

Cape Cod Astronomical Society
Minutes of September 2, 2010 Meeting

Attendance: Total: 13 Members 9, Guests 4

Observatory director Mike Hunter opened the meeting at 7:35 P.M., welcoming CCAS members as well as four guests.

Presentation

The speaker for tonight was Observatory Director Mike Hunter. The subject of the presentation was building personal observatories. Mike presented a variety of means for building economical mounts and enclosures that can greatly reduce the time necessary to set up and align an astronomical telescope. Beginning with a description of simple mounts created from pipe flanges and other fittings, Mike took us through the steps and materials necessary to create these devices. Ease of set up and repeatability were stressed as major considerations when designing a mount. Also moisture and safety regarding electrical wiring was discussed. Designs for a box type enclosure was described in detail. Finally, Mike also showed several designs for shed type enclosures. For an example of a shed type enclosure check the website www.carpephoton.com.

Observatory Report

Work is continuing on the imaging set up for the four-inch refractor. Bernie Young reported that he is working on proper alignment that will aid in astrophotography. There was also a discussion regarding the possibility of adding Internet capabilities to the Werner Schmidt Observatory. Members and guests were reminded of the upcoming star parties at the observatory this fall. The schedule is listed on the CCAS website.

Business Meeting

Treasurer Peter Kurtz reported on the paid membership.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectively submitted by

Charles Burke