

**Fort Bend Astronomy Club  
General Assembly Meeting  
August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Minutes:**

- Commenced at 7:16pm
  
- Welcome to visitors (2) and new members (2)
  
- Main Presentation: "Uranus and Neptune-Getting to know the outer gas giants" By Justin McCollum
  - What do we know about Uranus?
    - ring structure
    - size/mass/physical properties of planet
    - discovery and detection of rings
    - color of the planet comes from composition
    - mostly hydrogen and helium
    - one of the coldest planets in the solar system
    - internal composition and magnetic properties
    - the seasons on Uranus
    - the principle moons of Uranus
      - 27 moons, 9 of them captured
      - orbital characteristics of moons
      - physical composition of moons/geologic features
    - orbital characteristics
    - a day on Uranus is 17h 14m
  - What do we know about Neptune?
    - size/mass/density/other physical properties of planet
    - first planet to be predicted by theory before it was confirmed by observation
      - By Adams and Leverrier independently
      - first observed by Galle at the Berlin observatory
    - atmospheric composition
      - very dynamic, water ice clouds, high velocity winds
    - magnetic field due to internal fluid dynamics
    - rings were confirmed with flyby of Voyager II
      - have a reddish appearance
    - moons
      - about 13, Triton is the largest
      - Triton probably a Kuiper Belt object, 7<sup>th</sup> largest moon

- in solar system, trace atmosphere
- how to observe Neptune and Triton
- Neptune: ap. Mag. 7.78-8.02/2.5 arc seconds across
- Uranus: ap. Mag. 5.32-5.9/3-4 arc seconds across
- Main Presentation ended at 7:49pm
- Q&A:
  - Why is Neptune more blue? Not really sure
  - Why was it called Uranus? Not really sure, maybe because it was politically correct?
  
- Announcement: Leonard Patillo is in the hospital, Clear Lake Regional- He is in all out thoughts—Get better soon!
  
- 10 minute break at 7:53pm
- Resumed at 8:14pm
  
- Former officers:
  - President-Alicia Tristan
  - Vice President-Justin McCollum
  - Treasurer-Steve Clayworth
  - Secretary-Nathaniel Whitehead
  
- Elections began at 8:15pm
- Nominations:
  - Leonard Ferguson was nominated for President
  - Justin McCollum was nominated for President
  - Steve Clayworth was nominated for Vice President
  - Bill Jacobus was nominated for Treasurer
  - Standing Secretary Nathaniel Whitehead was nominated for the position of secretary
- Voting:
  - Steve Clayworth was elected to the position of Vice President by a unanimous vote
  - Bill Jacobus was elected to the position of Treasurer by a unanimous vote
  - Vote for the position of President resulted in a tie between the candidates Leonard Ferguson and Justin McCollum
    - Vote was tied at 12 per candidate
    - Assembly called for a speech from each candidate and a re-vote to determine the position of President
  - Candidate Speeches:
    - Candidate Justin McCollum: wants to acquire a dark site, increase membership of young people in the organization, form a speakers committee, progress with the organization of East Dome activities. Promises to work very efficiently using

his experience as a Professor and long time member of several astronomy clubs to maximize time and effort spent in the position of President.

- Candidate Leonard Ferguson: wants to organize a club picnic, institute a more consistent social structure for club activities, look into a dark sky site, does not belong to any other astronomy club so FBAC would receive his full attention. Joined FBAC and has been involved since 1999.

-Re-Vote for position of President:

- Vote resulted in 8 votes for candidate Justin McCollum and 10 votes for candidate Leonard Ferguson
- Leonard Ferguson was elected to the position of FBAC President

- Current Officers:

President: Leonard Ferguson  
Vice President: Steve Clayworth  
Treasurer: Bill Jacobus  
Secretary: Nathaniel Whitehead

- Announcement: Bill Jacobus spoke on the degradation of the Horn Antenna, used to first observe the cosmic background microwave radiation. Currently owned by Lucian Technologies but many want the Smithsonian to take care and ownership of the site

- Open Forum:

- Derek Newton believed that Carl Sexton should not have been removed from netslyder—issues were with the George Observatory and not with FBAC—there needs to be independence between the two—the situation with Carl Sexton should have been handled by the officers of FBAC and not an individual—says there has been a decline in the attitudes of friendship in FBAC as of late and would like to see that come back into the fold.
- Netslyder code of conduct should be put in place for the future
- Steve Clayworth wondered what the netslyder terms of service are—a: they are technical in nature and don't speak to conduct.
- members thought that email was not the correct medium in which to deal with the situation that arose, rather the executive officers should have handled it much more privately
- administrator of netslyder shouldn't take unilateral action on their own without consent of officers
- Bill Jacobus thinks that no single person should have access to

any FBAC email account, thus allowing for access should that one person not be able, or willing to access it.

**- Current email accounts need to be set up to include multiple users**

**- Officers should develop guidelines for disciplinary action**

- Carl Sexton is only a member now, he has been relieved of any other duties due to the nature of the situation that unfolded.

-Business Meeting:

- East Dome: is currently reorganizing, Joe Dellenger is handling it.

- AOW: lots of communication with teachers, its gonna be a busy year.

- A-Team: No Report

- Treasurer Report:

- \$3013 in checking, \$2157 in CD, \$748 in A-Day

- + \$47/ -\$70

- Dues in September

- Speakers: Nothing yet

- Promotions: No news

- Club Benefits were listed/get togethers were talked about/no other business

- Door Prizes were given

- Attendance: 26

- Next Meeting: 9/16/2010

- Adjourned: 9:36pm