

2009-10-06

## Delmarva Stargazers meeting

The Treasurer, Kathy Sheldon, can't make it to tonight. Lyle will be reading the report on the No Frills. The No Frills Star Party: net income was \$1,330, expenses \$1,062, and we made \$268.

The President, Don Surles, opened the meeting a little after 7. Coffee and Donuts are available. (Rick Barnes brought the donuts!)

Don Surles introduced the agenda.

### Don: Current Events

- LCROSS hits the moon at 7:30AM EDT Friday morning (it'll be on NASA TV)
- Glory—rainbow in a 360 deg circle. Can include a reverse rainbow. (Ed glories can be seen in dew, fog and on roads—the reflective strips show partial glories)
- St Josephs is owned by a foundation. Nice facilities. This year the academy moved out. St Joseph's contacted DMSG and wanted to know what we did and so Don went out to see what they have. They want to reach out to the community—they also suggested they could offer us a meeting room. On the first clear night without a moon we should look. Addr: Clayton to the John Deer Store, hang a right.

The place is available to us. (Ed. They've been advertising space is available to community groups.)

- Solar minimum has been around for a while but some are claiming activity is near at hand. We could buy one.
- MM #10–Mallard Lodge again. Need help setting up. No one present refused to help.
- This Saturday the Skies Unlimited astronomy store will hold an exposition with products from Celestron, Meade, and presentations by a number of people, including Al Nagler, etc. Door prizes galore. 11 AM to 5 AM. Three guys own the place, amateur astronomers, mostly mail order, can call and get advice. Spoken highly of by club members. Skies Unlimited–Mid-Atlantic Astronomy Expo. Oct 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Wollops Island launch was very popular. It was launched to test the creation of Noctilucent clouds according to Spaceweather.com and newspapers.

An outreach was done at the Outpost. There was a display of Stereo (the stereo solar observatory in space).  
Big Oak Park–eyes on the skies–show on Oct 16.

End of current events.

Trivia–‘Read the Riot Act’–what’s origin? A British Riot Act (Ed look it up) from England where, if read by authorities people had to disperse immediately.

No frills wrap up:

- People really enjoyed the food, shadow transit, the movement of the moon returning from it's transit. And the red spot transitted
- The wollops Island even was great.
- We made \$600 but didn't include the camp site charges so we made \$300. We will not do sodas any more. Cups seem to be expensive.
- A mailing would be good as we have had \$900 without \$600.
- Use PayPal (or other system) to prepay seems like a good idea.
- Should close the gate at night to keep people from just driving up—a rope would do. We had a driver come in with high beams on. There were harsh words on both sides. This shouldn't have been able to happen at all.

Outreaches

- November 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (ask lysle about details)  
November 17<sup>th</sup> is the night of the Leonids. At 'Jackie's' house.
- Halloween—Saturday this year—put up a telescope.  
Jupiter. Ring, and Dumbell nebula.
- Berlin Md, Megan Fanoglieto—Frontier Town Nov 20<sup>th</sup>  
help them do an astronomy program. Expecting about 30 kids and adults. Two motel rooms can be arranged in great hotel in West Ocean City. (What's the weather

like?) Will be put on the Yahoo groups (generally they get a better crowd than their estimate). We have made a commitment to go.

- Truitt will go to Pittsville Library, Md for an outreach on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Cal Estrada Presentation: Equatorial mounts.

- GEM German equatorial mount.
- The picture actually shows a yoke (not a gem)
- The next slide shows a GEM
- Polar axis does RA, Dec axis.
- Only the polar axis needs to move.
- Heavy, sized for the payload and balancing the load.
- Portables are difficult to set up right.
- Have periodic errors—rotational errors (gear mesh frequency, eccentric gears) Show up as squiggly marks in images.
- PEC periodic error correction for some scopes
- Auto guider help too.
- Portability, weight, price, reputation, frequency of use.
- Need separate drive for a DOB but the larger scope gathers more light. Tracking induces field rotation. Drizzle software can derotate fast images.
- Accurate polar alignment—good alignment but it's not north.
- Drift alignment—need a barlow and illuminated reticule eyepiece.
- Slow, difficult but required for good results.
- Need to change the elevation and azimuth controls.

- Reticule aligned to the movements of the star
- Star must be close to the meridian, near the celestial equator.
- There are references on the web on actual alignment on the web. Newtonians use the opposite directions of a refractor.
- You can take five minute exposures with reasonably good alignment.
- Move to a star in the east and move altitude.
- Doesn't fix periodic error.
- Best is Orion Atlas/Sirius mount or Celestron CGEM.

#### Presentation Truitt on 'The Kindle' from Amazon.com

- A 'book like' technology reading like a book. Holds 1500 books.
- Easy to read, 1/3' 10.2 oz. Wireless 3G so you can download right to it.
- Wireless internet is free for downloading books, Amazon email, browsing for new books.
- Paper like display. Can be read in bright sunlight and has a clip on light for night reading. Page loads up but the computer is 'shut down'
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- New books are \$9.99.
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- Many Astronomy, older books cheaper.
- Astronomy reference can be over 200.
- Lots of 99 cents.
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- Only books from amazon- there is a question about the format types it accepts and how you could upload PDF books from Google.
- MP3 and PDF supported.
- Can get books anytime with Sprint and WisperNet.
- There's a mouse-like controller for flipping through newspapers.

#### Presentation Truitt: The Maine Solar System Model

- Maine's northern-most county, Aroostook County.
- To scale model of the solar system 40 miles from the sun and Pluto.
- World's largest exhibit 1 mile is 1 AU.
- Google Solar System Model
- Presque Isle.
- A moose is hit every night by a car. Really bad accidents.

Orionids are coming up in October.

Don says:

In 3 or 5 billions of years the Andromeda galaxy and the Milky Way galaxy will merge so Don wants to ask if anyone has noticed if it's brighter in the eyepiece each year. 3.8 billion km closer each year. .000000000015%

difference in distance. So the difference in brightness each year is imperceptible.

Constellation: Pegasus

Don Surles:

- Winged horse used by Perseus
- The Pegasus symbol was on top of Magnolia hotel 1934 (29 stories) in Dallas. when the symbol was for Magnolia Oil (bought by Mobil). Google Pegasus Mobil to find it. From a wikipedia article.

EOM 15:21:31