

ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETING
September 17, 2019, 7 pm at SPRD Coffield Center

Attendees: Bill DeYoung, Jim Hammond, Thomas Jeffrey, Rod Moorehead, Scott Rullman, Ron Thorkildson

The following items were discussed:

- Thomas Jeffrey and Ron Thorkildson will represent SAC at the Discover Nature Festival at Riverbend Park in Bend on Saturday September 21. Presented by the Children's Forest of Central Oregon, this event offers over 30 outdoor activities for the whole family to enjoy. Katie Chipko is the event organizer.
[Thomas, Ron and student Corbin Fredland from the high school astronomy club manned the SAC table. Thomas brought his H-alpha solar telescope and Ron brought a 6" reflecting telescope which was to be used to project an image of the sun onto a screen for safe viewing (unfortunately, equipment difficulties arose that prevented use of this scope). SAC trifolds describing the club and IDA dark sky handouts, as well as stickers and buttons, were available at the table. Taking a solar system trivia test was a popular activity that stimulated further discussions about astronomy. Clear skies and pleasant temperatures made conditions ideal.]
- Jim Hammond, Rod Moorehead, Bill DeYoung and Ron Thorkildson indicated they would be available to participate in the Whychus Canyon Preserve star party the evening of Saturday September 21.
[After a half mile walk from the parking area to an open meadow at the preserve, Jim, Rod, Bill and Ron lead a group of folks, who had preregister for the event through the Deschutes Land Trust, on a tour of the night sky. Jim and Bill brought small telescopes while many others had binoculars. The astronomical survey included the planets Jupiter and Saturn, a few deep sky objects and constellation ID. Skies remained clear and moderate temperatures made for comfortable viewing.]
- The next Stars over Sisters starwatch is slated for the evening of Saturday September 28 at SPRD beginning at 7:30pm. Jim, Rod and Bill are probable for bringing their telescopes. Student Christopher Lundgren volunteered to give the presentation.
- The Stars over Newberry event atop Lava Butte, originally scheduled for Friday August 9, was held on Friday September 6. Jim Hammond, Rod Moorehead and Bill DeYoung from the club manned two telescopes, offering views of a first quarter moon, Jupiter and Saturn to the throng of visitors. Hopservatory manager

Grant Tandy also brought a telescope. The event is a fundraiser for Discover Your Forest in Bend.

- The next RECON event is scheduled for the early morning of September 21 at 3:55 am PDT involving Resonant Object 14YG50. Because Rima and the two lead students Delsie McCrystal and Ramsey Schar are unavailable for this event, it's not clear who will lead the Sisters team.
[The Sisters team did not participate in this event.]
- Mary Ann Kruse of IDA (International Dark-Sky Association) Oregon contacted SAC about the new documentary SAVING THE DARK. She is wondering if we could show the film to an audience of Sisters residents, say at the Sisters Movie House or perhaps the library. Jim Hammond will download the file and review the show to evaluate its suitability (content/length) for a general audience.
- Facebook Manager Thomas Jeffrey said all is fine with our facebook page.
- Both treasurer Rod Moorehead and Ron received the financial report for the period July thru August 2019 from Courtney Snead at SPRD, along with a note explaining that “you will no longer see the balance that you carry forward from the prior year on your monthly report. As a result, you will see a true profit and loss statement for the current fiscal year (July 1-June 30).” SPRD is still in the process of closing out their books from last fiscal year, but the estimated carryforward into FY2019-20 is \$1,492.74. So adding this amount to the money we earned driving for the quilt show in July gives us a currently balance of \$1,722.68. Last fiscal year SAC brought in \$715 so per our agreement 5% of this money (\$35.75) goes back to SPRD for administrative services rendered. Ron will set up a folder on his computer for the financial statements.
- SAC has a page on the Sisters SPRD website. It is found under “COMMITTEES”.
- Jim showed some of the latest pictures he took of the ISS transiting the sun.

The next SAC meeting will be on Tuesday October 15, 2019, 7 pm at SPRD.

Ron Thorkildson
September 25, 2019