

Cape Cod Astronomical Society Minutes of February 4, 2010 Meeting

Attendance: Total 38 Members 34 Guests 4

President Tom Leach opened the meeting at 7:33 P.M., welcoming CCAS members as well as four guests. Tom mentioned that we have continued to schedule guests lecturers for the balance of the year. Vice President, Paul Cezanne spoke about an upcoming event called "Freeze Your Pilgrims Off". The event is scheduled for Friday, February 12th with a cloud date of February 13th at Pilgrim Heights a dark sky site located in the Cape Cod National Seashore. People planning to attend should show up before dusk (6 P.M.) so their car headlights don't disturb others' night vision. Be sure to dress for the weather conditions.

Presentation

Ed Ting, our speaker gave an extremely informative presentation "Talking about Telescopes". Ed publishes a comprehensive telescope and binocular review on his website www.scopereviews.com. Ed is an active member of the New Hampshire Astronomical Society and has written for *Sky & Telescope* magazine. Ed's presentation focused on practical aspects of purchasing both binoculars and telescopes. Ed showed simple methods for evaluating binoculars in order to obtain the best products for astronomical observing. Next, various types of telescopes were discussed. Ed pointed out the advantages and disadvantages of refractor, reflector, Schmidt Cassegrain and Dobsonian telescopes. Ed described Go To mounts, portability, optical coatings, CCD's for each category of telescope.

Business Meeting

Treasurer, Peter Kurtz brought members up to date on CCAS finances. Peter also reminded members about club dues.

Observatory Report

Mike Hunter reported that the 16 inch Meade telescope in the observatory has reached magnitude 15.1. Additionally, Mike reminded members that observing sessions at the observatory can be arranged by contacting him directly to set up an appropriate date and time for an observing session. Mike also requested volunteers to help man the observatory this Saturday at the Dennis Yarmouth High School. The Boy Scouts of America will be having an event at school and this would be a great time to introduce Scouts to astronomy.

Tom Leach shared recent photos from NASA and other sources that included Kemble's Cascade in Camelopardalis.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M. and several members proceeded to the Werner Schmidt Observatory.

Respectively submitted by Charles Burke