

ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETING  
July 16, 2019, 7 pm at SPRD Coffield Center

Attendees: Lynn Carroll, Cathie Flanigan, Jim Hammond, Bill Kowalik, Ron Thorkildson

The following items were discussed:

- Bill Kowalik and Cathie Flanigan of the newly-forming Oregon Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association gave a presentation about establishing a Skyglow Measurement Network in Central Oregon to determine the current darkness of the skies, and how that may change going forward. The idea is to install several recording Sky Quality Meters (SQM) at various locations in Central Oregon. So far, SQMs have been located on Awbrey Butte and the Hopservatory in Bend, Prineville Reservoir State Park, Pine Mountain Observatory and the Oregon Observatory at Sunriver. Bill also wants to put in two more; in Redmond and somewhere near Sisters/Black Butte Ranch.

The plan is to collect the data periodically, initially after the first new moon after installation of a SQM, then about every quarter thereafter, when batteries will need to be replaced. Bill will download the data onto his laptop, analyze it and make it available to each SQM site to use as they wish.

Bill is looking to SAC to participate in the project in any way we wish to contribute.

- Jim and Ron earned \$229.94 for the club by driving the SPRD shuttle bus/van during the Sisters quilt show on Saturday July 13.

Because of the length of the presentation and low member attendance for the meeting, the remaining items on the agenda were tabled. However, since many events will take place before our next meeting on August 20, it's important that they be listed here.

- The next public SOS starwatch is Saturday July 27 at SPRD, beginning at 9 pm. Thomas, Jim, Lynn and maybe Rod, said they can bring their scopes. If you guys can't do this, please let me know. Student Paola Mendoza will give the presentation.
- A Whychus Canyon Preserve star party will be conducted for the Deschutes Land Trust on Saturday August 3. Because there is a short walk to a meadow from the

parking lot, no large telescopes will be made available, just small scopes and binoculars. Jim and Ron said they will be able to attend. Any club member is invited to help guide visitors thru the night sky. The event starts at 8 pm.

- SAC will again participate in the Stars Over Newberry event on Friday evening August 9. It is a fund raiser for Discover Your Forest. We will be there to show paying guests a few celestial wonders thru our telescopes that will include a waxing gibbous moon, Jupiter and Saturn. Jim, Rod and Ron said they could probably attend. A student member of SAC may also bring a telescope from the high school. Grant Tandy of Worthy Brewing Co will also be there.
- The Sisters Astronomy Club and Sisters Park and Recreation District present a public lecture by Professor Shane Larson of Northwestern University: "Feeling Small in a Big Cosmos". It will be held Saturday, August 10, from 2 to 3 pm, in the Sisters Library meeting room. Shane Larson is a research associate professor of physics at Northwestern University, where he is the Associate Director of Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics. Dr. Larson will talk about how our understanding of the Universe has expanded with time, and how we came to understand our place in it. There is no charge to attend and the presentation is suitable for all ages. For more information contact Jim Hammond, [drjhammond@oldshoepress.com](mailto:drjhammond@oldshoepress.com), 541-617-1086.

Then at 8 pm on the same day Dr. Larson will give another talk at the Oregon Observatory in Sunriver. This time the topic will be "Solitude in the Cosmos: Looking for Friends in the Great Cosmic Dark." This lecture, however, is not free to the general public, as the observatory charges an admission fee.

- A star party for Habitat for Humanity will be held at the Hoodoo Ski Lodge parking lot on Sunday August 18, beginning at 8:30 pm. Ron and probably Jim will be there; others are welcome. In case of firefighting activity at Hoodoo, the backup location will be the nearby Ray Benson Sno-Park.

The next SAC meeting will be on Tuesday August 20, 2019, 7 pm at SPRD.

Ron Thorkildson  
July 24, 2019