

Fairfield County Astronomical Society



STAMFORD MUSEUM AND NATURE CENTER • 39 SCOFIELDTOWN ROAD • STAMFORD, CONN. 06903

www.Stamford-Observatory.com

MEETING NOTICE

The public is invited to attend.

Date: Tuesday Feb. 9, 2010

Time: 8:00 pm

Place: Stamford Observatory

8:00 pm Brief business meeting.

8:15 pm From National Geographic: "Direct From The Moon" This excellent video uses the extremely good photos and videos taken by Japan's Kaguya spacecraft in orbit around the Moon as a backdrop for revisiting the Apollo missions and the Russian "Lunakhod" space craft / landers. It examines the results of nearly 40 years of our study of the Moon rocks brought back by the Apollo astronauts.

The following message was received today:

Hello,

Story Musgrave will deliver the President's Lecture at Western CT State University on April 22nd. This link will give you more details: <http://www.wcsu.edu/president/lecture-series.asp>

Would you consider sharing this with members of the Fairfield County Astronomical Society and perhaps include information about the program in an upcoming newsletter. He promises to be both informative and entertaining with his multimedia theatrical program. All the best, Betsy McDonough

Presidential Assistant, Western Connecticut State University

Refreshments will be available.

If the weather is clear we may get in some observing after the meeting. Mars has re-entered the evening sky.

Minutes of the FCAS Meeting Jan. 12, 2010 Six members were present.

The meeting was opened at about 8:10. It was explained that there was to be no call to Vice President John Griese since he expected to be in bed sleeping at that time. A new all-wireless phone system including speaker-phone capability provided by the Museum was explained.

It was noted that the RASC Handbooks had arrived and were available for \$20.00. Four copies were sold.

The treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$1933.00 after sending our donation of \$500 to the Museum for the new astronomy initiative. The receipts for the Handbooks would be in addition to that, but they have not yet been paid for to the supplier.

I explained the current situation in regard to the new series of lectures being given on alternate Friday evenings. The first was on Jan 8th and had an audience of 23 people. A few found it necessary to leave before the end but the lecture was well received. It was followed by observing of Mars for the few people remaining. The seeing that evening was terrible, but at least they got to see Mars. The heaters I put on the telescopes motors and electronics were a help, having been turned on 2 hours previously, but the telescope was still sluggish. Apparently the heaters will help down to about 15 degrees F.

The next lecture will be on Friday Jan. 18th at 7pm. The subject will be the two Mars Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, which was also the subject of tonight's video.

It was noted that the new Dell laptop computer to run the future presentations has arrived at the City Offices but has not been delivered to the

Museum. The projector has been ordered and should be delivered next week. It will also be a Dell model. Both of these items are being paid for by the City so we have not yet dipped into our funds for the project. The Museum has a part-time employee who spends the rest of his time installing such systems, so we expect to use his services to do the installation.

The new projector will be mounted on the ceiling and the setup will include a sound system. The removal of some of the ceiling lights two years ago has probably left a live outlet in the ceiling which we can use to power our new setup. That will be investigated as installation proceeds. The professional who gave us the first estimate on the job indicated that the room is full of echoes, which make difficulties in hearing. We will try various methods of dampening the echoes.

The National Geographic video about the two rovers was shown and the meeting adjourned for refreshments. No one braved the cold for a look at Mars.

Charles Scovil - For the Secretary, who had another meeting