

ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETING
August 20, 2019, 7 pm at SPRD Coffield Center

Attendees: Bill DeYoung, Ellen DeYoung, Jim Hammond, Thomas Jeffrey, Derrick Peppers, Ron Thorkildson, Bob Wright

The following items were discussed:

- Boyd Levet and Ron took their telescopes to the Hoodoo Ski Lodge parking lot to conduct a star party for families in Sisters living in homes built by Habitat for Humanity. The outreach activity was part of a four-day “Creation Vacation” campout at Suttle Lake. A highlight of the event was watching Io, Jupiter’s innermost Galilean moon, disappear behind the planet. Clear skies, warm temperatures and no moon for most of the time, allowed excellent views of many other objects, such as double stars, open and globular star clusters, galaxies, and even a red carbon star. A group of about 20-25 engaged visitors enjoyed the celestial sights.
- The next SOS starwatch will take place this coming Saturday evening, August 24 at SPRD, beginning at 8:30 pm. Ron will deliver the presentation. Thomas said he can bring his telescope, Jim and Bob are uncertain at this time. Ron will check with Lynn and Rod about their status. Ron received confirmation from Ryan Stock of the Sisters School District that the parking lights will be off. The SPRD building light will also be off.
- SAC will conduct a star party for the Deschutes Land Trust (DLT) at Rimrock Ranch on Saturday August 31, starting at 8 pm. It is not open to the general public; visitors had to sign-up with DLT for the event, and it is currently filled to capacity. Jim, Thomas and Ron can bring their scopes; Boyd and Rod are probable; Bob is a maybe.
- The canceled Stars over Newberry event originally scheduled for Friday August 9 is now set for Friday September 6. Jim, Rod and student Delsie McCrystal said they can bring telescopes. Equipment must be set up ready to go, and vehicles off the butte, by 6:30 pm. Scopes can be retrieved by 11 pm.
- The two public lectures that Professor Shane Larson of Northwestern University gave on Friday August 9 were excellent. He spoke first at the Deschutes County Library in Sisters where he talked about "Feeling Small in a Big Cosmos". Then at 8 pm from the Oregon Observatory in Sunriver he spoke of “Solitude in the Cosmos: Looking for Friends in the Great Cosmic Dark.” The estimated

attendance for the two presentations was about 110. Jim Hammond of SAC/SPRD made the arrangements for Dr. Larson's visit.

- Three RECON events are on tap for September:
 - 2019 September 4, 07:03UT (12:03 am PDT) – Centaur [13NL24](#)
This event is just after midnight PDT/MST on night of September 3-4.
 - 2019 September 16, 08:41UT (01: 41 am PDT) – Classical KBO [13UG17](#)
This is a classical KBO, a prime science objective!
 - 2019 September 21, 10:55UT (03:55 am PDT) – Resonant Object [14YG50](#)
Celebrate the fall equinox measuring a plutino!

All will be conducted from Sisters High School.

- At our July meeting Bill Kowalik and Cathie Flanigan of the newly formed Oregon Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association spoke to us about their effort to establish 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 Mt. Observatory, the Oregon Observatory at Sunriver and Black Butte Ranch. Bill also said he wanted to put a SQM somewhere near Redmond. Derrick Peppers, who attended our August meeting, thinks a good location might be near Terrebonne. Ron provided Derrick with Bill's email address. The question for our club is do we want to commit time and effort in being a part of this project. If so, we should probably let Bill know and ask how we can help.
- Facebook Manager Thomas Jeffrey said all is fine with our facebook page. A recent post from someone praised it for consistently having plenty of fresh material. Nice job Thomas!
- Treasurer Rod Moorehead was not at the meeting—no report.

The next SAC meeting will be on Tuesday September 17, 2019, 7 pm at SPRD.

Ron Thorkildson
August 23, 2019