

Delmarva Stargazers  
2010-02-285

Pre-meeting discussions:

- Looking at pictures of Don Surles hip's new titanium addition. Three entry points with the largest up at the top of the leg bone.
- Discussing non-detection of Titanium and other non-ferrous metals at airports.
- The merits of Mac's for simplicity of operation.

Meeting started at 7:00.

Discussion of the FASTC facility by Tuckahoe State Park:

- Foreign affairs security training (center FastTc). GSA want to put the facility developpeing 1,250 acres.
- Since May 2008 the State Department has wanted a hard skills training center. It will be the end of our dark sky site.
- There is more bad news – resort hotels have been allowed with conditional use.
- Will be high speed driving, weapons training. FACS will kill the crown jewel of Queene Anne County, Tuckahoe State Park. The facility will provide lots of noise and light to park.

Don Surles has offered to let us meet at his house to come up with an impact statement at 6PM tentatively. Jerry Truitt and Tim Milligan would like to go.

- Jim Campbell is with the Queen Anne's Conservation Association group and should be contacted for information.

Jerry Truitt:

- No new outreaches
- Elkton library with Tony Mullen - it didn't rain. In fact it was clear so they tried to use a fire door to get to the telescopes which was siliconed and glued shut. So the maintenance person tried to open it but it wouldn't open. The fire marshal wouldn't be happy. After taking the long way around to the parking lot there were a lot of people who were happy to be out looking at the sky.
- Jerry did an outreach where he was teaching teachers to teach astronomy. As word got out the group grew. Great hospitality and people really enjoyed it.

Acting Treasurer Lyle Jones:

- Membership Dues are due tonight.
- The christmas party was great with great games, and food and giftes. Kieth Love did the dropping the toothpick into a bottle.
- Mars is rising early and should be quite close – morning object.

General:

- New member introduced – from Mount Cuba – Dave Short.

Tim Milligan presented “Comfort issues at the telescope”

- Previous program on comfort issues, clothes, Dressing for Success at the Eyepiece.
- Comfort while observing will make the evening enjoyable. The Goldilocks paradigm – just right.
- Observing means a lot of standing around with little activity.
- A lot of specialized clothing expects a certain level of activity like hunting, jogging, skiing.
- In cold weather observer you must ‘over dress’ to compensate for the lack of activity. Dress in layers, typically three.
  - First layer: Lightweight thermal underwear Duofold
  - Polypro socks (thin).
  - Middle layer: one piece cottoning long johns jeans, tshirt depends out outer layer.
  - Outer layer
    - One piece hunting coveral with Thinsulat core.
    - Jeans, sweater
    - Warm jacket
  - Good thermal boots (important) Sarral? Thick sole, with the felt liner.
  - Wool cap (important)
  - Warm gloves (thinsulate) – but there are issues with dexterity. Use thin gloves with thicker gloves over them.
  - Heat pads for foot and hand. Toe and full foot pads. Insert into boots, pockets, gloves (self sticking). Also can be used for telescopes – warm secondary and primaries. They also work in sleeping bags.

- Spring & Fall
  - Warm in the day, cool in evening. Cold at night.
  - Still use a layered approach. Maybe two of three layers.
  - Lightweight thermal, polypro socks
  - Middle layer, jeans, shirt/sweater – lightweight/medium socks. Socks should be loose or they'll cut circulation to your feet.
  - Sneakers, baseball cap. If forecasted to get really cold – go back to winter clothes.
  - Add when need during the night.
  - Bug juice
  
- Summer observing:
  - Hot and humid except in mountains it can be cool. Avoid shorts, T-shirt flip flops – food sources for mozzies (Australian for mosquitoes).
  - Lightweight gear that cover most of your skin which could be sprayed with repellent.
  - Lightweight pants/jeans
  - Long sleeved lightweight shirt
  - Lightweight socks
  - Middle layer lightweight – medium jacket.
  - Sneakers, Baseball cap.
  - Outer layer – bug juice.

Tony Mullen Presented the Constellation Auriga

- Also known as the 'Charioteer'.
- Pictures of the constellation – Associate with the helmet by Ptolemy.

- Galactic anticenter is located here – in the Milky Way being at the point it's at it's thinnest. NGC 36, 37, & 38 are all good open clusters (OC). NGC 2281, 1664, IC 405.
- A myth: Hephaestus, the god of fire, especially the blacksmith's fire, invented the chariot to get around born weak and crippled. Several other legends surround the inventor of chariots.
- The star Capella is associated with the mythological she-goat. Traditionally this constellation has been pictured as shepherd with goat on his shoulder.
- Apparently the flaming star nebula (IC 405) is hard to see according to people with larger telescopes (Ed. make's me feel better).

#### Jerry Truit: Night Sky Network

- Nationwide coalition of astronomy clubs bringing the science and inspiration of NASA's to the country. We belonged to it for two years. Parts of three of tool kits are incorporated into the current outreaches – the original kits were decidedly boring and dry.
- A vehicle to promote NASA and not amateur astronomy – designed for indoors and not designed to be out in the night sky.
- But our club isn't into NASA and we're really into going out with the telescope and seeing things.

Don Surles presented the video “Tommy Gold Renegade Genius”

- This was mentioned last month was shown at the meeting with very light sound from the laptop. (Need a male mini jack to Mono RCA male about 3m long to connect to the projector and speakers)
- This was not too long and presented both Tommy Gold’s great and not so great ideas.
- Being famous for both successful predictions and some failures showed how its difficult even for the brilliant to be right all the time.
- "Whatever he undertook, he always did with enthusiasm and confidence." He added, "Tommy was a star, and everybody knew that." - Yervant Terzian
- Built the Space Sciences Building and helped establish the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico
- Researched diverse areas, like the instability of the Earth's axis of rotation, lunar dust, cosmic rays from the sun, why time goes forward, how pulsars work and how oil and other hydrocarbons formed in the earth. Of these his predictions of deep lunar dust and the origin of hydrocarbons proved incorrect.
- His children remember him teaching them relativity theory and then teaching them to ski on water and snow.
- Successes and Failures: He devised a means to separate chaff from aircraft during the Second World War. His theory on the steady state universe

ultimately proved incorrect. The mechanism the inner ear uses to amplify sound waves (positive feedback) was ignored for 30 years until ultimately proved correct.

Meeting ended somewhat after 9:00 PM