

Minutes of the Fort Bend Astronomy Club meeting, July 21, 2006

The meeting opened promptly at 7:00 p.m. with a call to order by President Dennis Borgman.

Mr. Borgman introduced the novice speaker for the evening, Mr. DJ McCracken who spoke excellently on parts 7 and 8 of the Universe Sampler. Unfortunately this writer missed the first part due to a snafu with an automobile but here is the gist of Mr. McCracken's talk:

- Seeing, transparency, and magnitude
- Observing forms and how to use them
- Keeping records via tape recording
- The need for and how to record compass directions on observing forms

Parts of DJ's talk were not recorded by this writer, an unfortunate circumstance due to the outstanding nature of Mr. McCracken's presentations.

Mr. Borgman then introduced Mr. Don d'Entremont who spoke on Lunaology part II. Mr. d'Entremont talked about the origin of the Moon and effects of Luna on planet Earth. These effects involve the Earth's spin axis, plate tectonics, volcanism, ocean tides and currents. At the conclusion of Mr. d'Entremont's excellent talk, members were invited to take a short break.

The next program item was presented by Ms. Cynthia Gustava who talked at length about the International Space Station. Pertinent parts of Ms. Gustava's presentation were:

- First references to a "space station" in the science fiction novel, "Brick Moon"
- A history of space stations
- Building the International Space Station
- Imaging the ISS from Earth
- Imaging transits of the Moon, Sun, and Venus by the ISS

Ms. Gustava presented an excellent program about the ISS which included many colorful slides and graphs as enhancement.

At the conclusion of the main program, Mr. Borgman went directly to the business meeting with the following points:

- Introduction of new members
- Question of the month (which this writer did not record and does not remember)
- Treasurers report. Mr. Joe Dellinger says we have mucho money.
- East dome committee report also given by Mr. Dellinger. The Quadrant is once again going bananas.
- Telescopes for Telethon report by Mr. Steve Goldberg. FBAC raised a little over \$400 on the first weekend. The second try will be Saturday, August 4.
- HAS picnic report by Amelia Goldberg—September 23. Please RSVP.
- Tracy Knauss volunteered to be the Newsletter editor. Condolences to her.
- Discussion about Astronomy Day in October
- Nomination committee formed consisting of Jack McKaye, Cynthia Gustava, and Wes Whiddon

This writer believes the meeting was then adjourned to Denny's but can't prove it since he departed before adjournment. (Minutes corrected to reflect adjournment to FuddRuckers.)