

## Cape Cod Astronomical Society

Minutes of the November 6, 2013, meeting

Attendance: Total: 20 Members: 17 Guests: 3

President Mike Hunter opened the meeting at 7:40 P.M. and welcomed members and guests. Mike reviewed next month's program and spoke about the need for speakers for meetings this winter.

The speaker for the evening CCAS member Bernie Young. The lecture was entitled "Ulugh Bek and His Observatory in Samarjand". This was a very interesting lecture, as it focused on a little known astronomer in an isolated part of the world. Ulugh Bek was born in 1394 and his name means Great Prince. Indeed, he was the descendent of Tamarlane. This was an era when women were not allowed to be educated and society was not comfortable with intellectuals. Ulugh Bek personally selected astronomers and mathematicians for support. He constructed and operated the Samarkand Observatory between 1420 and 1427. The structure at one time employed 70 astronomers and featured a unique marble rail system that was used to take measurements of the Sun at Solstices. At this time, the observatory was carrying out some of the most advanced observations and measurements in the world. The observatory was destroyed and buried in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and recovered in the early 1900's. In 1987 the Soviets issued a stamp to recognize his accomplishments.

Below is a photo of the observatory.



**Observatory Report**

Bernie Young brought us up to date on the new solar telescope.

The meeting end at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Charles Burke