

FBAC Meeting
1-16-2009
50 in attendance

- Meeting started at ~7:00 p.m.
- Introduction of Officers
- Visitors: 7
- New Members: 2

- Business Meeting

Reports and Announcements:

- East Dome Committee Report: Dennis Borgman
 - Next ED Committee meeting will be scheduled soon

- Asteroid Search Team (A-Team) Report: Carl Sexton
 - Joe Dellinger recently imaged 3 discovery candidates, resulting in 1 new discovery

- Astronomy on Wheels (AOW) Report: Leonard Pattillo
 - Possible expansion of program to other school districts
 - Group opinions/thoughts
 - Majority in favor of expanding to Lamar/Stafford districts
 - Possible participation in HAS star parties
 - Question: What is the AOW program?
 - Inquiry answered by Leonard Pattillo

- Treasury Report: Derek Newton (for Treasurer, Steve Clayworth)
 - ~\$437 was spent for the annual FBAC Christmas Party in December
 - Club Expenditures
 - Total balance: \$5,126.92

Committee Reports

- Promotions Committee: Patty Tristan
 - Committee chair Patty Tristan's computer on the fritz, no recent promotions
 - New FBAC brochures will be made soon

- Other Announcements:
 - FBAC Star Party/Club Observing Trip Site Search: Derek Newton
 - Potential location: “Lake Falling Star RV Resort”, McMahon, TX
- Do-It-Yourself (D.I.Y.) Astronomy Project: “Make your own red LED flashlight” – presented by Derek Newton
 - Activity: Construct a flashlight
 - Step-by-step instructions
 - Other ideas for upcoming D.I.Y. Astronomy projects
- 10 minute break
- The Texas Star Party (TSP): Steve Goldberg
 - Deadline for Registration Request Form submission: Jan. 16th
 - TSP 2009 will be held from Apr. 19th – 26th at the Prude Ranch in Fort Davis, TX
- Reminder – 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
- East Dome Training Sessions Report: Dennis Borgman
 - Presentation of certificates to new trainees

- If interested in receiving training, please send an e-mail through the club Netslyder list

▪ Other News:

- Article in “Family Motorcoaching” about the George Observatory, written by Tony Wiese

- Tony also obtained a donation of \$475 from the Sam’s Club Foundation for FBAC. Thanks, Tony!

▪ Presentation – Corporate Donations for FBAC: Tony Wiese

Topics:

- Donations, grants, community involvement, sponsorships, discounts, coupons, etc.

- Support from companies, corporations and foundations (e.g. Sam’s, Target, Costco, etc.)

- How to write a personal letter/written request

Info:

-- Describe FBAC, and the club’s mission/goals

-- Clearly ask for what FBAC needs donated, and the purpose(s) of that need

-- Find out the timeline the company will need to review the request

Follow-Up options: (if donation is obtained)

-- Written “Thank You” letter

-- Or, e-mail with photo attachments of object’s use

▪ Club “Thank You” to Tony Wiese for the many wonderful contributions he has made to FBAC... Thanks, Tony!

▪ Other News:

- FBAC Picnic/Barbeque

-- Derek Newton and Roland Fields will check out the Missouri City HCC campus on Sunday, Jan. 18th, to see how the facilities would accommodate the club

- HCC Star Squad/FBAC Astronomy Promotions and Events: Roland Fields
 - Possible collaboration on star parties and other events?
- New badges for George Observatory Volunteers
 - Where are they?
- Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.