

Charlie Elliott Astronomy

Minutes of the Meeting on 2014-10-18

Steve Siedentop (director) and Van Macatee (secretary) were unable to attend the meeting, so John Towne presided.

John called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. and started with his monthly presentation. "This Month's Sky for October/November"

John presented Mark Woolridge image of M27, which was this month's image of the month. Congrats to Mark. John continued with the program and here some of the items he covered:

Mars and Uranus are visible this month all night.

The Zodiacal lights are visible right before sun-rise from 10/20 till 11/3.

Comet Siding springs will pass Mars at the small distance of 80,000 miles on 10/19/2014, and not to forget the partial solar eclipse which is visible from Atlanta just before sun set on 10/23/2014.

John did point out that M31 is real big at an arc size of 6x the full moon. John's observing challenge for this month is IC4997 with the mention that the challenge is not the star, but to see the nebula.

The next meeting is November 22nd.

Theo mentioned that this month the series of Jovian Moon/Eclipses visible from the Atlanta area will start appearing. A pdf with the event details can be downloaded from the CEA Observing webpage.

Then it went on to the feature presentation and John introduced Dr. Bram Boroson, Assistant Professor of Physics at Clayton State University for his presentation of X-ray astronomy.

Dr. Boroson gave a very interesting discussion about the coming of age of X-ray observations starting with the Moon program when the observations were made using three Geiger counters, up to the use of sophisticated instruments used on the Chandra X ray telescope. The discussion also covered the development of different models to better understand and interpret the differences between neutron pulsars and black holes. A different, but interesting discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. for observing at the Jon Wood Field.

Respectfully submitted by:

Theo Ramakers