

FBAC Meeting
8-15-2008
39 in attendance

- Meeting started at 7:05 p.m.
- FBAC Carbon Star Observing List announcement – novice program for next month’s meeting
- Introduction of Officers
- FBAC Officer elections for 2008-2009 Term to be held later in the meeting

Candidates for election/re-election:

- President: Leonard Ferguson, Derek Newton, Justin McCollum
 - Vice President: Cynthia Gustava, Bill Jacobus
 - Secretary: Alicia Tristan
 - Treasurer: Steve Clayworth
- Main Program – “New Worlds: Extrasolar Planets” by Cynthia Gustava and Larry Mitchell

Part 1 – Exoplanets (presented by Cynthia Gustava)

- 307 extrasolar planets have been discovered from 1989–2008
- Space.com Video Player – Planet Hunter
http://www.space.com/php/video/player.php?video_id=b020321_sp_leckrone1
- Information on the different classes of extrasolar planets, their formation, and methods of detection:
 - Hot Jupiters
 - Various stars with known planets and debris rings
 - Telescopes used for discoveries of extrasolar planet systems
 - How exoplanets form
- Exoplanet Habitable Zone Candidates
http://www.planetarybiology.com/hz_candidates/

- Planetary migration
- Planemos
- Chthonian planets
- The Greenhouse Effect
 - <http://www.space.com/common/media/video.php?videoRef=GoldilocksGreen>

Part 2 – Exoplanet Detection Methods (presented by Larry Mitchell)

- Astrometry
 - SIM (Space Interferometry Mission)
 - PRIMA (Phase-Referenced Imaging and Micro-arcsecond Astrometry)
 - SDSS-III (Sloan Digital Sky Survey III)
- Radial Velocity
 - HARPS (High Accuracy Radial velocity Planet Searcher)
 - HIRES (High Resolution Échelle Spectrometer)
 - HET (Hobby-Eberly Telescope)
 - PRVS (Precision Radial Velocity Spectrometer)
- Transit Method
 - The Amateur Exoplanet Archive
 - COROT (CONvection ROTation and planetary Transits)
 - SWEEPS (Sagittarius Window Eclipsing Extrasolar Planet Search)
 - The Kepler Mission
- Gravitational Microlensing
 - OGLE (Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment)
 - MOA (Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics)
 - PLANET (Probing Lensing Anomalies NETWORK)
- Circumstellar Disks
- Pulsar Timing
- Eclipsing Binaries

Part 3 – Future Missions (presented by Cynthia Gustava)

- NASA's New Worlds Imager (NWI)

- 10 minute break
- Visitors: 4
- New Members: 1

- Business Meeting

Reports and Announcements:

- East Dome Committee Report: Dennis Borgman
 - No new ED Committee meetings/news
 - Will work on scheduling ED training sessions

- Asteroid Search Team (A-Team) Report: Bill Dillon
 - Very few images taken recently with the remote ‘scopes in New Mexico, due to bad weather from the “monsoon season”
 - 3 discoveries were made with the California roboscope
 - Max Eastman and Carl Sexton have been working on gathering data with the 18” ED scope

- Astronomy on Wheels (AOW) Report: Leonard Pattillo
 - The next star party is scheduled for Monday, Sep. 29th.
Location: Blue Ridge Elementary School Time: ~7:00 p.m.

- Check for TSP Volunteering: \$350

- George Observatory Picnic Announcement: Tracy Knauss
 - Picnic will be held on Sunday, Sep. 14th.
Location: The George Observatory Time: To be announced

- Astronomy Day: Cynthia Gustava
 - Official A-Day website is almost ready to be published
 - The speaker for the Regional “All Clubs” Meeting on Oct. 17th will be Dr. David H. Levy. His presentation is entitled: “My Life and Times as a Comet Hunter”
 - The A-Day volunteer sign-up spreadsheet will be available at the next club meeting

- New FBAC brochures have been designed by Tracy Knauss

- Treasury Report: DJ McCracken
 - Club Expenditures
 - Club has ~\$2,400 in bank account

Committee Reports:

- Promotions Committee: Patty Tristan
 - FBAC Meeting announcements posted in the Houston Chronicle, The Star, and The Sun
- 2008 FBAC Christmas Party Committee: Tracy Knauss
 - The Annual FBAC Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12th at the George Observatory Time: 7:00 p.m.

Other Announcements:

- Club Observing Nights: Tracy Knauss
 - Observing Nights are held in the parking lot of the Brazos Bend State Park Interpretive Center
 - Dates are to be decided, will be announced on Netslyder e-mail list
- No FBAC Meeting is scheduled in October, as the club will be attending the 2008 Texas Gulf Coast Astronomy Meeting
- FBAC Club Elections – 2008-2009 Term
 - Motion proposed by Cynthia Gustava to close nominations
 - Motion seconded by Leonard Pattillo
 - Nominations closed

Elections

- Office: Treasurer Candidate: Steve Clayworth
 - Votes taken: Majority in favor of candidate
 - Steve Clayworth elected as FBAC Treasurer, 2008-2009 term
- Office: Secretary Candidate: Alicia Tristan
 - Votes taken: Majority in favor of candidate
 - Alicia Tristan re-elected as FBAC Secretary, 2008-2009 term
- Office: Vice President Candidates: Cynthia Gustava and Bill Jacobus
 - Votes taken
 - Bill Jacobus elected as FBAC Vice President, 2008-2009 term

- Office: President Candidates: Leonard Ferguson, Derek Newton, and Justin McCollum
 - Votes taken
 - Derek Newton elected as FBAC President, 2008-2009 term

Elections Concluded

- Other Announcements:
 - FBAC Observing Clubs reminder
 - Reminder – FBAC Tuesday Night get-together
 - Location: The Avalon Diner in the Fountains Shopping Center
 - Time: ~6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- Club Benefits
 - Observing Programs
 - Loaner Scopes
 - Club Library
 - Access to 18” East Dome telescope
 - Membership in the Astronomical League
 - Discounts on subscriptions to Sky & Telescope and Astronomy Magazine
- Door Prize drawing
- Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.