Cape Cod Astronomical Society

Minutes of October 7, 2010 Meeting

Attendance: Total: 33 Members 20, Guests 13

President Tom Leach opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Presentation

The speaker for tonight was CCAS member and former president Dr. John Greenberg. The subject of the presentation was Extra Terrestrial Intelligence. Dr. Greenberg addressed a subject that has been of interest to both scientists and the public. Rather than just lecture on the subject, Dr. Greenberg involved the audience by asking questions about the likelihood of Extra Terrestrial Intelligence and should we respond to messages if from another civilization should they arrive here on earth. The Drake Equation, which postulates the chances of contacting another civilization, was discussed. Time was also spent discussing current methods that we are using to try and contact other planets such as the SETI project.

Observatory Report

Bernie Young filled us in briefly on progress with the Televue 4" imaging system being perfected by Bernie and some colleagues. Of special note: Bernie pointed out that the dark side of a waxing moon should occult magnitude 5 star kappa-Piscium on 10/19 at a very convenient viewing time, just after 9pm. Peter Kurtz volunteered information to me just prior to issuance of these minutes that a good group, 7 members and 6 guests did view this event on a very clear evening on the 19th. Peter says the occultation was viewed successfully both with a video camera imaging system hooked up to the Televue 4" scope (event viewed live on a TV screen and also recorded) and also "naked eye" using our 16" Meade. This experience will be written up in the upcoming First Light issue and Bernie plans to show his video at our next meeting.

Business Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectively submitted by

Charles Burke