

Delmarva Stargazers Meeting
November 4, 2008

13 present.

- Before meeting Don brought up the RASC calendars over 25 11.45 more than 10 12.45 each including shipping. Passed signup sheet around and 10 were ordered. (125.50).
- Old business raffle may be on, expanded recognition for club participation.
- Next event is the Christmas party at the Mallard Lodge. Leonids will during the moon and perhaps low activity.
- Kathy is away again so the treasurer's report is not available for this meeting.

Presentations:

- Lyle: Constellation Aquarius
- Noted by central star surrounded by three equidistant stars.
- Neptune was discovered there in 1846.
- Water carrier from the Babylonian empire. It was considered lucky if you needed rain unlucky if you lived in a wet place and it flooded.

- Flood myth upon landing the two threw stones which turned into people. Arabs saw it as a bucket because their religion forbids them from showing the human form.
- Aquarius is quite faint There's a Y or Jack in the sky. M73, hard to find unless setting circles, hard to see M2, M72, Helix neb, Saturn nebula.

Presentation by Tim Milligan:

- Pegasus, one degree around 7331, Several galaxies in the are very faint, but two might be visible. Stephens quintet is quite nearby –averted vision is helpful but only two or three can be seen. 7331 is a large galaxy with background galaxies. Herschel found it first earliest recognized as a spiral galaxy. Originally these were called spiral nebula.
- brightest of the group are 13+ mag. Some distortions due to galactic tidal interactions. 10" or larger scope. Long focal length scope 80" or so is better for contrast.

Katie: presentation on the Old Space Equipment

- V2 picture from space. 1960 infrared video cameras on the first weather sites: Tiros I satellite.
- Timeline on the hubble thought of in 1923 by Herman Oberth, Lyman Spitzer wrote paper 1946. In 1977

funding was approved. In 1990 NASA launched Discovery.

- Apollo sent lots of people to the moon. 11 first, 17 last. Shuttle next.
- The 8086 is the processor used on the shuttle apparently NASA goes on Ebay to find more.
- Constellation is the replacement to the shuttle. No later 2014 it will be ready. Smaller 6 member crews and much less payload. 25 tons and 2.5 times the size of the apollo command module.

Jerry Truitt: Presentation: All about meteors

- Meteors are space debris from comet paths intersecting the earth's orbit. Some are showers some seem to be sporadic. Storms are from dense trails local to the actual comet.
- Should always be worth going out to look in case of fireballs. Meteor meteoros (greek) for high in the air.
- Meteorite is defined. Some illustrations and some impacts may have caused widespread destruction. Modern weather satellites have found a lot more than we knew about.
- Sudbury is the second largest known impact crater.

- Chicxulub crater in the yucatan peninsula. Several meteor impact sites were presented.
- How tell if you've found a meteorite. Well, lots of things.
- There was Youtube movie of a meteor impacting the earth – faked but fun.