

Minutes of the December 2013 Meeting of Charlie Elliott Astronomy

The December meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held in Charlie Elliott's Campbell Aquatic Activities Building on Murder Creek Church Road in Mansfield, GA on 12/07/13 at 3:30 PM with 30 people in attendance. This was our quarterly potluck meeting.

Director Steve Siedentop began the meeting with a welcome and announcements.

Theo Ramakers gave the Outreach Report and thanked all who gave their time this year to help out. The chapter held approximately 80 public events in 2013. Volunteers were reminded to enter their hours and mileage on the NSN web site at <http://bit.ly/NSN-CEA>. Theo reported that 2014-2015 will be a great year for observing Jupiter due to the orbital alignment of its moons. Beginning in August 2014 "Mutual Phenomena" of the Jovian moons will occur due to Jupiter's equator and the orbits of its four biggest moons all lining up edge-on to the Sun and Earth. Such an alignment (& the resulting mutual moon eclipses & occultations) only occurs every six years. A [table of these events](#) is posted on the CE web site.

Ken Poshedly gave a brief report on ALPO's current comet data collection efforts and urged imagers to submit comet images along with all relevant observing information to Carl Hergenrother of ALPO's Comet Section <chergen@lpl.arizona.edu>.

Observing supervisor John Towne was unable to attend, but Steve Siedentop presented [the December "What's Up" talk](#) on his behalf. The featured constellation for the month is Auriga (with Capella, M36, M37, M38 & IC405) and the featured lunar targets are the rays of Tycho and the bays Sinus Iridium, Medii, and Roris. Don't forget to enjoy the Moon/Pleiades conjunction (12/14), the Winter Solstice (12/21), the Geminid meteor shower, and bright Venus this month. The telescopic observing challenge for December is Barnard's Loop in Orion.

After dinner, the First Annual Holiday Raffle was held. Thanks to several very generous vendors & club members there was an impressive array of gifts. The lucky recipients were: Ranger Phil from Hard Labor Creek and Patty C. from the AOC ("Star Guy" jackets), Ken Poshedly (2-booklet set of Messier object finder charts by Brent Watson), Van Macatee (2014 RASC handbook), Phil Haines (laminated moon map), HLC Ranger Emma (Lens Pen), Dominick Giacobbe via Marilyn Edwards (Sue French's *Celestial Wonders*), Jack Fitzmier via Tim Geib (Sky Atlas 2000), Maria Zorka via Tim Lott (12x50 binoculars), Dave Lumpkin (Orion 9mm long eye relief eyepiece), AOC's Kristen via Kyle Cavin (Orion 3" refractor & tripod bundle), and Frank Garner (Explore Scientific AR102 refractor).

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday January 4, 2014 at 3:30 PM. This will be held back in one of our regular meeting rooms in the Charlie Elliott Conference Center. Stephen Ramsden of the Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project will be the guest speaker. There will public observing after the meeting, weather permitting. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lott

