

West Jersey Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes for: July 6, 2018

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

Location: Virtua Moorestown

Members in attendance: 15

Visitors: 1 (John from Willingboro; Arthur is a new member)

Officers present:

Pres.: Roger Cowley

Vice Pres.: Steve Kutoroff

Treas.: Wade Evans

Sec.: Paul Bender

Our president **Roger C.** opened the meeting at 7:44PM. Tomorrow is a member star watch at Atsion; July 14, Batsto Public Star Watch. Mars opposition July 27.

Joe S, Mars hazy due to dust storm; **Steve K** put a composite pic of Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn on screen.

Bernie K: the GRS (great red spot) on Jupiter is now smaller and really red, it also seems to have moved more south.

Jupos.org shows position of features on Jupiter (3 representations for GRS; preceding, center, trailing). Older records of drift of GRS show large changes. Questions re causes of variability of Jupiter's features.

Wade reported new member has joined; now total 37 with 7 life members. July 21 Camp Ockanickon barbecue: swimming, boating, beach. Pot luck picnic. Arrive before two pm to register. WAS balance is \$3,054.

Joe S referred to **Howard S's** nice shot of M92 globular cluster on web site taken with canon T3 on an 8" HD guided Celestron. In response to question of the large number of red stars in the photo, **Bernie K.** commented that globulars tend to have a lot of old, red stars.

Steve K put photo of M13 from Wikipedia on screen.

Roger gave us a progress report on his work following planets: Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn. He also located Vesta in his photographic study of Saturn's motion, and triangulated with respect to known stars to get RA and Dec. Roger uses 3 stars in field, and checks with Stellarium and MICA (topocentric); he finds that MICA gives data almost spot on with his calculations, so use Stellarium data with caution. (MICA is a program which will give you almost whatever you ask for.) Vesta plot looks just like a planet, orbit not irregular. Semi-major axis $a = 2.3\text{au}$, $P = 3.4$ yrs.

Alan D handed out a NASA facts sheet on the New Horizons mission to Pluto and

Kuiper Belt (KB). Launched Jan 19, 2006; it observed Pluto system Jul 14, 2015; is continuing to explore KBO's 1 billion miles beyond Pluto to 2014 MU69, with its 7 onboard instruments, to explore the shapes, surfaces, atmospheres, rings and moons of ca 25 KBO's.

Joe S reported that Comet C/2017 S3 (PANSTARRS) had an outburst, it's in Camelopardalis, near Cassiopeia/Perseus, can be seen in a 6" scope and should be visible in July.

Roger called meeting to a close at 9:30PM.

Submitted by Sec. **Paul Bender, on** Jul 19, 2018.

Sent from my iPad