

FBAC Meeting
5-8-2009
37 in attendance

- Meeting started at 7:01 p.m.
- Welcome
- Introduction of Officers
- Visitors: 2
- New Members: 1
- Novice Presentation – “Observing Artificial Satellites” by Leonard Ferguson
 - Satellites: What’s up there?
 - Active payloads
 - Multinational satellites
 - Space junk
 - Manned spacecraft
 - Rocket bodies
 - Formations of satellites (geosynchronous/geostationary satellites)
 - Tumbling satellites
 - Iridium flares
 - Why observe?
 - For fun!
 - Amateur astronomers can make valuable observations
 - Astronomers may also earn the “Earth Orbiting Satellite Observing Club” pin from the Astronomical League
 - Resources for predictions of satellite passes
 - www.satobs.org
 - www.celestrak.com
 - www.heavens-above.com
 - Q&A
- 15 minute break

- Main Program – “A Survey of Lunar Volcanism”, by Walter S. Kiefer, Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI)

Topics included:

- The Features of the Moon
 - Examples of features not present on the Moon
 - Examples of features present on the Moon
 - History of these features
 - The composition of the Moon
 - Mainly basalt and anorthosite
- The Lunar Near Side
 - Locations of Apollo landing sites
 - Map of the topography of the near side of the Moon
 - Photos of lunar basalt specimens
 - Mare lava flows
 - Chronology of impact craters
 - Ages of lunar mare volcanism
 - Measuring basalt thickness
 - Formation of magma
- The Lunar Far Side
 - Albedo
 - Topographic map of the far side of the Moon
- Other Features
 - Hadley Rille
 - Aristarchus Plateau
 - Lava flows
 - Similar to lava tubes on Earth
 - Lunar Volcanic Domes
 - Marius Hills Dome Complex
 - Marius Hills Gravity Anomaly
 - Lunar gravity is higher over this cluster of volcanoes
 - Dark Halo Craters

- Alphonsus Crater
 - Formation involved processes similar to Hawaiian Fire Fountain eruptions on Earth
 - Shorty Crater
 - Discovery site of orange lunar soil
- Future Lunar Exploration Missions
 - Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter
 - Planned launch in June 2009
 - Lunar Crater Observing and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS)
- Q&A
- Presentation – “Deep Sky Observing: An Up-Close Look at Interesting Deep Sky Objects” by Keith Rivich

Objects of the Month:

- The Intergalactic Wanderer (NGC 2419)
 - Object information and location
 - Appearance
 - Located 300,000 light years away
 - “Extended halo object” of the Milky Way
 - 4th brightest globular cluster known
 - Is possibly the former core of a galaxy cannibalized by the Milky Way
 - Observations and descriptions
- The Antennae Galaxies (NGC 4038, 4039)
 - Object information and location
 - Appearance
 - The result of a “galactic merger” between galaxies
 - Examples of other galactic mergers
 - Observations and descriptions

- 5 minute break
- Business Meeting

Reports and Announcements:

- Asteroid Search Team (A-Team) Report: Joe Dellinger
 - 2 or 3 new discoveries from observations made previously this year
 - Donation of new observing charts for the East Dome
- Treasury Report: Steve Clayworth
 - Club expenditures
 - Total club account balance: \$4,862.79
- 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
 - Head count of those who might be interested in participating
- FBAC club observing trip/star party: Derek Newton
 - Potential location: "Lake Falling Star RV Resort", McMahon, TX
 - Derek will check out the site this month to assess its suitability
- 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
- Reminder – Get-together at the 59 Diner after the meeting

- FBAC website updates: Tony Wiese
 - Club website is being revamped
 - If anyone has any suggestions for content or photos from TSP or the George Observatory, please send to Tony Wiese at anchor@blkbox.com
- TSP 2009 Slideshow by David Moody
- Door prize drawing
 - Prizes included: Posters of cities at night taken from the ISS, DVD of IMAX Space Station, flash drive lanyard, planisphere
- Challenger Learning Center mission for FBAC group: Tony Wiese
 - Needs RSVPs from 20-40 participants
- FBAC Club Picnic: Derek Newton
 - Needs coordinator
- Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.