Delmarva Stargazers meeting

October 2nd, 2012

Discussion of star party

- The prices changed between the printable original version and the time to get the Activa pages ready. General admission rose $5 since the paper version was on the website and tonight.
- Several people volunteered to handle registration.
- Dinners were confirmed for each of the days.
- The Internet access point will be set up by Michael Lecuyer prior to the event.
- Everything seems ready.

Presentation by Don Surles: Constellation Pegasus

- Mythology: White winged horse sired by Poseidon while he was a horse god and the Gorgon Medusa. Pegasus was born as Perseus decapitated Medusa. Pegasus's meaning changes with time.

- Looking out at Pegasus we're seeing the 'hub' of the Milky Way with it's disk as the 'wheel'. (In fact the galactic N pole is in Coma Berenices halfway across the sky (13 hrs away). The analogy might be the 'rim' of the wheel – Ed.)

- What's there to see?
  - M15 (NGC 7078) – Globular Cluster off a line extending out from θ and ε Pegasi

- NGC 7814 (Caldwell 43) - Edge on spiral galaxy with a dark lane
- NGC 7741 - Low surface brightness face-on barred spiral
- NGC 7331 (Caldwell 30) – tilted spiral galaxy called by some the 'twin' of the Milky Way.
- NGC 7332 & NGC 7339 are edge on galaxies at right angles. 7732 is a lenticular galaxy.
- Stephan's Quintet – very faint and very small, the first compact grouping discovered. Brightest member is NGC 7318B at 13.9 Mag.
- NGC 1- a 13th Mag galaxy is also located in Pegasus.
- The star Beta Pegasi 'Markab' marks the saddle.

- Pegasus was the symbol of Mobile oil for years. First used by the Magnolia Petroleum company the logo was a 35-by-40-foot rotating giant twin red flying horses on a derrick which took a year to build and was working in 1934 in Dallas, TX atop the Magnolia Building. In 1974 it stopped rotating but was restored and working at the end of 1999. During that time the building became the luxurious 330 room Magnolia Hotel.

Demonstration of a 9.25” Celestron Catadiaptric telescope and it's use in photography – Don Surles

- The telescope is blue, not the traditional Celestron orange

- Its a Alt-Azimuth mount on a wedge making it an even heavier equatorial mount.
- Suitable for photography by aligning it with Polaris. The scope must be made parallel with the fork first and then aligned roughly with the North star using the alignment bolts on the wedge to adjust E-W and in altitude.
- Once aligned start the motor drive and it will track all night. On this model it takes 4 screws to remove panel to change the 9v battery which is not convenient.
- Now we want to take pictures. Mount the camera using an 1¼" visual back (that's the size of this telescope's focuser. Then connect the lens-less camera to the visual back being careful to not get dirt in the camera using a T-Ring to the camera and then the ring to the telescope. Of course in this orientation it's difficult to aim since the camera back is pointing down – so try to use a diagonal for comfort (you may not have enough focus travel for this). New cameras have LCD displays that can be rotated and twisted and even zoomed in for focusing (Even my old Nikon digital could do that – Ed.)

- Display of 9.25 Celestron telescope EQ mount (wedge and alt-az) for photography. Alignment with north start – talked about star alignment with the fork mount scope. Make the scope parallel to the forks and try to find Polaris. Polaris is close the north pole. There are bolts on most eq scopes to fine tune pointing to N.

- Once aligned start the motor drive and it will track all night. On this model it takes 4 screws to remove panel to change the 9v battery.

- Now we want to take pictures. Mount the camera using an inch and a quarter visual back. The connect the lensless camera to the visual back being care full to not get dirt in the camera. Attach a T-Ring to the camera and then the ring to the telescope. Of course in this orientation it's difficult to aim since the camera back is pointing down – so try to use a diagonal for comfort (you may not have enough focus travel for this) However new cameras have LCD displays that can be rotated and twisted and even zoomed in for focusing.

- Some cameras can do noise reduction which is desirable.

- You can also put a camera piggyback on the scope with a telephoto lens using the telescope to guide the camera.

At the end of the night there was a drawing for a 75mm Newtonian reflector with mount. The einner of the scope is Amanda Bowen.

Done at 20:24