

Cape Cod Astronomical Society
Minutes of June 7, 2012 Meeting

Attendance: Total 22 Members 17 Guests 5

President Tom Leach opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Tom welcomed members and guests. Tom reviewed the CCAS attempt to view the transit of Venus earlier in the month.

Presentation

The presentation for the evening featured two CCAS members, Mike Hunter and Charles Burke. The subject was astrophotography for amateur photographers. Mike took the time to give an excellent overview of equipment and techniques to get started with this fascinating subject. The presentation included many excellent photos taken by himself and other CCAS members. Attention was given to appropriate equipment such as digital SLR cameras as well as dedicated astrophotography cameras. Mike also explained photo techniques such as stacking. Interested budding photographers might be interested in a software program, Registax <http://www.astronomie.be/registax/> an excellent, free image processing software program. Also, be sure to check another great program, Nebulosity <http://mac.softpedia.com/get/Utilities/Nebulosity.shtml>

Charles Burke asked members to try a simple astrophoto assignment. All that is necessary for this project is a digital or film camera. The assignment was to photograph star trails and other easy celestial objects. Necessary equipment includes a camera with the ability to take long exposures, a remote shutter release and a tripod or other method to hold a camera steady. He suggested setting the camera iso/asa to a low setting such as 100, using an f stop of f8 and try varying the exposure time from a few seconds to several minutes, depending on the subject. Another suggestion was to turn off the vibration reducing mechanism, as this feature does not work well on tripod mounted cameras. This assignment was suggested as a good, simple and inexpensive way to get started with photographing the night skies.

Business Meeting

Peter Kurtz reminded members that annual dues should be submitted. It was announced that the speaker for the July meeting will be given by Larry Marschall . The topic of will be “The Supernova at the end of the World “.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectively submitted

Charles Burke