

West Jersey Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes for: April 06, 2018

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

Location: Virtua Moorestown

Members in attendance: 17

Officers present:

Pres: Roger Cowley

Vice Pres.: Steve Kutoroff

Sec.: Paul Bender

Our president **Roger C.** opened the meeting at 7:49 PM.

He announced the scheduled **Atsion Star Watch** for tomorrow night, though the weather was not promising, followed by our first Batsto Star Watch on April 14. Roger also noted that the annual **NEAF** in Suffern NY would be on Apr 21, and 22, and passed around a mailing advertisement indicating the **NEAF** web address at "RocklandAstronomy.com/NEAF Sat 8:30-6PM". Several members indicated they would be attending and **Roger** asked those who had recent equipment purchases to bring them to the next session following **NEAF**, on May 4 for "show and tell".

Dan M. has been lecturing on 200mm astrophotography; and has suggested having an astrophotography subsection once a month on Mon, Tue or Wed. There were five members present, who have also attended one or more of these sessions and were very positive about this added subgroup, so after some discussion the decision was made to convey this to **Dan**.

Roger also announced that **Bernie H.** would hold a daytime meeting on Apr 27 at the **Van Zant school**.

Alan D. mentioned that **Drew Maser** has a cement-filled steel pier at his house which is available since he is moving to an over-55 adult community.

Tony, who recently returned from his winter residence in Florida announce he has a variety of eyepieces he wants to sell; **Roger** suggested bringing them to the post **NEAF** "show and tell".

Last week the planets Mars and Saturn were doing a dance in the sky. Mars went from one side of Saturn to the other over 5 days and there are now ca. 3-5 moon diameters separating them. **Alan D.** noted that Saturn is starting to go into retrograde soon (April 18) and Mars will be going into retrograde June 28. **Roger** added from his observations that Mars is racing in the sky to the East, much faster than Saturn. He showed several photographs he took in the early AM hours with a 50mm lens at f2.8 ASA 800 4 sec, of the two planets with Sagittarius in the field.

Joe S. showed Jimmy M's picture of Uranus and Venus emailed to the Yahoo group

and Joe's own picture on Mar 30 showing Venus, Uranus and the two stars Omicron Piscium and HD 11257. **Joe** also showed his striking recent evening shot of the waxing crescent moon with earthshine reflecting off it; lined up perfectly with Venus and Mercury on Mar 18, 2018. Taken with 200mm 1/10 sec f 2.8 @ ISO 1600.

Alan brought up the Mar 28 views of the binary Sirius B the pup star taken by **Peter Rosen** shooting through an 8" Maksutov. The elusive companion to Sirius A is approx at its greatest distance from Sirius A for minimum glare.

Paul B. brought up the Radio Science-Friday program that aired that afternoon discussing what appears to be 26 black holes rotating around milky way's supper massive BL Hole. **Steve K.** put the Sky & Telescope article about it on screen which suggests the possibility of 10,000 mini black holes in this area.

Bernie K. spoke about the use of his heavy (ca 15lb) optical bench to examine lenses.

Roger mentioned that he purchased a bench from Edmund which was much lighter and flimsier.

Roger called the meeting to an end at 9:23PM.

Submitted by Sec. Paul Bender, April 13, 2018

Sent from my iPad