

FBAC Meeting  
5-16-2008  
23 in attendance

- Meeting started @ ~7:00 p.m.
- Novice Presentation - “Argo Navis” by Dennis Borgman

Topics Included:

- Pictures of the 18” East Dome telescope’s new drive system
  - System mechanics
  - Instruction on system operation modes
  - Close-up view of Argo Navis hand pad
    - Overview of features and operation
  - An Argo Navis operation sheet will be posted in the ED for reference
  - Q & A
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- Visitors: 1
  - New Members: 2
  - Refreshments Reminder - Wes Whiddon
    - Volunteer sign-up sheet
  - 15 minute break
  - Introduction of Officers
  - Business Meeting

Reports:

- AOW Report: Leonard Pattillo
  - Next star party is scheduled for Monday, Sep. 29th.
  - Location: Blue Ridge Elementary School
- TSP: Steve Goldberg
  - Still need volunteers for blackout team on Sunday
  - Q & A
- Treasury Report: DJ McCracken
  - Club still has ~\$5,000 in bank account

- Club expenditures
  - Door prizes to donate for TSP
    - Items: DVDs - “The Cosmos”, “The Universe”, “The Stars”, & “Monster of the Milky Way”

- Committee Reports

- Speakers Committee: Guest speakers for June & July are scheduled and confirmed
- Promotions Committee: Will look into posting FBAC info and flyers in local libraries
- 2008 Christmas Party Committee: Club has reservations for the party @ the George Observatory on either: Friday, Dec. 12th, or Sunday, Dec. 14th. (To be decided)

▪ Open Discussion

Topic: East Dome

- Discussion: Imaging PC needs new hard drive
  - Received new hard drive, generously donated by HCC
- Discussion: Old ED wall coverings are falling apart, needs new paneling
  - Vote taken on whether to replace old paneling
  - Unanimous club vote: Paneling will be replaced
- Discussion: Should old CRT computer monitors be replaced by new wall-mounted flat panel LCD monitors
  - Vote taken
  - Unanimous club vote: Club will buy new LCD monitors

Topic: General Discussion

- Discussion: Club Observing Nights
  - Location may be moved to the visitor center parking lot @ Brazos Bend State Park
- Discussion: Netslyder astronomy forums are mainly unused; Netslyder e-mail system seems to be more popular
  - Question: Should club switch to using the forums for communication, instead of Netslyder e-mails?

- Vote taken
- Vote results were a tie (estimated)
- Decided: Club will start posting on forum to test its capabilities and judge interest

- Discussion: Club Public Outreach
  - Club participates in: AOW star parties, George Observatory Volunteering, HCC partnership

#### Open Floor for Discussion

- New Shell station at the intersection of Crabb River Road & FM 762 has lighting in violation of the Fort Bend County light ordinance
  - (Currently under investigation)
- FBAC Picnic in September (?)
  - (Possible dates & locations will be discussed @ future club meetings)
- Door Prize drawing
  - Prizes: Fishing lure, calendars, FBAC stickers, & deep-sky object wall posters
- Club Benefits Reminders
  - Observing Programs
  - Tuesday night get-togethers @ Denny's
  - Loaner Scopes
  - Club Library
  - 18" East Dome scope
  - Membership in the Astronomical League
- Meeting Adjourned @ 9:23 p.m.