

September Meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter
Atlanta Astronomy Club
September 20, 2014
Prepared by Van Macatee – Chapter Secretary

The September meeting conveyed at 6:00 PM EDT at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife in the Campbell Aquatic Activities Building. Over 50 members and guests were in attendance. This was our quarterly Pot Luck dinner.

Steve Siedentop, Chapter Director, opened the meeting and after opening remarks, adjourned us to fill our plates and enjoy the cornucopia of food graciously brought by those in attendance. No one left hungry, that's for sure!

Following our meal, John Towne, Observing Supervisor, delivered the 'What's up' presentation featuring the Constellation Pegasus. John also discussed upcoming events including a Mars/ Comet Singing Spring Comet (C 2013 A1) conjunction on 10/19, the total Lunar eclipse on 10/8 as well as the Peach State Star Gaze at the Deerlick Astronomy Village set for 10/19-26 (<http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/PSSG/>). John also introduce the Image of the Month, M16 by Van Macatee. John concluded his remarks by encouraging all in attendance to start an observing program sponsored by the Astronomical League as they are a great way to learn the night skies – an earn awards to boot! (<http://www.astroleague.org/observing.html>).

Up next was Jack Fitzmier, Chapter Outreach Grand Pooh Bah, for a fun and interesting book review of The Year Round Messier Marathon Field Guide by H.C Pennington (<http://www.amazon.com/Year-Round-Messier-Marathon-Field-Guide/dp/0943396549>). The book wonderfully describes the classic Messier list and provides informative background on Charles Messier and how the famous list came to be. The book was raffled off and won by Ken Poshedly's daughter, Evette Poshedly.

Ken Poshedly then briefed the room on the benefits of membership and participation in the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO). (<http://alpo-astronomy.org/index.htm>)

The meetings keynote speaker was Elgin Leary who delivered a great presentation titled The Science of Galaxies. Elgin covered everything from Star formation, temperature, make-up, age and how stars Super Nova spreading the seeds of new material around galaxies. He also reviewed the different types of galaxies as well as the make-up of the

'Local Group' – the Galaxies in our neighborhood including the Milky Way, Andromeda and other smaller Galaxies.

Presentation downloads can be found on the CE Astronomy web site. (<http://ceastronomy.org>).

Steve then adjourned the meeting and invited all to move the Jon Wood Astronomy field for some star gazing. More that 100 folks and over 30 telescopes were present including kids and teachers from Newton and Stone Mountain middle schools. The night was cool and beautiful and a great time for all.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18th at 5:00 PM.