



Willingboro Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:56pm by President Drew Maser

New guests

Craig (new interest)

Paul (found on the web)

Attendance

WAS Members: 11 (July 18, 2014 Swap Meet)

Was Officers: 3 (July 18, 2014 Swap Meet)

Was Members: 16 (August 15, 2014)

Was Officers 4 (August 15, 2014)

Introductions and astronomical events of interest update

WAS business meetings and events

Next two meetings are upstairs (thru October)

1. September 5th formal meeting
2. October 3th formal
3. November 7th formal
4. December 5th Formal
5. December 13th Holiday Party

Public Star Watch Dates

1. Black Forest Star Party is Aug 22 – 24

Showed: *Tonight's Sky* movie for August to club members

Old Business

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

1. September 20th Public Star Watch at Batsto Village
2. October 17th (weather backup on the 18th) Public Star Watch at Atsion
3. October 25th Public Star Watch at Franklin Parker Preserve

By Laws and Articles of Incorporation

By laws have not yet been approved by the IRS

Received a request for new forms, which are being provided to the IRS. So far we are on track with the timeline provided by the IRS for review of our application

Budget

Treasurer's report: Income reported. Recent expenditures for picnic and facilities

Janet K. plans to start a Newsletter

Old Business

Franklin Parker Preserve (FPP) proposal for new astronomy site

The committee gave an update on a visit to the site. The site will need to be maintained by WAS, which includes cutting down the undergrowth. This is currently what FPP does to maintain the site used for public star parties (the question of insurance for public events at this site still needs to be resolved). The next step is for FPP to arrange training and access to the equipment needed to maintain the property. October is when the next star party at Franklin Parker Preserve is scheduled, the expectation is this will be when the training and equipment will be available.

New Business

Propose to do a second picnic this year

Bernie has to contact camp Ockanickon to see if a date is available (August or September)

Comic interlude

Observations and General Discussion

1. Alan D: See Jupiter closing in on Venus at 5:18 AM. Getting closer 1 degree/day. Closest on Monday, August 18th. Also saw Sirius in the same morning, and saw Comet Jacques with pair of 11x80 Binoculars from Philly. Not much going on with the sun.

2. Joe: Observed Comet Jacques with 10x42 Binos from South Jersey
3. Roger: Makeover for the SI (System International) redefined metre and seconds etc. Change in philosophy for what the standards are. Big G will be assigned a new number based on several accurate measurements that are all different by about 5000 PPM.
4. Alan D: Picture in the September 2014 issue of Sky & Telescope of Jupiter several months after opposition shows Ganymede shadow on disc and a satellite in front of the shadow, but S&T misidentified the satellite as Io rather than Europa.
5. Bernie K: Comet 67P is reportedly 1/50th the density of the earth.
6. Gary W: 2015 Deep Space Mystery calendars is \$13 – get together and order.
7. Jim M: Showed photos of M17, first-quarter moon in conjunction with Mars, M16 and M33.
8. Bernie K: Time ran out on showing how a Telrad finder works; will do at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Submitted by Jim Foy, WAS Secretary.