

FBAC Meeting
9-26-2008
24 in attendance

- Meeting started at 7:05 p.m.
- Thanks to FBAC's 2007-2008 Term Officers
- Visitors: 0
- New Members: 0

- Business Meeting

Reports and Announcements:

- East Dome Committee Report: Dennis Borgman
 - Working on ordering new paneling for ED wall
 - No new ED training sessions are scheduled

- Astronomy on Wheels (AOW) Report: Leonard Pattillo
 - The next star party is scheduled for Monday, Sep. 29th.
Location: Blue Ridge Elementary School Time: ~7:00 p.m.
 - There will be at least 400 people in attendance!
 - Telescopes will be set up in "stations" to help with crowd control

- Announcement: Leonard Pattillo completed the FBAC Planetary Nebula Observing List. Congratulations Leonard!

- Astronomy Day Report: Cynthia Gustava
 - A-Day is still on for Oct. 18th! Brazos Bend State Park was closed due to damage from Hurricane Ike, but will be re-opening to the public on Saturday, Oct. 4th.
 - The 8th Annual Gulf Coast Astronomy Meeting (All Clubs Meeting) will be held from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the HCC Administration Building, located at 1300 Main and Elgin. Registration is from 7:00 to 8:00, and the meeting is from 8:00 to 10:00. For more information, please visit the Astronomy Day Website (<http://www.astronomyday.org/>)
 - Preview of A-Day T-shirt design
 - Working with: Land, Sea, and Sky, JPL, The Astronomical

League, Meade, and other organizations/businesses for donations of magazines, posters, etc. for A-Day

- Meade is donating an ETX-80AT backpack telescope, as a door prize for A-Day

- Astronomy Day volunteer sign-up spreadsheet

- Still need more volunteers for A-Day activities (telescopes, face painting, Challenger Center, etc.)

- Sub sandwich dinner will be provided for all volunteers

- Other Business...

- Pizza vendor has been confirmed, and drinks will be sold on top of the observing deck

- 3 astronomy posters have been printed for the Regional Meeting raffle

- FBAC has ~30 (\$600 worth) of Astronomical League manuals/books

- Will be sold at A-Day at a discounted price, or donated for the Regional Meeting raffle

- Leonard Ferguson made a beautiful hand-crafted pen and pencil set to be presented to guest speaker David Levy at the Regional Meeting

- Treasury Report: DJ McCracken

- Club Expenditures

- Club insurance goes out in October Cost: \$320

- FBAC still has ~\$2,400 in bank account

- Need club membership dues!

- Asteroid Search Team (A-Team) Report: Joe Dellinger

- 2 active A-Team members run searches with the East Dome telescope, other members use roboscopes

- 6 new asteroid discoveries, 1 may be a Trojan

- George Observatory "Post-Ike" Cleanup Day

- Scheduled for Sunday, Sep. 28th Start time: 12:00 p.m.

- Please bring your: rakes, brooms, leaf blowers and gas, tree-trimmers, chain saws, etc.

- Also be sure to bring: drinking water, snacks, towels, mosquito repellent, gloves, and any other items you might require

- Pins for FBAC Observing Clubs?
 - Will be further researched
 - Alicia Tristan volunteered to work on pin designs

- East Dome needs new CCD camera
 - Proposal: To buy another SBIG STV
 - Joe Dellinger volunteered to pay 1/2 of cost, then donate camera to club
 - Motion made by Leonard Pattillo in favor of Joe's plan
 - Seconded by Bill Jacobus
 - Vote taken
 - Motion carried; majority in favor of Joe's plan

- Potential club outreach programs
 - Star parties at Shriners or Texas Children's Hospital?

- 10 minute break

- Business Meeting (cont.)

Committee Reports:

- Promotions Committee: Patty Tristan
 - No new promotions

- 2008 FBAC Christmas Party Committee: Tracy Knauss
 - The Annual FBAC Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12th at the George Observatory Time: 7:00 p.m.

- Open Floor Club Discussion
 - Topic: How can the club foster more interest in club/AL observing lists? – Dennis Borgman

 - Topic: Club Observing Trips/Star Parties – Leonard Pattillo

Discussion:

 - Derek Newton is researching good dark sky sites

Ideas:

 - Tracy Knauss suggested her backyard

- Patty Tristan suggested Hermann Sons Youth Camp in Comfort, TX
- HAS site
- Leonard Ferguson and Patty Tristan will research Seguin, TX-area locations
- Overflow parking or Interpretive Center at Brazos Bend State Park
- Missouri City Campus of HCC
- Daytime outing to Space Center Houston
- Property in Kendleton, TX
- Hearne Airport
- Haak Winery
- Nails Creek

- Topic: Do-It-Yourself Astronomy Projects for club meetings – Derek Newton

Ideas:

-- Red flashlights, Dew-hickeys, Barn Doors, heaters for eyepiece cases, flashing Telrads, etc.

Name of Program: “D.I.Y. Astronomy”

-- Any ideas: please e-mail Derek Newton

- 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
- Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.