be near the Pleiades, and on June 28 the crescent Moon will be below Mars & the Pleiades.

Small Telescope/Binocular Target List for June: Galaxies M51 (Whirlpool), M63 (Sunflower), M64 (Black Eye), M101 (Pinwheel) and M104 (Sombrero); globular clusters M3, M5 & M13; double stars Porrima & Cor Caroli; and carbon star SS Virginis.

The featured object for the month is NGC 6543, the Cat's Eye Nebula, a spectacular planetary nebula in Draco. Structurally it is one of the most complex nebulae known, with gas arches, knots & bubbles. In the center of the nebula is a bright hot star which is thought to have lost its outer envelope about 1000 years ago. The nebula was discovered by William Herschel on February 16, 1786. Its approximate distance is 3300 light years and it was the 1st planetary nebula to be observed with a spectroscope (by William Huggins on August 29, 1864).



**Cat's Eye Nebula
(Hubble Space Telescope)**

A large number of scopes were set up on Jon Wood field after the meeting for an enjoyable evening of observing.

The next meeting of the chapter will be Saturday, July 2, 2011 at 5 PM in the Charlie Elliott Visitor Center. Ken Poshedly will present a talk about the Moon, its origins and topography. Larry Owens will speak briefly on lunar photography. Immediately following the close of the meeting will be the dedication of a new sign at our observing field, designating it as the "Jon Wood Astronomy Field". Weather-permitting, all are invited to stay afterwards for observing.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott
Recording Secretary