

2009-01-06

Delmarva Stargazers Meeting

New member's introductions by all.

Coordinate with the club with Bob Parks and the conservancy

On Insurance – Don says they've looked into it before and he claims that State Parks would not hold us liable for damages. Look into the legal ramifications of our events and visiting the state park (eg. Star party, vs. the informal observing field). Michael will try to look up the legal ramifications of this. Jerry T. will informally ask about state details on liability.

Outreach – Jerry has some stuff from last year to fulfill (two teachers) and one for May or June that needs to schedule with us.

- For Astronomy Year we would like to invite people out to Mallard lodge (or similar place) whom are not really familiar with their new equipment.
- Don was going to put up Friday night viewing for the whole year. We could make this a club event or have several different locations with different people on the same date.

MMS march – Don presented:

Swayze has been snowed in and wants to get out to see us.

7-8 signed up with more people looking into it.

- Spring stargaze is coming – Equestrian Center is confirmed. Tim has contacted someone at Goddard space center for a public speaker.

Don Surles presentation:

The Constellation Orion

- Asterism: Three stars – belt stars, sword and the big surrounding rectangle. Barnards loop and witch head are almost impossible to see in a telescope.
- Betelgeuse , 640 LY, about 1000 times sun's diameter would be about .87 Jupiter's orbit. Spectral Interferometry was first used to view it's surface.
- Bellatrix young hot bright with early demise.
- Rigel, triple star system, double easily seen , in it's early stages of life.
- To look for: M42, the prettiest nebula, bright, lots of detail., The flame nebula – NGC 2024. Holds the horsehead IC 434, the Trapezium within M42. Need H-Beta filter to see the horsehead. 4 stars are easy, the 5th and 6th are hard. 10th mag.
- Mythology Great Hunter with a lions skin on right arm (left in sky) with a club in his left hand. Orion boasted he could kill any animal on earth. In a battle with a scorpion (a disguised god) finally killed. He was put into the sky both were placed into the sky. One in the winter and one in the summer sky. Lepus is below, the river Eridanis below, his two dogs (Canis major/minor) and Taurus to his left.

Don Surles's trivia questions:

- Name the stars in the winter hexagon:

The winter hexagon Sirius, Major Procyon Castor/Pollux Capella, aldetaran, Rigel.

- Who invented the magnitude scale: Hipparchus – in Alexandria he invented the scale for stars from magnitude 1 to magnitude 6.
- What is the most significant characteristic of the star Betgeuse? Size.
- Where could you find a Buick in the sky? – Electra in the Pleiades.
- Most northerly 1st mag star? Capella.
- What does the name :Milky Way and Galaxy have in common. 'Gala' in greek means 'milk'.

The comet Lulin C/2007 N3 – well placed about 21st in Feb. When we see it best because it will have been close to the sun and should have a good tail. Perhaps Magnitude 6.

Jerry Truit: presentation:

Disaster Preparedness Cecil County Health Department. (Ed. - This was chalk full of information and if I could have written everything down I probably would remember more of it now. Really useful stuff to know.)

- Get a kit, make a plan be informed, get involved.
- 1 gal Water per person per day change every 6 months.

- Food – store a three day supply of prepared foods that don't need any preparation. Change as it expires.
- Minimum on change of clothes, and foot wear, outerwear, jackets, rainwear.
- Flashlight, shake lite or crank battery,
- Radio battery powered radio, hand crank or solar powerd. Batteries may be in short supply afterward.
- Hygiene items tp, soap and so forth.
- Pre-made first aid kits are good.

Discussion: Don went though a hurricane – lost land line telephone service, cell phone batteries die, bought inverters and extra batteries. Jerry T. countered that cell phone towers go down. Public services go the most populated place and eventually rural areas. So rural areas – be prepared.