

## Minutes of the March 2014 Meeting of Charlie Elliott Astronomy

by Theo Ramakers & Marie Lott

59 Members and guests attended a great potluck dinner meeting on March 1, 2014 in the Campbell Building at Charlie Elliott. Steve Siedentop welcomed everyone and began the meeting with a mention that March is membership renewal month and encouraged those who weren't members to consider joining. Membership forms are [online](#). Current members need only to send in their dues payment (see instructions on the form) or may bring a check to the next meeting.

Theo Ramakers gave a short presentation to remind recent members who Jon Wood was, how he inspired so many, and how he inspired the large outreach efforts in the Atlanta area. The Charlie Elliott observing field was named in his memory. Theo showed photos of the field's brand new telescope building which was just installed last month after months of planning and preparation. Ken Poshedly followed with a review of the ALPO organization. A repeat presentation of the "Big-O" 16" telescope reconstruction project was given by Larry Owens. Many thanks to Larry for getting this scope back in use for our CEA members and visitors. It was a real labor of love involving thousands of hours of his work. After a break for dinner, Theo made the annual NSN award presentation for those who participated in CEA's outreach in 2013 (see list of recipients below). Theo announced the most recent donation to CEA by Larry Owens, a 10" Meade LX50. This scope will come in very handy in our outreach at the field. CEA's Director, Jack Fitzmier gave a very brief review of Jim Sowell's book "The Naked Eye Sky" which was donated by the Camera Bug. Theo Ramakers was the lucky recipient of the book. John Towne followed with his always interesting and well prepared "[What's Up](#)" for March. After the meeting everyone went to the Jon Wood Field for the dedication ceremony of the new CEA Scope Building and the revealing of the two 16" scopes. Over 100 people showed up at the observing field. Members and guests were awed by the crisp images the Big-O scope gave of Jupiter and M42 and Larry and Theo made a "First Light" image with the scope at the Jon Wood Field.



Photo by Steve Siedentop

## NASA/NSN Award Presentation by Theo Ramakers

In 2013, 20 Members participated in CEA's outreach and our statistics are great:

- Participating members 20
- Total events 80
- Public facing members 226
- Volunteer hours 1,181
- Miles driven to events 13,818
- Individuals reached 18,350

The following is a list of individuals who earned their NASA/NSN Kepler Dark Field Award Pin and the number of events each member logged. One needs to participate in at least 5 events to qualify for the award and pin:

Dominick Giacobbe 5  
Marilyn Edwards 5  
Jon Edwards 6  
Jack Fitzmier 6  
Tim Lott 6  
Jim Lancaster 8

John Towne 16  
Marie Lott 23  
Steve Siedentop 23  
Frank Garner 56  
Theo Ramakers 67

The following members received certificates for participating in outreach with less than 5 events: Bob Jacoby, Jeff Rebitzke, Steve Phillips, Kyle Cavin, Bruce Wengryn, Valerie and David Whalen, and Annette and Pierre Michel.

Special recognition went to Maria Zorka, Morgan Cline and Paul Blackney for their generous donations to our chapter and our outreach program in 2013.

Thanks to everyone who helped in bringing astronomy a little closer to so many people.

