

ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETING
October 15, 2019, 7 pm at SPRD Coffield Center

Attendees: Bill DeYoung, Jim Hammond, Thomas Jeffrey, Steve Moore, Ron Thorkildson

The following items were discussed:

- The final Stars over Sisters starwatch of the 2019 season is slated for the evening of Saturday October 26 at SPRD beginning at 7:30pm. Jim and Bill have indicated they can bring their telescopes; other possibilities include Rod's scope and a HS telescope operated by a student. High school student Christopher Lundgren will give the presentation.
- The final two network-wide RECON events of the year are:
 - Tuesday October 29 at 5:22 am PDT (12:22UT), involving Resonant Object 02VE95 and a 13.5 mag star in Monoceros. Team will gather at the HS at 4:00 am.
 - Tuesday November 5 at 6:27 pm PST (02:27UT), involving Resonant Object 11WG157 and a 15.8 mag star in Perseus. Team will meet at the HS at 5:00 pm.

Jim is proposing the Sisters RECON team may want to participate in viewing/recording a main belt asteroid occultation on Friday November 15; probability of observing the occultation is high. Jim will ask Rima if this can be arranged.

- Jim has done the planning to show the new IDA documentary "Saving the Dark" here in Sisters. It will take place at the public library on Saturday November 9, beginning at 2 pm. The show runs about 57 minutes. He is also proposing we set up a table where we can mount pictures via our tri-panel display that show examples of good vs bad outdoor lighting. IDA handouts will also be made available. We have the library from 1 to 4 pm, enough time for setup and tear down.

Jim also suggests we try to arrange for speakers to come to Sisters to talk about astronomy-related topics, every two or three months. Grant Tandy of the Worthy Hopservatory, Bob Grossfeld of the Oregon Observatory at Sunriver and Steve Moore, recently returned from Natural Bridges National Monument in Utah where he led stargazing programs, were mentioned as possible speakers.

- Ron will be earning money for the club by driving the SPRD van in support of the Happy Girls run on Saturday November 2.
- SAC has been invited to participate in Sisters Elementary School's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) night, to be held on Tuesday November 5 from 5 to 7 pm. We're requesting a table inside the building upon which to display handouts and provide a trivia quiz, and (weather permitting) setting up a telescope outside to show visitors the moon and Saturn. Since STEM and the November RECON event overlap, Rima is suggesting organizing two teams of students to staff both affairs. Ron will help out with STEM.
- Facebook Manager Thomas Jeffrey said all is fine with our facebook page.
- Thomas mentioned that a transit of Mercury will occur on the morning of November 11 in our neck of the woods. When the sun rises at about 7 am that morning, Mercury will be just 20 minutes from mid-transit. The transit ends at 10:04 am PST. Does the club have plans to offer public views of the event? No decision was made.
- Treasurer Rod Moorehead did not attend the meeting. We did not receive a financial statement from SPRD this month.
- Jim showed some of the latest pictures he took of the ISS transiting the moon and sun. Bill and Steve also shared recent astro-photos that they had taken.

The next SAC meeting will be on Tuesday November 19, 2019, 7 pm at SPRD.

Ron Thorkildson
October 21, 2019