

West Jersey Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes for: November 16, 2018

Web Address: <http://wasociety.us>

Location: Virtua Moorestown

Members in attendance: 15

Visitors: 0

Officers present:

President: Roger Cowley

Treasurer: Steve Kutoroff

Secretary: Paul Bender

Informal Meeting

Lots of member catching up.

Pres Roger C began the meeting at 7:51 PM and went over upcoming events listed on our website.

Nov 20: AP group lecture by **Dave N** at 7:00 PM. Post meeting: **Dave** dealt with Deep Sky Imaging in light polluted (urban) environment. (Excellent tour of factors and techniques particularly necessary for working in your backyard and other light polluted areas. Included use of narrow band filters, dew/light shield, multiple exposures, image calibration with bias frames, dark frames, flat frames, and flat dark frames).

The yearly HOLIDAY PARTY will be on DEC 15 at 6 PM.

To provide some idea of food consumption, **Paul B** read a list he had made at last year's party, and sent to **Wade E**. The following volunteered to bring eatables:

Ray P: hot roast beef and gravy, rolls and horseradish, and a cake

Val K: meat balls, soda (24 8-oz cans)

Al M: coffee, cream, sugar and veggie tray

Arnie R: water and desserts

Dave N: will check club supplies and bring paper cups, plates

Howard S: potato salad and veggie lasagna

Paul B: two large cheese pizzas (Costco), one veggie lasagna, several sterno steam heating trays

(plastic utensils not yet mentioned)

Val K reminded us of the 2019 Winter Star Party, back in the Florida Keys, Feb 4 to 10 at Camp Wesumkee, organized by the Southern Cross Astronomical Society.

Val K trip report: Cincinnati Observatory on Mt Lookout, now called Mt Adams in honor of Pres J.Q. Adams who laid the cornerstone. It houses a large Merz & Mahler 11" diameter doublet refractor, ca f/17, the optics brought from Munich, Bavaria, in the early 1840's. At the time, it was the third largest refractor in existence. There's also an Alvan Clark & Sons, Cambridge Mass, 16" refractor ca 1904. It weighs several thousand lbs, and its clock drive is powered by a 400lb crank-mounted weight inside the pier. The observatory kept the official time for Cincinnati. The scope is well maintained, has a brass mount and is 22 ft long. The observatory has many historical plaques, pictures, and historical pieces as well as a large star pointing Rayovac flashlight from ca 1970, used as a teaching tool.

Val as the election officer of WAS in attendance, called for nominations for officers for 2019. There were no additional nominations. Current nominees are: Pres S. Kutoroff, VP Ray Pape, Sec Paul Bender, Treas Wade Evans.

Paul B mentioned he would be in Florida for about a month between Jan and Feb 2019, **Arnie R** offered to fill in for him during this time.

Steve K reported on his trip to a resort in Finland, to attempt to observe the Aurora Borealis in the snow covered landscape. They rented a cabin which had a glass top for observing while you rest. Logs for heat cost €37. All meals at the large dining room included reindeer meat. Their location was north of the Arctic Circle. 80 husky dogs were available for daytime landscape observing sled runs. Kelo wood was used for the cabins, and the long nights would have been ideal for observing; however, the skies were unusually cloudy and the Aurora was not visible. Still, they greatly enjoyed their vacation, also touring other cities, including Helsinki and Stockholm. The Stockholm museum featured a sleek wooden boat launched in 1628 which sank and was recovered centuries later, well preserved in its mud bottom tomb. Also visited was the Niels Bohr institute built in 1920.

Question of when the Antares rocket would launch from Wallops Island, Va. **Joe S** said 4:01 AM tomorrow (Saturday, Nov 17). **Joe** later put the GOES satellite picture on his website. He also reported spotting comet [46P/Wirtanen](#) on October 30 from Carranza Field with his 12.5-inch Newtonian. At the Atsion Member Star Watch on November 10, 46P was seen again, as well as comet **64P/Swift-Gehrels**, with the 12.5-inch. The following morning, November 11, he saw the recently discovered

comet **C/2018 V1 (Machholz-Fujikawa-Iwamoto)** with 15x56 binoculars at Carranza.

Alan D: 10 days from today is superior conjunction of Jupiter, 11 days is Mercury's inferior conjunction.

Roger mentioned that the long-period variable star Mira is approaching maximum brightness. The November 8 Astronomy Picture of the Day showed the retrograde loop of Mars in Capricornus (the middle of loop is always opposition, for all planets).

The **Leonid** meteor shower peak is tomorrow (rate ca 15/hr).

Pres Roger C concluded the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by **Sec Paul B** on 11/27/2018.