

Minutes of the January 12, 2013 Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC

“Telescopes 101”

The January 12th 2013 meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held in the CEWC Conference Center in Mansfield, GA at 3 PM with 18 adults and 5 youth in attendance.

Theo Ramakers highlighted the chapter’s public outreach events in 2012 – there were 83 events in total! Theo, Frank Garner and Steve Siedentop were the top three contributors to outreach in 2012 and will receive pins from the Night Sky Network.

The featured presentation for the meeting was “Telescopes 101”. Many chapter members brought different types of telescopes and mounts to the meeting for a lively Show and Tell. Guests were treated to demonstration of a large refractor with guide scope on a German equatorial mount, an SCT, a Newtonian reflector, a Mak and a dedicated H-alpha solar refractor. In addition to the GEM mount, several variations of Alt-Az mounts were present – an iOptron MiniTower mount, a Celestron SLT mount a Meade fork mount and a Dobsonian mount were all demonstrated. We were also treated to a demo of mounted binoculars, the new Vixen Polaris Star Tracker mount for DSLR astrophotography and a Herschel Wedge for solar viewing with a refractor. Dan Schmitt finished out the Show and Tell session with a lovely antique British Broadhurst collapsing telescope in a leather case.

After the demos, Larry Owens took a few minutes to review the principles of drift alignment. Theo then made a surprise presentation to Jeff Rebitzke of a “Comet Chef” hat and apron for his famous “cooking up a comet” outreach activity. John Towne finished up the meeting with his monthly “What’s Up” slideshow highlighting the locations of our favorite planets and other selected observing targets for the coming month. John’s challenge object for the month is the Flying Ghost Galaxy, NGC 520,, near the Pisces/Cetus boundary.

Some intrepid members went to the field afterward for observing between the clouds and were able to help one of our young visitors to use her new scope from Santa for the first time.

The next chapter meeting will be at 4 PM on Saturday February 9th in the CE Conference Center. The exact room location will be assigned shortly before the meeting, so please check the web site, ceastronomy.org, for more details.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott,
Secretary



Photos by Larry Owens