

CHARLIE ELLIOTT CHAPTER OF THE ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 7, 2016

The May monthly meeting for the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on 5/7/16 in Building B at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management property in Mansfield, Georgia.

Jack Fitzmier, Chapter Director, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were twenty-nine (29) members and guests in attendance. Jack presented an Astronomical League award certificate and pin to David Whalen for his completion of the Universe Sampler Program. Also discussed was the upcoming May 9th transit of Mercury across the sun.

The annual elections were held at the May meeting. A slate of officers for the 2016/2017 club year was presented as follows:

Director: Tim Geib

Observing Director: David Whalen

Recording Secretary: Brian Tucker

Jack called for further nominations for the board from the floor. No names were submitted. A vote was called for, and the result was a unanimous election of the presented slate. The new board will take their positions of leadership on June 1, 2016. Congratulations to the new board members.

Marie Lott gave information about the upcoming annual Deerlick Memorial Day picnic. The date is Sunday, May 29, 2016, with a potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. Camping will be free that evening. All information is available on the website www.deerlickgroup.com. There will also be a link to sign up for the potluck dinner [<http://bit.ly/DAVpicnicRSVP>]

Our featured speaker this month was Tim Geib. He presented a talk about remote observing from the comforts of home. Both visual observers and astrophotographers can utilize the services. Night Sky Network offers free services that are best for visual observing. Live.Slooh.com offers live events for free, but most of their services involve a fee of \$5.00 per month. With remote operation, astrophotographers can either: (a) remotely control your own gear (offsite), (b) host your own gear, (c) host shared gear, or (d) rent time of other gear either individually or in groups. Deep Sky West offers a range of services for dark sky data capture.

Remote hosting of your own gear would run about \$1,000 to \$2,000 a month for a pier and support, so groups are a popular expense alternative.



(Images courtesy of Valorie Whalen)

David Whalen, Observing Director, treated us to another exciting episode of "All of the Above", which gives a run-down of what you can expect to see in the sky in the coming weeks. The theme of this month's presentation was "May is for Mars". Included were 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 5/7/2016. Also discussed were several deep-sky targets in the categories of "Relaxing", "Intriguing", "Taxing" and the challenge target for May is NGC 4567 and 4568, also known as "The Siamese Twins". The full list of targets for the month of May is available on the website.

After the meeting, we adjourned to the Jon Wood Field to observe. There were approximately 25 observers taking advantage of the nice viewing conditions.

This month's astrophotography targets are: Beginners – Jupiter; and Advanced – Mars.

Upcoming Events:

CE Meeting: Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. This is our quarterly potluck meeting at the Campbell Aquatic Center. A potluck sign-up will announced shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

Valorie Whalen

Recording Secretary, Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club