

CHARLIE ELLIOTT CHAPTER OF THE ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB

MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 12, 2015

The December monthly meeting for the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on 12/12/15 in the Campbell Aquatic Building at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management property in Mansfield, Georgia. There were twenty-five members and guests in attendance. This meeting was a quarterly potluck dinner event, and we enjoyed several dishes donated by members.

Jack Fitzmier, Chapter Director, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Dan Thoman, Outreach Coordinator, mentioned several upcoming dates for outreach events, and asked for volunteers to please RSVP on the NSN website. If you would like to help out with any of these events, please be sure to note that on the events calendar.

Marie Lott, Program Chair, gave a rundown of the speakers for the next few meetings. Jack Fitzmier presented one Astronomical League program pin and certificate for completion of the Hydrogen Alpha Observing Program to David Whalen.

Van Macatee, Co-Chair for the Astrophotography Committee, gave a summary of the photography workshop that will begin after the meeting. He is hosting a series of photography workshops each meeting on the Jon Wood Observing Field. This month's workshop will be about polar alignment for equatorial mounts. Steve Siedentop also mentioned a smartphone app called "Theodolite" that will assist in locating true magnetic north. Tim Geib also mentioned the app "Scope Help" which can assist with finding true north as well. This month's astrophotography targets are: Beginners – M45, the Pleiades cluster in Taurus, and Advanced – IC405, the Flaming Star nebula in Auriga.

David Whalen, Observing Director, treated us to another energetic "All of the Above", which gives a run-down of what you can expect to see in the sky in the coming weeks. It included current weather conditions for the Jon Wood Astronomy Field, relative location of each of the planets, along with the sun and moon, and each of their respective rise and set times. He included H-

alpha photos of the Sun as of 12/12/15. Also discussed were several deep-sky targets in the categories of "Relaxing", "Intriguing", "Taxing" and a Challenge Object. The full list of targets for the month of December is available on the website.

After David's talk, we enjoyed a holiday gift swap. Members brought wrapped astronomical related gifts to trade. After selecting your gift, you could either keep it or trade with someone else who had previously opened a gift. Great fun was had chasing a metal case with pluck foam as the sought after gift!

After the meeting, Van Macatee also gave the second in his series of photography workshops, complete with an equatorially mounted scope, and a globe for visual reference of our goal of correct polar alignment. He then collected images of the Pleiades cluster to illustrate tracking after good alignment. Attendance on the observing field was approximately 20 members and guests.

Upcoming Events:

CE Meeting: January 9th 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Center Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Valorie Whalen

Recording Secretary, Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club