

# West Jersey Astronomical Society

**Meeting Minutes for:** March 1, 2019

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

Location: Virtua Moorestown

Members in attendance: 13

Visitors: 0

Officers present:

President: Steve Kutoroff

Vice President: Ray Pape

Secretary: Arnie Rosemoff

Formal Meeting

Steve calls the meeting to order at 7:45 pm

Steve talked about his trip to the planetarium in Tucson AZ. It was sponsored by the local astronomy club, The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association. He showed some photos of his trip.

We have a planned star watch at Batsto tomorrow but the weather look bad.

Steve has some new public outreach info for new projects... Cherry Hill Elementary School and the Cherry Hill public Library. Detail of upcoming events TBD.

We talked about the upcoming public event at Timothy Christian Academy on Friday March 8. Bernie is promoting it and will be leading the event.

Joe talks about getting email in Yahoo and Google groups to stay current on club events.

We talked about this morning's launch of Dragon X to test the capsule for manned flight to the shuttle.

We spent some time looking at sky charts for planetary observing for morning and night objects.

Mercury is now in the evening sky and it is a good apparition to see it as the ecliptic is very steep now. It's also a good time to see the zodiacal light and the related

gegenschein.

Joe talked about Ophiuchus and Barnard's Star in the constellation. He points out that it has moved several arc minutes since 2000.

They talked about the trapezium in Orion and their attempts to see stars 5 and 6 from local sites. Good seeing is the most important factor.

Joe has seen Mercury for 52 apparitions in a row, since January 2011. There is a possibility of 6 or 7 elongations per year including morning and evening.

Joe talks about his comet searching efforts and sky illumination from our local sites and shows some of his sky snapshots that he uses for observation documentation.

Joe showed some photos of the total lunar eclipse from last month showing the stars near the full moon.

Alan shows space weather photos of solar activity in 2007.

Steve adjourns the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Until next meeting... Off to pizza!

Submitted by Secretary Arnie Rosemoff on March 12, 2019.