

Delmarva Stargazers Meeting 2011-06-07

Discussion: Hair dryers for clearing dew from optics – Don brought his in. Years ago you could buy these things and you had to – some Fords only had one vent in the middle. Needed one for the left side of the car.

Jerry suggested toe warmers for a dew heater that goes round his corrector plate.

Kathy should have the star party list of attendees.

On Meeting Space: Lyle wants another day to see if he can get a deal on another room – we're hoping to get the old Church room back.

Chuck, president-elect has been held up logistics problems and won't be here tonight.

Richard Caldwell from Baltimore – sad news

- He was not there last year at the Mirror Making – terminal illness last weekend of May he passed away. Richard was well known for the grinding machine he used. He finished a 13.7" Quartz mirror F/4.7 – which he finished with Steve Swayze.

Don Surles says he has a boat load (or a couple of Toyota Tundra loads of glass and grit and astro items). He had the mirror making machine.

A request for an outreach at the Georgetown library for September was received. The phase of the moon wasn't convenient for observing and the outreach has to be a week-night rather than the weekend. Anyone who wants to do this please let Jerry Truitt know. If you're nearby and want to do this call the library and ask about the astronomy program.

Don went out to an outreach at a school and brought telescopes and meteorites – there were lots of questions. Took a telescope apart and put it back together. He had a big heavy iron meteor to pass around.

Fall Star Party – No Frills – may have someone from the solar dynamics lab at the star party. Could have him at the Star Gaze or No Frills perhaps late Saturday afternoon.

Coming year: program on bats in September, amateur radio astronomy. We could also go on a Skype observing session for the southern hemisphere.

Kathy Sheldon (treasurer) has said the newsletter is consuming our dues.

PJ (Newsletter editor) says getting contributions to the newsletters is a problem. Revisit how its done. Once you put an article in there are guidelines on the web (<http://www.delmarvastargazers.org/newsletter/Guidelines.html>) but PJ keeps getting the questions. Another thing too, if you copy from Wikipedia and submit it from a Mac - just send the link instead of the article.

It was noted that people who work at the star party get in free continue to get in free.

Need to be able to find members by locality. Don says he keeps it in a spreadsheet although I haven't seen it in a while. Would like it in mysql (or SQLite). Access would be limited to officers and it would be an opt-in list.

Chuck Jennings: We may be adding vendors to the star party; Skys Unlimited from Pennsylvania would be one.

Sue French presentation over Skype: A few of my Favorite Things.

- She likes small scopes and the circumstances are usually memorable. Objects that Sue is fond of are star clusters like M11. Told she couldn't see deep sky with a small scope (4") but did sketching – took three nights to do a single sketch of M11. Its a diamond dust cluster – rich in stars. For the North American Nebula and Pelican Nebula Sue used an Astroscan telescope for it's wide field. Uses f 5.8 4" with wide field. They are mirror image sketches.
- In the North American there is a little group of stars that looks like the Orion constellation's asterism. Her own sketch shows the same asterism. She included only a few stars. The veil nebula is a good one to sketch through a large scope is needed for the detail and a wide field telescope to see it all. There is also

the Pickering's Triangular Wisp - middle part of the veil nebula has no NGC designation and is known as Simeis 229. The Simeis catalog is found in the 'Bulletin of the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory'.

- Another event memorable for the circumstances was the Shoemaker Levi impacts on Jupiter. Sue and others used polarizing filters (one half) to see Jupiter during the day (works for the moon too).
- Sue recounted how she looked for M48 1980 while working on her Messier certificate for Astronomical League. She used Norton's Star Atlas which showed M 48 which had a nearby bright star for star hopping. That edition the Herschel catalog number instead of NGC catalog. M48 is one of the 'missing' objects so Sue found a nearby NGC object.
- The Blue Snowball - NGC 7662 . Her face froze to the telescope while using the finder.
- Sharpless 2-157 is a large bright emission nebula in Casiopeia best seen with a H β nebula filter.. Sue spent a long time on it. The nearby the small open cluster 7510 NGC (Basel 3) looks like Corona Borealis. Wildlife – kept hearing argumentative noises on the other side of the road. 15 min. later something big and heavy barreling towards me. And I bolted for the house. 3AM and her husband Alan looked for the animal but didn't find it. The Rabbit Hollow monster?

- Using star patterns to find the a galaxy she came across a galaxy. There was a star in the field that was on no star chart. It was the asteroid 105 Artemis she found on her own.
- There is nebulosity around the Pleiades. The Merope nebula also has a section called IC 349 which is a bit on the lower left of the Merope nebula . No designation covers the the complete Merope nebula. The little nebula is embedded in the Merope nebula. It's just below Merope. Sue used an occulting bar on the eyepiece – the field stop position. Not all ep's can do this if the field stop is no perfectly placed at the ep's focus.
- Shane 1 only 6" across. Looked like a star but with a filter it looked better. She was using the program Megastar which had plotted it as guide star. She was probably the first person to notice the difference.
- Quasar 1634-706 – most distant object 3c273 is far but this one is farther. AKA GS 4423.1764. Light travel distance – it's the distance from where the light started out in space – not the distance between us and it now. Space has been expanding. The model of the universe now would have to be used to determine the current distance. 10" or 8" telescope. Either 9 billion years LTD, or 13 billion light years away.
- ESO 270-17 barely above the horizon. Not really a galaxy. Low surface brightness. A spiral galaxy swung

around a large elliptical galaxy 30,000 Ly encounter. The elliptical stripped off the dark band that became Centaurs A. And the spirals central bulge made it ok. The rest of the spiral disk material shredded to become the non-rotating ESO 270-17. Most of these things are really are galaxies. Revised flat galaxy catalog. UGCA 151 15Xlong than wide. Beaded string.

- Lumicon UHC – is what she uses. H-beta filters are limited to 20 objects.

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End of meeting.