

FBAC Meeting
6-19-2009
36 in attendance

- Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.
- Introduction of Officers
- Visitors: 5
- New Members: 5
- Novice Presentation – “Planning Your Observing Session” by Steve Goldberg

Topics Included:

- Why to plan
 - Planning aids
 - Things to consider
 - How to select objects to observe
- Presentation – “Deep Sky Observing: An Up-Close Look at Interesting Deep Sky Objects” by Keith Rivich

Objects of the Month:

- NGC 6528 and NGC 6522, “Baade’s Window”
 - What is Baade’s Window?
 - Object info
 - History and discovery
 - Observations
- Barnard 86 and NGC 6520
 - Object info
 - History and discovery
 - Observations
- Q&A

- 5 minute break
- Main Program – “Using Solar Sails to Protect Planet Earth” by Richard Braastad

Overview:

Part 1: Space Services Inc. (SSI) Team Heritage

- A note about the speaker
- SSI’s heritage
 - Private space pioneers
 - “Celestis” memorial spaceflights
 - “Give the World” space photos

Part 2: Using Solar Sails to Protect Planet Earth

- The Sun
- Solar features
 - Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)
 - Dynamics of the Sun
- Why should we care about CMEs?
 - Potential hazards to Earth
 - Past major CME events
 - Steps to minimize damage from CMEs
- Recent CME events (solar storms in the news)
- What causes CMEs?
- How CMEs interact with Earth and its magnetic field
- SOHO coronagraph images of CMEs
- The Lagrange Points
 - Spacecraft currently at Lagrange Point 1 (L1)
 - The Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE)
 - The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO)
 - The WIND spacecraft
- Solar Sail Spacecraft
 - Missions
 - How solar sails could help us cope with CMEs
 - Earlier warning of CMEs
- Links and Resources
- Q&A

- 10 minute break
- Business Meeting

Reports and Announcements:

- East Dome Committee Report: Derek Newton
 - Scheduling repair/maintenance day for ED, looking for volunteers with carpentry skills
 - If interested, please contact Derek Newton
- Asteroid Search Team (A-Team) Report: Bill Dillon or Joe Dellinger
 - No report due to absence of A-Team members
- Astronomy on Wheels (AOW) Report: Leonard Pattillo
 - Many thanks to volunteers from last star party
 - Upcoming star parties
- FBAC community involvement and star parties: Derek Newton
 - Ideas for future star parties, to be held at Texas Children's and/or Shriner's hospitals
- Treasury Report: Steve Clayworth
 - Club expenditures
 - Total club account balance: \$4,975.30
- Update – Challenger Learning Center mission for FBAC group: Tony Wiese
- Inventory of items recently donated to FBAC: Tony Wiese
- Committee Reports:
 - Promotions Committee: Patty Tristan
 - Posting ads in the local “Star” and “Sun” newspapers for FBAC meetings
 - Meeting info may also be posted on their websites
 - Posted on local Homeschool Group forums

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