

Cape Cod Astronomical Society
Minutes of February 2, 2012 Meeting

Attendance: Total 32 Members 29 Guests 3

President Tom Leach opened the meeting at 7:33 P.M. Tom welcomed members and guests.

Presentation

Tom Leach introduced our speaker for the evening, Lt. Colonel Shawn Smith , Squadron Commander of the Cape Cod Air Force Station 6th Space Warning Station. <http://www.peterson.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=4702> . “Team 6” utilizes Pave Paws Radar to guard the East Coast of the United States against sea launched and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Personnel on the site consist of civilian and military individuals. The Missile Warning Operations Center has been operating on a 24/7 basis since 1978. The radar station consists of 2 phased array warning systems. They are able to simultaneously track multiple targets over a 3,000 mile nautical range. The Space Warning Squadron typically tracks 2,600 satellites totaling about 9,100 observations per day.

The secondary mission of the unit is space surveillance. They are able to track and report and help identify various objects in orbit. This is important in order to insure the safety of satellites and provide for safe launches.

Observatory Report

Mike Hunter reminded members about ongoing star parties. The next star part will be on Saturday, February 18th at the Werner Schmidt Observatory.

Bernie Young showed the group several great videos he and the observatory staff worked on regarding occultation's.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectively submitted
Charles Burke