

West Jersey Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes for: January 4, 2019

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

Location: Virtua Moorestown

Members in attendance: 14

Visitors: 0

Officers present:

President: Steve Kutoroff

Vice President: Ray Pape

Secretary: Arnie Rosemoff

Treasurer: Wade Evans

Formal Meeting

Steve calls the meeting to order at 7:50 pm.

Steve presented a 3D printed camera mount for his Questar. The Questar will be a platform for tracking a piggyback camera attached with the 3D mount.

Joe showed a comet photo of 46P/Wirtanen. If you haven't seen it, take a look before it fades away!

Steve spoke about New Horizons spacecraft mission and Ultima Thule photos from its flyby. Data is coming in slowly because of technology limits.

Alan brought up watching Nova on PBS... *Pluto and Beyond* was a good watch. *Astronomy on Tap* mentioned by Steve as a source for beer and astronomy.

Gary spoke about stainless steel and nickel, and magnetic properties of meteorites relating to their origin from solar system bodies.

Roger nominates Joe S as a lifetime member.

Wade reported on membership and PayPal usage. We are at 25 renewals and 1 new member. New 2019 member ID cards issued to paid members.

Barnegat Rd site was discussed. We still are on a call-ahead basis (3 days) at this point... Normal events at Batsto and Atsion are still on the usual schedule.

New meeting schedule is 1st Friday and 3rd Thursday of each month except February 2019... NO THIRD THURS MEETING IN FEBRUARY (due to building usage commitments unrelated to the WAS).

Joe S asked if anyone has observed the comet... The weather looks promising for Sat evening for those wanting to get a look. Joe looked for Quadrantid meteors on the morning of January 4, but wasn't successful. Joe and Alan discussed meteor showers. The radiant of the Quadrantids is in the Bootes-Hercules area of the sky as the constellation Quadrans Muralis that it's named for is obsolete.

We discussed the upcoming the lunar eclipse of Jan 21.

Roger talked about a picture at S&T that showed the size of the earth's shadow well by its placement on successive images of the moon in a composite photo.

Dave reads where this eclipse will be visible. Alan explained that there are 3 distinct eclipse seasons in 2019.

The Earth was at perihelion on Jan 3, closest to the sun for this year. Alan described the difference between perigee and perihelion. In 1980, the Astronomical Almanac started citing perigee from the sun's aspect rather than perihelion from the earth's aspect (some folks are confused). Dave talked about the number of Julian days between earth's perihelion year to year and how it varies. Planetary gravitational influences do have minor effects and do cause variations in time of perigee.

Alan discussed which constellation the sun is on the first day of winter. It was in Sagittarius at the December solstice, between M8 and M20.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm... Further discussions continue during pizza at Passariello's...

Until next meeting, clear dark skies...

Submitted by Secretary Arnie Rosemoff on Jan 5, 2019.