

Cape Cod Astronomical Society
Minutes of October 1, 2009 Meeting

Attendance: Total 29 Members 26 Guests 3

President Tom Leach opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tom reminded members that the annual dues are currently due. Tom introduced CCAS member Larry Brookhart who in turn introduced the guest speaker who is also Larry's father, Bob Brookhart.

Presentation

The lecture was based on Bob Brookhart's career as a structural steel detailer and his connection to the United States space programs. Background information was given to promote an understanding of steel fabrication and engineering techniques. Mr. Brookhart was employed for many years at Kaiser Steel Fabricating in California. Over his career, he was responsible for design work for missile towers and silos that included the Atlas and Saturn missiles and the Mercury Rockets. Great detail was given regarding the design of blast proof doors. He also provided fascinating insight into the design and testing of such structures as the 300 foot tall Saturn tower.

Business Meeting

Observatory Report

Observatory Director Mike Hunter reported the following:

Observatory nights for the month of October will be held on the 8th, 15th and 29th. October 24th is National Astronomy Day . Starting at 5:30pm, CCAS members will be available to speak about astronomy. Multiple telescopes will be available that night.

Mike Hunter also discussed possible procedures that may be used for upcoming scientific projects. The goal is to have a uniform, consistent process available when CCAS is contacted for help in scientific projects.

Mike provided an update on the state of our two major telescopes, the 16 inch Meade and the 4 inch Televue which is being readied for digital photography.

Treasurer Peter Kurtz discussed the upcoming Galilean Nights program. This program will run from October 22th through October 24th. CCAS is registered on the Galilean Nights website at <http://www.galileannights.org/resources.html>.

Tom Leach next showed multiple recent astronomy photos. These included information regarding water on the Moon, lensing effects, and images of Saturn. Tom also showed a short video program providing information on the Sloan Digital Sky program and the "Galaxy Zoo".

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Charles Burke