

FBAC Meeting
2-20-2009
36 in attendance

- Meeting started at ~7:00 p.m.
- Novice Presentation – “Intelligible Names and Numbers for Solar System Planetaries” by Don d’Entremont

Topics included:

- Planet nomenclature, characteristics, mass/ratio measurements, and classification
- The Pluto system

- 10 minute break
- Introduction of Officers
- Visitors: 4
- New Members: 1
- Main Program – “The Texas Star Party” by Steve Goldberg

Topics included:

- History of TSP:
 - Organizers
 - Location: The Prude Ranch
 - Photos
- TSP Events:
 - Astrophotography contest
 - Amateur Telescope Making (ATM) contest
 - Observing lists
 - The Great Texas Giveaway
- Observing Programs:
 - FBAC’s Novice Observing Program
 - John Wagoner’s lists
 - Larry Mitchell’s Advanced Observing list
 - The Ain’t No List

Objects include:

- Footprints on the Moon
- Cygnus X-1
- Craters on Titan
- A neutrino
- Pioneer 10

- Cloudy night activities:

- Lightning photography
- Laser Wars
- Red-lighted ball toss
- Big Bang recreation

- Special Awards:

- The Lone Stargazer Award – For personal achievement in astronomy
- The Omega Centauri Award – For promotion of astronomy

- Other activities:

- McDonald Observatory tours
- Horseback riding
- Fossil hunting
- The Marfa Lights

- The sky at TSP – astrophotography slideshow

- Q&A

- Date/location of TSP 2009: April 19th – 26th, at the Prude Ranch in Fort Davis, TX

▪ Presentation – “Deep Sky Observing” by Keith Rivich

- Objects of the Month: NGC 2371/2372 and NGC 2169

- Objects’ information and locations
- Observations
- Q&A

▪ 5 minute break

▪ Business Meeting

Reports and Announcements:

- East Dome Committee Report: Dennis Borgman

- ED training certificates (none of the trainees present)
- Idea: Should club purchase star charts for beginning observers/new trainees?
- LCD monitors for ED ready to be temporarily installed

- Donation Request Ideas: Tony Wiese
 - New table/desk for the Research Dome at the George Observatory

- Asteroid Search Team (A-Team) Report: Joe Dellinger
 - 2 discoveries in January
 - Confirmed discovery for Max Eastman – Congratulations, Max!

- Astronomy on Wheels (AOW) Report: Leonard Pattillo
 - Received letter from Garcia Middle School
 - 650 attendees at the last star party!
 - 10 telescopes and volunteers
 - Next star party is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26th, at Hodges Bend Middle School. Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 - Also scheduled: Thursday, Mar. 5th, at Sugar Mill Elementary
 - Busy year for star parties due to the International Year of Astronomy (I.Y.A. 2009)

- Treasury Report: Steve Clayworth
 - Total balance: \$5143.00
 - Account balance: \$3008.00

Committee Reports

- Speakers Committee: Bill Jacobus
 - Several speakers already lined up for the coming months
- Promotions Committee: Patty Tristan
 - Ad for FBAC club meetings submitted to 3 local papers

- FBAC Observing Clubs
 - Possible observing pins for the lists are currently being researched and considered

- 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

- Reminder – Get-together at the 59 Diner after the meeting

- Door Prize drawing

- Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.