2008-12-02

Delmarva Stargazers meeting notes

- 15 people present.

- There is a problem with the date for the Christmas party date.Kathy was not prepared for this date, thinking it was on a different date. So Kathy won't attend. [Ed. - Christmas party went very well with Tim Milligan filling in for Kathy in the games. Food was great!]

- This is the last meeting for 2008, No new members. However we now have 88 members, just like the number of constellations and piano keys.

- The alignment of the Moon, Jupiter, and Venus the on December 1st was a real hit! These three solar system bodies were in a tight triangular arrangement. The picture shown at the meeting was a puzzler 'til members figured out it was shot in the southern hemisphere.

- Outstanding board decisions:
  - Queen Anne's Conservation Association contact needs light pollution presentation – waiting for the holidays – someone in the club should contact their contact to keep the idea alive.

- Mirror Making Seminar: 7 or 8 people coming so far. Latest they can sign up is mid-January.

- Don Surles Presentation:
  - History of cameras:
    Basic idea has been around since the 5th century.
    Camera Obscura (pinhole camera) was invented in the 11th centrury,
    17th used simple lenses.
    1830's bitumen process invented in France.

    The process was improved but it took a few days in sunlight. The bitumen was thinly deposited on a surface, exposed, and then cleaned with oil to remove the soft, nonexposed bitumen – negative image.

    Daguerreotype: copper coated with silver and exposed to iodine vapor. Exposed for up to 15 minutes. Very popular.

    Emulsion plates: gelatin and albumen next, first with wet chemicals from creating the plate to processing was immediate. Dry plates could be stored – almost as 'fast' as wet plates.

    Solid plates were replaced by film. Flexible rolls were smaller and more convenient than plates – celluloid. Eastman invented it and mass produces the system of replaceable cameras which were

sold and developed by Kodak.

Modern cameras:
Adjustable aperature & shutter speed.Twin lens, single lens reflex. Range finders were introduced, instant cameras, and finally digital.

[Editor's note on presentations – sometimes the presentations are not fully represented because the secretary gets too engaged to take further notes]