



Willingboro Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm by President Drew Maser

New guest

James and Father

Introductions and astronomical events of interest update

1. April 7 Lunar X (8:28 PM)
2. April 14 Mars will be at minimum distance and best time to view
3. April 14/15 Lunar Eclipse that is visible in our area
4. April 21 NASA's LADEE moon orbiting space probe smashes into the far side of the moon
5. April 22 Lyrids meteor shower. Peak is early AM April 23rd.

Public Star Watch Dates

1. Northeast Astronomy Forum & Telescope (NEAF) show is April 12 – 13
2. Texas Star Party is May 25 - June 1
3. Cherry Springs Star Party is June 26 - 29
4. Black Forest Star Party is Aug 22 – 24

Shown: Tonight's sky for April movie to club members

Old Business

Treasurer's report

December, January and February – income and balance as of the end of February, 2014 was presented to club members attending meeting. New dues payments not included in this report. The finances were discussed at the meeting.

April formal business meeting – vote on proposed new WAS meeting schedule:

Proposal:

- Formal business meeting will be held on the Friday of each month closest to full moon

- Informal will be held on the Friday of each month closest to the new moon
 - a) On clear nights, propose group observing
 - b) On cloudy nights, propose speakers and special topics of interest requested by members
 - c) No meeting minutes will be taken during informal business meetings

Motion on proposal:

- Seconded

Vote:

- Motion passed – all yes (28)

At future formal business meetings will discuss eliminating non-business meetings during the summer months.

Willingboro Astronomical Society (WAS) Star Watches (mark your calendars):

1. Batsto Village – April 5th
2. Timothy Christian Academy (TCA) - April 11th
3. Schedule posted on WAS website is final

By Laws and Articles of Incorporation

By laws have not yet been approved by the IRS

Budget

1. Draft budget presented at meeting
2. Work in progress to determine the number of paying members
3. Budget proposal for 2014 will be firmed up at the May 2014 formal business meeting

New Business

1. Proposed a club sponsored swap meet (May 2014)
2. Janet K volunteered to publish a WAS newsletter once/quarter. Please contact Janet if you are interested in contributing to the newsletter
3. Propose moving the WAS summer picnic to Camp Ockanickon:
 - a. Lake and canoes
 - b. Barbecue
 - c. Observations
4. Need to check out the insurance policy to verify adequate coverage for proposed picnic
5. WAS has been offered access to a piece of ground near Franklin Parker preserve by the New Jersey Conservation Society.
 - a. No cost
 - b. Presentation and discussion of the proposal at the next formal business meeting

Observations and General Discussion

1. Humor items
2. Alan Daroff = Vice President Emeritus Historian and Chief Solar Observer
3. Drew – Lunar Eclipses 2014/2015
 - a. Four consecutive eclipses Lunar tetrads
 - b. April 14 -15
 - c. Oct 7 – 8
 - d. April 4,2015
 - e. Sept 25, 2015
4. Janet K - book reports: The clock Work Universe, Isaac Newton the Royal Society and the Birth of the Modern World.
5. Jim Mack= 2014 Winter Star Party presentation
6. Discussed Philly Skyline photo
7. PIC 10 vesta Mars Spica March 27
8. Bernie K – Optics
9. Free time

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Submitted by Jim Foy, WAS Secretary.