

# Fort Bend Astronomy Club

## General Meeting

### May 20th, 2011

#### Minutes:

#### **Business Meeting:**

- Introductions of officers this year
- Visitors & New Members (none this meeting)
  
- Donation to the club, Celestron 5 inch, for the rooster telescopes, from Flynn O'Malley

#### East Dome Committee:

- the lights are still non-functional
- Everything but the lights are working fine in the dome

#### A-Team:

- no members here to make a report, but other reports indicate little data has been collected

#### A.O.W.:

- the program is now on break
- 18 events this years with around 4000 guests overall
- the sugar land magazine is working on an article about the program, going to meet on the 28 of may at the observatory with the A.O.W. and the observatory volunteers

#### Club Viewing Nights:

- during the summer the observatory will have both Friday & Saturday nights as public nights, this poses a problem for club nights
  - **can we shift them to Thursday nights?**
  - **Steve Clayworth and Patty Tristan to look into this**
- Steve Clayworth wants to put on an A.O.W. event for the FBAC club members
  - an idea many want to see happen

Netsylder is the Primary Club form of communication

#### Speakers Committee:

- Nothing solid yet
- still working out schedule for coming speakers

#### Promotions Committee:

- dry erase board has had its dry run and many flyers were handed out, all on the super-moon night--on the same night six new volunteers were signed up and two have followed through
- **it has been agreed that we should start stocking up on flyers for coming events**

#### Treasury Report:

- ADay t-shirts are now 5\$, which is a steal, for those that are interested
- Sky and Telescope subscriptions are \$34 for one year and \$60 for a 2-year subscription.
- Checking--\$2942.50, C.D.--\$2160.53, ADay--\$813.97

#### Observing Clubs

#### Tuesday Night Get Together at Avalon Diner

- Do we want to change door prize arrangement?
  - maybe just one or two really big ones at the Christmas party instead of the regular meeting prizes?
  - the group thinks not

#### **Novice Presentation:** "The Wobble of the Sun" by Don D'Entremont

- The planets in the solar system cause the Sun to wobble in its position, by tugging on them gravitationally
  - there is a mutual tug between the Sun and the Planets, so just as the Sun affects the planets orbits, so do the planets affect the Sun
- There is a 45 year cycle of wobble of the Sun that repeats
  - the offset from one extreme of the cycle to the other is a little over a solar diameter, which means that the position of the center of the Sun moves about a solar diameter every 22.5 years-- that is a distance equivalent to about 4.5X the distance from the Earth to the Moon
- The pattern which the Sun follows during this cycle are "another instance of mathematics being able to mimic nature accurately", and "the idea of a *kosmos* as thought up by the Greeks, as smooth and perfect", well, now what we find is that it isn't at all, and that it is pretty chaotic and the regularity we see may actually be merely boundary conditions"

#### *Question:* How do you tell where the center of the Sun cycles?

- The very center of the cycle is actually the center of mass for the solar system which is never actually in the same point as the center of the Sun, and that is because the center of mass of a given system is between the objects of that system, in this case those objects are the Sun and its

planets. So...while the center of mass for the solar system is very close to the center of the Sun, it is not in exactly the same point.

Novice Presentation Ended: 7:38pm

Break for Thirty Minutes: 7:39pm

Meeting Resumed at 8:01pm

**Main Presentation:** "East Dome Remodel" by Tony Weise and Stephanie Walker

- The East Dome Committee has recently revamped and cleaned up the East Dome at the observatory, which is under the purview of FBAC
- Renovation took under a month to complete
- Paul Noll was the committee chairman
- Tony Weise, Jim Jackson, Tracy Knauss, Stephen Walker, Joe Dellinger, Bob Askey, Wes Whiddon, Derek Newton and Justin McCollum--all these people & more contributed greatly to the project and all the members of FBAC give their great thanks to these dedicated volunteers
- Many odd and 'special' things were found that were in some kind of storage under the East dome
  - most found a new home in the dumpster
- There was a manifold agenda for the project, which was essentially a complete overhaul of the dome itself, from the inside out (literally)
- No update of the East Dome system or a renovation as the structure has been undertaken since FBAC gained use of the location
- A Notice to all George Observatory Volunteers and FBAC members:  
*The East Dome is no longer a place for storage of materials*
- Ended up redoing the electrical in the East Dome, because it was certainly not a straightforward and simple system, however due to the great work of several East Dome Committee (*EDC*) members, it is now totally functional and much less complex
- The final flooring solution was carpet and the *EDC* purchased it at a great price
- A new sock for the front and back of the telescope were put in place, and according to current reports, they are working very well thus far
- For all of his work on the *EDC* and as the chairman, Paul Noll was awarded a certificate of recognition at the FBAC christmas party
- All in all the *EDC* team did a wonderful job and managed to have a lot of fun in the process
- They all deserve an immense amount of appreciation from FBAC
  
- Next on the agenda is upgrading the computer
  - a new case for it as well (\$60-\$90) for a smaller more compact case)
  - the goal is to have two computers, one for main system use and one for backup use with both telescope and imaging control systems
- The idea of putting a small refracting telescope mounted on the East Dome scope

- a six inch would be nice, for that the price is in the range of \$2500 to \$4000
- as well the ideas of having a video camera hooked up to the telescope to show live viewing of the object to the public, this would really be a useful and more than likely very popular addition to the ED system
  - in line with the above, there is another monitor, a 19 inch, that is already at the observatory and can be used with such a camera set-up
- There will soon be another cabinet in the ED that will be designated for use with only the computer systems, this can be built with both hot and cold temperature regulation inside
- Still want to put 2-4, cubby hole cut-outs for bookshelves in the dome itself
- *EDC* is looking for suggestions on step-light solutions
  - Paul Noll may have found a solution at local hardware stores

Main Presentation Ended: 8:50pm

Door Prizes: 8:52pm

Meeting Attendance: 21

Next Meeting--June 17th

After Meeting Get Together at 59 Diner

Meeting Adjourned: 8:57pm

**Action Items in above minutes are in Bold**