



Penobscot Valley Star Gazers

An Astronomical Society of Central Maine

<http://www.gazers.org>

December 2009

Would You Like a Program?

The PVSG closes in on the Winter Solstice with the latest possible meeting of the year on Monday, December 14th at 6:30 pm at John Bapst Memorial High School. As with last month, we are not sure what the program will be. However, this time we don't even know of any possibilities. Maybe you or someone else will do something.

Thanks for last month's program go to Bill for reporting on the Galileo collection held by the University of Oklahoma.

Galileo Collection

November 9, 2009



The November meeting started at 6:47 PM with 9 members present. As our current President and Vice President were absent, Wade ran the meeting. With so many members absent there was a call to disband the club, but most felt there were not enough members present to have a valid vote. In other words we missed you, show up for the

meetings. Bill brought up the fact we need to get a current club roster to the Astronomical League. Those at the meeting checked their data. Bill asked that all other members contact him by email with their current address and email address.

There seems to be a shortage of speakers for programs. We do not seem to have any scheduled. Please contact our President with what your talk will be about and when you can give it. First come get to pick their date. However, all dates after Dec. 2010 may be spoken for, then again it may fall through. There was a Star Party for November 14 with students at Hampden Academy scheduled, but it was cancelled.

Bill was then called upon to give tonight's talk. He had a Power Point presentation on the life of Galileo Galilei and the collection of his work at the University of Oklahoma. Follow the link below to see what is available about Galileo at the University of Oklahoma. <http://hsci.ou.edu/exhibits/exhibit.php?exbgrp=1>

Bill then talked about Galileo, who was born in Pisa, Italy in 1564. Galileo went to the University of Pisa in 1581 to study medicine. He went to Florence in 1585 but came back to Pisa in 1589 to teach mathematics. He did not get along with faculty at Pisa and resigned in 1592 and returned to Florence. He had three children by his mistress. He worked on telescope design, continued to write and got into trouble with the church for his writings and lectures. He was put on trial in 1633. He died on April 12, 1642. The

University of Oklahoma Library has many originals of his writings. Oil money helped to acquire many of the works by or about Galileo. To find out more visit the above web site.

The Secretary's report was amended to say that your *Sky & Telescope* subscription should be handled by you, but Bill does the *Astronomy* subscriptions. With these changes the report was accepted.

Dues were due in October. If you have not paid yet, please contact Bill and make arrangements for payment. We also need the Member Roster updated so we can get our quote for insurance from the Astronomical League.

There was talk about the club's Christmas/Holiday Party. At the meeting no one could remember who offered to host the party. Another reason we need more people to show up at meetings.

There was a request for our help at the Orono Bog Walk in late November. Wade was trying to line up people to help.

Dave will be hosting a Star Party at his house on December 21st to view the double transit on Jupiter. Contact Dave for more info. [Or maybe not; all *S&T* lists for the evening of the 21st is I.Ec.R at 19:16 EST. Plus, Jupiter sets by 20:30.]

Wade reported on the talk by Real Manseau at the Maine Surveyors meeting.

Shirley saw one meteor during the Orionids.

Wade took out a couple of his telescopes and showed his landlords some views of the night sky.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Ralph

On the Schedule

(Items Subject to Change)

PROGRAMS

?

STAR PARTIES

?

First date is primary, second is rain date; ? Tentative; (rs) rain or shine; (co) clear only