



Willingboro Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:58 PM by President Drew Maser

New guests

Brian M

Attendance

Was Members: 13

Was Officers: 2

Introductions and astronomical events of interest update

WAS business meetings and events

1. December 5th formal meeting – elections
2. December 13th Holiday Party
3. Dec 19 non-formal meeting

List of Area Astronomy Events for 2015

1. Winter Star Party: 2/16 to 2/22
2. NEAF: 4/18 & 19
3. Texas Star Party: 5/10 to 5/17
4. Cherry Springs: 6/11 to 6/14
5. Mason Dixon: 7/15 to 7/19
6. Stellafane: 8/13 to 8/16
7. Black Forest: 8/14 to 8/20

List of Events Viewable in the Night Sky

1. Lunar Eclipse: April 4, 2015
2. Lunar Eclipse: September 29, 2015
3. Provided overview of what is available for the month of December 2014 (moon phase, meteor showers and planets) - Add this list and future lists to WAS website.

4. Discussed when Saturn and Jupiter and the moons of each will be visible in December 2014

Deep Sky Objects

Picked Pegasus and Andromeda, what can be observed: Andromeda Galaxy, M15 - story, mythology, Gamma Andromedae is nice double as is nearby Gamma Arietis. M15 has a planetary nebula (about mag 14) and a neutron star. NGC7331 spiral galaxy, Stephan's quintet, Einstein's cross – gravitationally bent image to give what appears to be four galaxies, 51 Peg B is an exo-solar planet – first discovered orbiting a sun-like star.

Old Business

Holiday Party December 13th

- WAS will provide the food (stuffed shells, meat balls, roast beef, cheese, potato salad, coleslaw, macaroni salad, rolls, and soda)
- Cost: \$5 per attendee, will have a sign-up sheet
- No door prizes
- So far no responses for the pollyanna
- Ask members to bring desserts

By Laws and Articles of Incorporation

Beginning of year will start working with the adapted by-laws

Budget

Treasurer's report:

- Income reported
- Holiday party is next expenditure
- Deadline for DUES is Next Month

New Business

- The 2015 WAS meeting schedule was provided to members. This will be posted on the website
- Products of the month – Alan D: Spion Binos, 70 mm and goes from 7x to 140x; \$30 for 25 piece telescope and microscope

Propose to change the name of WAS to something generic

- The goal is to get rid of the location.
- Next month or so provide a list of names.

Elections (no ballots in the mailbox)

- President: Drew Maser
- Vice President – Jerry Lodriguss
- Treasurer – Joe Stieber
- Secretary – Jim Foy

As per by-laws elected by consensus (all officers were unopposed)

2015 Calendars and RASC Handbooks were distributed

Comic interlude

Observations and General Discussion

- Bernie K: Favorites in Pegasus: NGC 7206 Blue Snowball, and Water Jar; Equuleus nearby
- Bernie K: Favorites in Pisces – in the cord of the eastern fish –Eta Piscium (Kullat Nunu) and Omicron Piscium (Torcularis Septentrionalis).
- Steve: Showed picture of a glory shadow of a plane – refraction in water droplets – near take-off and landing.
- Roger: Showed a table from an article on the origin of the moon. with seismic velocity (km/s) of cheeses and lunar rocks and terrestrial rocks
- Brian: Periscopic sextant – 1961 C141 – had to get a digital watch and a light. Find three bright stars 120 apart – make a reading – gave you longitude and latitude. Former navigator use celestial navigation method. Strategic airlift. Coleman instruments. 10 min to take a reading. One reading every about 20 minutes

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Submitted by Jim Foy, WAS Secretary.