

# West Jersey Astronomical Society

**Meeting Minutes for:** December 7, 2018

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

Location: Virtua Moorestown

Members in attendance: 12

Visitors: 0

Officers present:

President: Roger Cowley

Vice President: Steve Kutoroff

Secretary: Paul Bender

Formal Meeting

Pres **Roger C** opened the meeting at 7:47 PM

**Roger** demonstrated how retrograde motion operates for inner as well as outer planets using a program written by his son that generates a moving model for the planets Earth, Mars and Venus.

At the meeting **Joe S** showed shot of comet 46P's greenish coma (100mm, f/2.8 macro lens, 4 sec exposure) taken on Nov 29 from Carranza. (**Joe's** notes to the WAS mailing lists have commented extensively on his observations of comet 46P/Wirtanen and included S&T articles as well as notes and pics from other WAS members and former members). **Joe's** website ([sjastro.org](http://sjastro.org)) is loaded with nice pics of 46P from Carranza Field and Atsion.

**Joe** mentioned spotting Mercury (7th of seven elongations in 2018) with his 15x56 binoculars at 6:20 am in the dawn sky. **Alan D** noted that on Dec 15, gibbous Mercury will be at its greatest western elongation, and also commented the "ancients" called Mercury "the sparkler."

**Val K** opened nominations for any additional candidates prior to the elections, and Paul B nominated **Arnie R** for secretary.

**Val** then conducted the election. Counting the votes for each office, those elected were:

**Steve K**, President

**Ray P**, Vice President

**Wade E**, Treasurer

**Arnie R**, Secretary

**Paul B** reviewed the food list volunteered at our last session, and the following additions were included:

**Steve K**: salad

**Ray P**: to bring iPod with Pandora

**Paul B**: bringing jar of Parmesan cheese

The Holiday Party will begin at 6 PM on Dec 15.

**Steve K** noted the Cherry Hill Library has a 3D printer available for public use, which he utilized to make a pair of telescope rings. Several members offered that ADM also makes many scope parts, and **Steve** put their website onscreen.

**Alan D** announced there were still several 2019 Astronomy calendars available.

**Val** showed screen shot of Flat Earth Society announcing members all "around the globe."

**Paul** recommended watching the National Geographic channel's "Mars" series for its science content as well as good science fiction.

Picture of SN 2018ivc, a supernova in M77, from Sky and Telescope projected on-screen. **Joe S** noted in a comment to Bob King's S&T online article that he viewed M77 in his 12.5" Dob on 12/4 but could not resolve the SN, even at 338x.

President **Roger C** called the meeting to a close at 9:34 PM.

**Submitted** by Secretary **Paul Bender** on Dec 17, 2018.