

SISTER ASTRONOMY CLUB ZOOM MEETING

February 16, 2021, 7 pm Thru SPRD

Participants: Mel Bartels, Lynn Carroll, Bill DeYoung, Jim Hammond, Thomas Jeffrey, Cami Kornowski, Richard Lighthill, Steve Moore, Olivia Newton, Ron Thorkildson, Bob Wright

Jim Hammond was moderator for the meeting.

The meeting began by participants introducing themselves.

Jim reviewed the club's brochure or trifold. Meeting dates are included, and this brochure is also attached to this email.

High school student Olivia Newton, a member of the Sister High School Astronomy Club, gave a PowerPoint presentation featuring several winter constellations, highlighting bright stars and primary deep sky objects.

Jim Hammond took us through a slide show that included:

A note that this is the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters Astronomy Club-birthday cake and fireworks.

- 1) Some questions for us to consider: What astronomical event during 2020 was the most interesting for you, whether you were able to observe it or not?

We all seemed to agree that it was Comet Neowise.

- 2) Thinking back over images you have seen over the years taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, which would you say was the "most important"?

Respondents:

Steve Moore, the view of the edge of the known universe; Richard Lighthill, galaxy cluster Abell 370; Jim Hammond, Hubble Deep Field. A good talk about this Hubble image and succeeding ones:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks61I5miNao>

Review of SAC activities:

Sky Quality Meter installed at Rimrock Ranch. Jim Discussed some of the data we have obtained.

RonThorkildson discussed the RECON Project and imaging of an interesting triple star:

Ron reported that the Sisters RECON team completed a successful event on the evening of January 14 by finding the assigned star field and capturing images for the required length of time. Afterward, since the evening was still young, and the sky reasonably clear, Ron suggested the team find and image the triple star system Omicron2 Eridani (40 Eridani). At magnitude 4.4, the star is an easy naked-eye object, which the team quickly located and photographed. Sisters High School teacher Rima Givot sent one of the pictures to Jim which he showed at the meeting. Ron sent Jim a color photo of the star system that someone else had taken for comparison.

This triple star is noteworthy because these stars consist of a yellow dwarf (only slightly smaller than the sun), a white dwarf and a red dwarf. White and red dwarf stars are not seen very often by amateur astronomers because they are so dim. Fortunately, Omicron2 Eridani is only about 16 light-years away—8th nearest of the naked-eye stars. A fun piece of trivia is that in the Star Trek TV series created by Gene Roddenberry, Mr. Spock's home planet, Vulcan, was said to orbit the yellow dwarf star in this system.

In connection with the above questions and responses, Jim showed some of his images of Comet Neowise—his opinion of the most interesting celestial event of 2020.

Jim also had a couple photos of the Saturn-Jupiter conjunction as did Richard Lighthill. Lynn Carroll showed a couple of comet images.

Steve Moore showed images of the sky from Natural Bridges National Monument including images of Comet Neowise.

Richard Lighthill showed images taken at his LaPine Observatory. These included images of Comet Neowise, Saturn-Jupiter conjunction, the Crab Nebula, Flame and Horsehead Nebula. Of particular interest was a photo of the moon taken by Richard, in which he used the imaging processing app ImPPG to sharpen the image.

https://greatattractor.github.io/imppg/tutorial/tutorial_en.html

The entire zoom meeting can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/qzygDavZCQI>
The above images and some videos can be viewed in the video of the meeting.
An interesting time-lapse video of Comet Neowise can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/i6xEpy70rl8>

Have a topic you would like to see covered at future meetings? If so, please email Ron Thorkildson (rthorkildson@bendbroadband.com) or Jim Hammond (drjhammond@oldshoepress.com).

The next on-line meeting will be on Tuesday March 16, 2021, beginning at 7 pm.

Ron Thorkildson
Jim Hammond
March 12, 2021