

April Meeting Minutes: CAAS

Central Arkansas Astronomical Society Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2014

We had good attendance with 20 members and guests.

Announcements

- New Member grounds tours—see Bruce McMath after the meeting.
- The first of two total lunar eclipses happens in the early morning hours of April 15th.
- CAAS member Andrew Hradesky has been officially recognized as the state representative for the International Dark Sky Association. Congratulations Andrew!
- Bill Engberg mother had a stroke, and he has taken emergency leave. Please remember Bill in your thoughts and prayers.
- A group of CAAS members are attending a scouting event at Pinnacle Mountain State Park (PMSP) on April 17th to talk about astronomy.
- We are hosting a Star party for students from Osaka Japan at PMSP visitor's center on April 24th.
- CAAS Decals are on sale.
- There are 500 new CAAS business card available to members.
- Discovery Days at PMSP are happening May 1st & 2nd , and 8th & 9th. Bill Sanders and Carl Freyaldenhoven wil be in attendance.
- Bill Sanders would like to thank everyone who helped out at the Cabot Middle School Space Day in March.
- May 10th is National Astronomy Day at PMSP. CAAS will hold its May meeting at the park, and host events throughout the afternoon and evening, ending with a Star Party. If you'd like to volunteer please email Darrell Heath.

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April's Program: Constellation of the Month & Yuri's Night

Leo was the Constellation of the Month. Rocky Togni highlighted several points of interest, including the spring diamond. You can find observing help and star guide on the CAAS website <http://www.caasastro.org/forms>.

April 12th was Yuri's Night, an international celebration of Yuri Gagarin, the first human in space. Rocky Togni presented "The Space Race," the achievements of the Soviet and American space programs told through postage stamps. Rocky made the stamps come alive with the stories behind the colorful images.

Yuri's Night stickers were given out, and Rocky had stamps from different countries as giveaways to interested members and guests. Two prizes were also given out at random: Ed Swaim won the Yuri's Night pin, and Carol Togni won the Yuri's Night t-shirt.

MSRAL & AL Con Meeting Announcements

The Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League will hold its 2014 meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on June 6-8 at Washington Universtiy. Information at <http://www.msral.org/>

The Astronomical League's ALCon 2014 is July 9-12 in San Antonio, Texas at the Hilton San Antonio Airport. Information at <http://alcon2014.astroleague.org/>

CAAS members are also members of the Astronomical League and can attend either convention.

Members and Guests in Attendance:

Robert Togni	Chuck Sherwood
Darrell Heath	Linda Sherwood
David Bogard	Pat Morris
Nicole Bograd	Sandy Morris
Brian Steppig	Carl Freyaldenhoven
Edward Swaim	TJ Colvin
James McMath	Doreen Riley
Bill Sanders	Steve Block
Stephen Caldwell	Carol Togni
Chris Lasley	
Chris Atwood	

Prepared by Stephen Caldwell, CAAS Secretary