

# West Jersey Astronomical Society

**Meeting Minutes for:** December 21, 2018

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

Location: Virtua Moorestown

Members in attendance: 14

Visitors: 0

Officers present:

President: Roger Cowley

Vice President: Steve Kutoroff

Secretary: Paul Bender

Treasurer: Wade Evans

Also in attendance, the 2019 Officers: President Steve Kutoroff, Vice President Ray Pape, Secretary Arnie Rosemoff and Treasurer Wade Evans.

Informal Meeting

Having difficulties connecting to our WAS home page through the Virtua network; problem self-resolved after ca 15 min.

Meeting began ca 7:50 PM.

Steve recommended the recent book "Chasing New Horizons" by Alan Stern, and put the NASA New Horizons site on screen.

On Dec 11, 2018, at Atsion, Joe S spotted the "Christmas Comet," 46P/Wirtanen, in Taurus with unaided eyes, 16.5° degrees from the Hyades cluster and then recorded it with his Canon 6D digital SLR camera and wide field 20mm lens at f/2.8, for 13 sec ISO 3200. The frame included the sky from Lepus to the Pleiades. Joe had his web site on-screen from his tablet, showing additional images with 40 mm and 200 mm lenses. The greenish color of 46P's coma was evident.

Joe also noted that the following morning, Saturday, Dec 22, Mercury and Jupiter

will be very close together, about a degree apart, before sunrise. (However, it was cloudy, but on Dec 25, Joe captured an image of Mercury and Jupiter a few degrees apart in Ophiuchus at 6:15 AM from Carranza Field; see his website [sjastro.org](http://sjastro.org)).

Roger noted that Venus' greatest western elongation will be on Jan 6. It was also noted that the asteroid (1) Ceres is still far away. On Joe's website there's a 4 sec exposure he took on Dec 25th with a 50mm lens at f/2.8, ISO 800 showing a faint, magnitude 8.9 Ceres 3.3° from brilliant, magnitude -4.5 Venus at 6:08 AM (the 13.4 magnitude difference equals a 229,000x difference in brightness).

Wade E. presented Roger with gifts, including a coffee mug, for his years of WAS leadership.

Wade also reported that the "Barnegat Rd" observing site is moving forward (NOT to be referred to as Coyle Field). Therefore, the Coyle Field entry on the WAS "Directions" page will be eliminated and replaced with the Barnegat Rd site when the formal arrangements have been completed. (Currently, the old directions to Coyle have been removed and replaced by a message noted that it is no longer accessible to observers and any such use would be trespassing).

Alan D noted that the calendar shows a linear gash in the Moon, the Alpine Valley, between the craters Plato and Aristoteles crater and the edge of Mare Imbrium. Best lighting to see the valley is first or last quarters. Joe put one of his moon pictures on-screen to show the position of the Alpine Valley.

The meeting was concluded at ca. 9:30 PM.

Submitted by Secretary Paul Bender on Dec 29, 2018.