

Cape Cod Astronomical Society
Minutes of April 5, 2012 Meeting

Attendance: Total 19 Members 16 Guests 3

President Tom Leach opened the meeting at 7:32 P.M. Tom welcomed members and guests.

Presentation

Tom Leach introduced the speaker for the evening, Michael T. Renzi. Michael is an amateur astronomer and has built an observatory at his home in Lakeville, MA. Please click on the following link to visit his website <http://www.starhoo.com> . His lecture described the impact of light pollution worldwide. Instead of a traditional lecture, Michael showed an award winning documentary film called “ The City Dark”.

Reference the following link for a preview of the film and background information <http://www.thecitydark.com/>

The film takes a very unusual approach to the subject of light pollution. Rather than just show the viewer statistics and maps of problem areas, the film is an in depth history of the severe impact that light pollution has caused. Filmmaker and amateur astronomer, Ian Cheney first became interested in astronomy from his Maine home. As a child, he was amazed at what he could see in the dark skies above. When Ian moves to New York City, he is shocked by amount of light pollution and researches not only effects that light pollution has on the astronomical community, but also how it affects everyone on the planet. The film asks, “What do we lose when we lose the night sky?” Subjects such as the increase of breast cancer, negative effects to wildlife such as birds and turtles are examined. The film also features excellent, original music.

If you have an interest in improving the lighting in your town, check the following link <http://nelpag.harvee.org/> You may also be interested IDA (international dark sky association) Outdoor Lighting Forum on Yahoo: IDAOLF@yahoogroups.com

Observatory Report

Bernie Young announced star parties for the 9th and 27th of April. Joel Burnett reported on the progress being made for a wi fi connection at the Werner Schmidt Observatory.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectively submitted
Charles Burke