

Cape Cod Astronomical Society
Minutes of September 3, 2009 Meeting

Attendance: Total 24 Members 14 Guests 6

President Tom Leach opened the meeting at 7:35 pm at the DY High School Library. Tom welcomed members and guests and reminded members that dues should be sent in as soon as possible. Tom mentioned that Star Party Nights are listed on the front page of the CCAS web site.

Tom also talked about the ongoing loaner telescope program that is available to club members. Additionally, members were encouraged to visit the web site of CCAS Vice President Paul Cezanne to obtain information on binocular astronomy. The web site address is www.notthepainter.com.

Presentation

Former CCAS President Gary Derman gave a lecture entitled "Einstein's Telescope". His talk was inspired by a recent book by author Evalyn Gates. Gary described in detail the effect of gravitational lensing.

This effect is formed when the light from a very distant bright source is "bent" around a massive object between the source object and the observer. It is sometimes called the Einstein ring. The effect can cause a single object to appear as multiple objects. The concepts of dark matter and dark energy and their relationship were also discussed.

Business Meeting

Observatory report

Mike Hunter and Werner Schmidt said that a SBIG CCD camera will be mounted on the 4 inch Televue telescope which in turn will be mounted on the new Losmandy in the near future. Also, Tuesday nights will be Star Party Nights at the observatory for the month of September.

Additionally a six-inch telescope is currently available at the observatory.

Gary Derman described a recent four-minute occultation of Antares and the moon that was recently observed at Nauset Light by several CCAS members.

Tom Leach encouraged members to visit the Yahoo link at the CCAS website. Tom also showed several photos detailing recent astronomical events.

Also, CCAS member Larry Brookharts' daughter Allison was selected to sing the National Anthem at Fenway Park this past July 13th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Charles Burke