

West Jersey Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes for: February 16, 2018

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

Location: Virtua Moorestown

Members in attendance: 12

Officers present...

Vice Pres.: Steve Kutoroff

Sec.: Paul Bender

Steve K., called meeting to order at 7:48 PM.

Steve mentioned that he was using his Mac computer guided by a keyboard at his seat to lead the discussion. He began with one of his web links to Rob Pettengill's astrophotography site showing a photo of Pettengill in his home observatory which has a Questar as the finder scope. Many of Rob's impressive images are shown scrolling on this site, and the site gives a guide to beginners in AP. **Gary** asked Steve to share his addresses with the Yahoo group, and the next morning Steve sent out over 40 hyperlinks to the Yahoo group (2/17/18). For Mac users, Steve uses "Wine" to run Registax 6; **Dave N.**, recommended that users of Registax have computers with at least 8 GB of memory.

Steve put wasociety web site on screen to show that our **next observing session** is next month, **Mar 17 at Atsion**. **Val** mentioned that the winter star party in the Keys was not held this year due to poor response and change of venue, and reminded all of the NEAF astronomy meeting coming up on Sat and Sun, April 21-22 in Suffern, NY at Rockland Community College. He mentioned that it is a great meeting to buy new equipment, and it is a "must" particularly if you have not been to one before. He mentioned that most manufacturers are there with their equipment and tech reps to demonstrate and answer questions. Steve put the Rockland astronomy show (NEAF 2018) on screen to show the featured speakers, **John Mather**, Nobel Laureate & James Webb scientist; **Mike Leinbach**, Space Shuttle Launch Director; and **Tom Mulder**, Boeing CST Starliner, Navigation, Control, and Mission Designer. There are usually 3 simultaneous venues of 4-6 lectures at each venue occurring both days, of ca. 45 min-1 hr duration/lecture. (See 2017 schedule, 2018 not out yet <http://www.rocklandastronomy.com/neaf.html>).

Val also reported that the Texas star party, beginning May 12 (ca. 1 week long) will be later this spring, followed by the Green Bank StarQuest optical star party July 11-14, 2018, in Green Bank, W.Va., which also provides a program on the very large radio telescope housed there. Steve put the Green Bank Dish onscreen. Bernie mentioned that these larger radio dishes provide higher resolution.

Following a request for a video on the SpaceX Falcon Heavy launch, **Steve** located and displayed the recent launch and successful booster landing. Discussion on what launches would be upcoming, brought up the James Webb telescope.

Steve put the site for the James Webb IR telescope onscreen (now scheduled for launch Mar-Jun 2019), and showed a video representation of the collapsed scope opening in orbit, very intricate unfolding routine.

Paul mentioned that IR is how the mass of the Milky Way's Super Massive Black Hole was measured to cut through the dust and allow the stars orbits around the SMBH to be charted.

Dave N., mentioned the Shupmann (Porter Garden) telescope at Stellafane, and **Steve** put the 13" f/10 complex telescope on screen as well as a drawing of how its optics worked. Next Stellafane Convention (Amateur Telescope Makers) Aug 9-12 in Springfield, Vt.

Bernie K., asked **Paul R.**, to describe his previous work making eyepieces with Edmund Scientific.

Steve concluded meeting at 9:45 PM.

Submitted by: Sec. Paul Bender on Feb 18, 2018.