

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

The March meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, March 5, 2011 in the Visitor center at 4 PM. Twenty four adults and 6 children attended. This meeting was our quarterly potluck "Dinner and a Movie".

Chapter director Theo announced that the chapter sponsored nine community astronomy events in February, reaching over 850 children. At least six public outreach events will be held in March See the CE chapter calendar at <http://ceastronomy.org> for details. Contact Theo if able to help.

The feature presentation for the evening was the National Geographic movie, "Journey to the Edge of the Universe".

Steven Philips, Observing Supervisor, presented "Observing 101", a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, observing targets and challenges. In March Mercury & Jupiter set shortly after sunset. Saturn rises around 9 PM and will be best after midnight; Pluto rises about 3 AM in Sagittarius; Venus rises about 5 AM. On April 1st there will be a nice pairing of Venus near the crescent moon at dawn.

Small Telescope/Binocular Target List for January: Galaxies M81 (Bode's Galaxy), M82 (Cigar Galaxy) & NGC 2403; Supernova Remnant M1 (the Crab Nebula); Diffuse Nebula M42 (Orion Nebula); Open Clusters M34, M35, M36, M37, M38, M45 (the Pleiades); and Planetary Nebula NGC 2392 (Eskimo Nebula).

Featured object: Emissions/Reflection Nebula NGC 1931 in Auriga near M36, often referred to as a miniature version of the Orion Nebula or a false comet. Approximate distance=7,000 light years; apparent magnitude=10; size = 3'.

There was no observing after the meeting due to rain. The next meeting of the chapter will be Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 5 PM in the Charlie Elliott Visitor Center. Jim Soboleski will present a talk about supernovae.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott
Recording Secretary