

Rose-Hulman Astronomy Club

Meeting Minutes for 2009-03-19

- We need to submit a budget for next year to SGA by April 3rd. We are going to include money for travel and we will ask for money for a travel telescope. We would also like to purchase some new DVDs. If you have any more ideas, let us know as soon as possible.
- Next week there will be an astronomy colloquium:
 - Title:** The Incredible Omega Centauri: A Laboratory for Chemical Enrichment
 - Presenter:** Katy Pilachowski, Chair of the Astronomy Department at Indiana University
 - Abstract:** The southern globular cluster Omega Centauri is special in many ways. It is visible to the naked eye, it hosts a black hole, and it has undergone a unique history of chemical enrichment. Unlike any other globular cluster in the Galaxy, Omega Centauri contains stars that span a factor of nearly 100 in the abundance of elements heavier than helium. The mix of chemical elements found in its stars suggests multiple generations of star formation, with successive enrichment of different elements from different stellar sources, including supernovae and intermediate mass giants. In combination with the cluster's unusual retrograde orbit around the galaxy, its chemical enrichment history suggests that Omega Centauri may be the remnant of a captured and tidally shredded small galaxy absorbed by the Milky Way.
 - Time:** Thursday, March 26 at 4:20 p.m. in M-137Refreshments will be served. We would like a good club turnout to this event. Please come if you are available!
- The Messier Marathon is coming up next week! We will do some observing Friday the 28th or Saturday the 29th, weather permitting. We will need people to help set up the telescopes.
- 100 Hours of Astronomy is coming up. We will have an observatory open house April 3rd or 4th (again, weather permitting). We need volunteers, ideally one for each scope. Please help if you can!
- Also, in the near future:
 - Mom's Day Open House
 - Blue Key Youth Science Day
- Finally, it was a beautiful night and we got to do some observing!