

Minutes of the August 18, 2012 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

The August 18th meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held in CEWC Conference Center, Building “B”, in Mansfield, GA at 5 PM with twenty people in attendance.

Outreach coordinator Theo Ramakers reported that the chapter’s astronomy outreach has been quite active this summer and several events have already been booked for the new school year. Members are needed to help out when able. Outreach dates are on the chapter calendar at <http://ceastronomy.org>.

Club member Steve Siedentop showed off his most recent project, the recent hypertuning of his LX75 mount by Ed Thomas at Deep Space Products. He also had a belt driven conversion kit installed to eliminate backlash. Steve also explained his set up which allows the Sky Safari app to control his mount via WiFi.



Demo of interactive student activity from the NSN solar toolkit. Photo by Larry Owens

Theo Ramakers showed a movie he made from the NASA feed of the Curiosity launch and its landing on Mars. He also gave a demo of the latest toolkit from the Night Sky Network, “Our Magnetic Sun” and led some fun activities from the kit (see photo). These activities will be used at student outreach events.

Observing supervisor John Towne gave the observing report “What’s Up”, a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, and observing targets for the coming month.

Current Observing Targets

Object	Type	Mag	Constellation
NGC 6231	Cluster w/ Nebulosity	2.6	Scorpius
M6 (Butterfly Cluster)	Open Cluster	4.2	Scorpius
M7	Open Cluster	3.3	Scorpius
M8 (Lagoon)	Nebula	5.8	Sagittarius
M20 (Trifid)	Nebula	6.3	Sagittarius
M22	Globular Cluster	5.1	Sagittarius
M25	Open Cluster	4.6	Sagittarius
M16 (Eagle)	Nebula	6	Above Sagittarius
M11 (Wild Duck)	Open Cluster	5.8	Scutum
NGC 869 /884	Double Cluster	4	Perseus, 3° below Cassiopeia
M31	Galaxy	3.5	Andromeda
NGC 281	Cluster w/ Nebulosity	7	Cassiopeia
IC1396	Cluster w/ Nebulosity	3.5	Cepheus
NGC 7160	Open Cluster	6.1	Cepheus
M39	Open Cluster	4.6	Cygnus, 2° below Deneb
Challenge object: NGC 6905	Blue Flash Nebula	12	Delphinus

The next meeting of the chapter will feature “Dinner and a Movie”, our quarterly potluck on Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 5 PM. We’ll be showing a movie during dinner – the science fiction classic “Forbidden Planet”. Our movie will be followed by a short presentation “This Month’s Sky” by John Towne and observing on the field, weather permitting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott

CE Recording Secretary