

FBAC Meeting  
11-21-2008  
34 in attendance

- Meeting started at 7:03 p.m.
- Introduction of Officers
- Visitors: 5
- New Members: 2
- Novice Presentation – “Seeing Red: an Introduction to Carbon Stars and the FBAC Carbon Star Observing List” by Alicia Tristan

Topics included:

- Carbon star characteristics and spectra
- Types of carbon stars
- Info about the FBAC Carbon Star Observing Program

- 15 minute break
- Main Program – “Amateur Asteroid Observing: A 10-step Program” by Joe Dellinger

Topics included:

- Observing and imaging equipment
- Step 1: Where to shoot
- Step 2: Record some data
- Step 3: Process your data
- Step 4: Blink images – identify “movers” (asteroids)
- Step 5: Do astrometry on movers
- Step 6: Check your data
- Step 7: Identify possible pairs of nights on unknowns
- Step 8: Fit orbit(s)
- Step 9: E-mail in the data
- Step 10: Have fun!
- Q&A

- 10 minute break

- Business Meeting

Reports and Announcements:

- The Texas Star Party (TSP): Steve Goldberg
  - TSP info and website
- East Dome Renovation: Derek Newton
  - Looking to organize a group of 4 – 5 members with carpentry skills and experience to help with sanding, painting, paneling, monitors, maintenance
- East Dome Committee Report: Dennis Borgman
  - New paneling for ED walls
    - Cost: \$36 a sheet at Lowe's
    - Estimated cost to refurbish ED: ~\$500
    - Tentatively planning an ED work day for sometime in Dec. or Jan. (likely on a Sunday)
  - ED training session completed last Sunday (Nov. 16th)
    - 4 new trainees
    - Certificates handed out
    - Another session is planned for Sunday, Dec. 7th, at 3:30 p.m.
- Asteroid Search Team (A-Team) Report: Joe Dellinger
  - Productive last few weeks – 7 new discoveries (with 4 in 1 image field!)
- Astronomy on Wheels (AOW) Report: Leonard Pattillo
  - Last star party went well, with a turnout of ~100 people! Started out with clear skies, then clouded over as the evening progressed
  - Next star party is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4th, at 7 Lakes High School
- Treasury Report: Steve Clayworth
  - Club Expenditures
  - Received a couple hundred dollars' worth of dues this meeting
  - Club has ~\$2,500 in bank account

Committee Reports:

- Promotions Committee: Patty Tristan

- Will work on posting ads for upcoming meeting dates in local newspapers again
- Need more FBAC flyers

- 2008 FBAC Christmas Party Committee: Tracy Knauss
  - The Annual FBAC Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12 at the George Observatory Time: 7:00 p.m.
  - Food Coordinator: Leonard Pattillo
  - Friday Night Groups at the George Observatory do not pay an entrance fee to Brazos Bend State Park: 50¢ is collected from each attendee to give to park
    - Could this system work for the Christmas Party? (Derek Newton volunteered to further research the possibility)

- Other Announcements:

- Pins for FBAC Observing Clubs?
  - Will be further researched
- 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

- Other News:

- ISS Passes: Dennis Borgman
  - Saw ISS fly over on Sunday (Nov. 16th), looked for the space shuttle but it had already attached to the station
  - Future ISS passes – [www.heavensabove.com](http://www.heavensabove.com)
- News on Netslyder:
  - Note on confirmation of Copernicus’s burial site

- Door Prize drawing
  - Prizes: DVD, planisphere, eyepiece/lens cleaner pen, memory stick
  
- Meeting Adjourned