

Cape Cod Astronomical Society
Minutes of February 3, 2011 Meeting

Attendance: Total 31 Members 25 Guests 6

President Tom Leach opened the meeting at 7:35 P.M. Tom welcomed members and reviewed the latest newsletter. Tom also referred to an article in March issue of *Sky and Telescope* regarding observations of the planet Mercury.

Presentation

Tom Leach introduced our speaker for the evening, Paul Blackmore. Paul is an accomplished photojournalist. He spent several years as a photographer for the *Cape Cod Times*, and now works independently in the areas of landscape, nature, and wedding photography. Paul plans to publish a book by 2012. For more information please see his website at http://web.me.com/paulblackmore/Site_2/Home.html Paul's presentation was titled "Celestial Landscape Photography". The lecture featured practical ways for amateur photographers and astronomers to capture the night sky with digital cameras. Star trails are always a great subject for photographing, and Paul gave us several practical suggestions for this task. He showed us photos of star trails including 10 second exposures all the way up to 3 ½ hour exposures. Advice regarding choosing the proper aperture and reducing noise was included. Examples of how weather and even light pollution can enhance photos were shown. Photos of the night sky were shown from Cape Cod and Arizona. Also, black and white photography was discussed.

Observatory Report

Observatory director, Mike Hunter reported that due to poor weather conditions, members have not been able to utilize the observatory. The website <http://www.wunderground.com/> was mentioned as a good source for weather forecasts. A discussion followed regarding using the astronomy website <http://nightskiesnetwork.com> .

Business Meeting

Tom Leach shared recent photos from NASA and other sources. He also passed out a star map for the month of February. Tom was glad to announce that the town of Harwich has recently approved a bylaw limiting light pollution.

On Wednesday, March 9th at 7 P.M. at The Tilden Arts Center at Cape Cod Community College, MIT professor Nergis Mavalvala will lecture on the subject of astrophysics.

See link for additional information

<http://www.connectsemass.org/documents/Web-Flyer-March-9.pdf> .

CCAS member Ed Swiniarski, spoke about a proposed astronomy program at the Chatham Middle School.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.