

**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 March 10, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm

Place: Stamford Observatory

8:00 pm Brief business meeting.

8:15 pm From the National Geographic: “Journey to the Edge of the Universe”.

Part 2 continues from the outer edge of the Solar System out to the stars and galaxies and all that good stuff we like to look at with our telescopes.

NOTE: The RASC Observer's Handbooks have arrived. If you ordered one bring \$16.00 to the meeting. I probably won't have change, so if you only have a twenty you will donate the difference to the Society.

Refreshments will be available.

If the weather is clear we may get in some observing after the meeting. The Moon will be just one day before Full, and will wipe out most faint things, but Saturn has returned to the evening sky, with the rings nearly edge-on – a rare sight.

NOTE # 2: On April 2, 3, & 4 we will join with hundreds of other astronomical societies for a marathon observing session. We expect to be open all three evenings for the public to view the skies through our telescope. If you can help, just by being here to talk to people or possibly to man a small telescope or binocular mount, please let me know by email, phone, or at the meeting.

Minutes of the Tuesday February 10th, 2009 Meeting of the FCAS

Business Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Charles Scovil at ~ 8PM on Tuesday, February 10th at the Stamford Observatory. The treasury is solvent. Another comet is on its way in. It will just reach ~5th magnitude. Comet West 1976 was perhaps the best comet in the last 40 years; it was both bright and large, but was visible only in the pre-dawn sky..

Drive problems with the telescope seem to grow more intense as the temperature drops. A set of heaters was ordered for the drive motors but came with the wrong jacks. Replacements from Orion are on the way. The public observing sessions will not be held if the temperature falls below 21 degrees F. This policy is now on the WEB site but it will take time to educate the public to this new regulation.

Several guests and members were then recognized. About sixteen members were present including John G. via phone link. We have ordered 5 copies of the RASC handbook for sale to the membership. Upcoming eclipse dates and locations were discussed, several are in China. Spare copies of the history of the FCAS DVD are available.

Main Program:

Part 1 of a National Geographic astronomy program on DVD called "Journey to the Edge of the Universe" was presented. It started with the Sun and gave many details about the planets, exploring the possibility of colonizing other planets within the solar system and beyond. This segment ended with the edge of the Solar System, leaving the rest of the universe for part 2.

The meeting was adjourned at ~ 9:30 PM. Refreshments were served.

No observing was possible due to poor weather.