

20240405

**ACA Meeting**

Ruth Patrick Science Center

7:00PM

18 guests/member's total

The Astronomy Club of Augusta held its monthly meeting this evening. Our President Neil Miller is up for a presentation on radio astronomy. But first, some announcements:

Neil introduced himself and spoke of the upcoming eclipse. Solar glasses would be available at Ruth Patrick on first come basis and members will be there also to set up telescopes and participate in any Q/A from the visitors. Eclipse begins at 1:52PM and ends at 4:22PM. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this event. (A separate report on the event will be posted.)

Neil also gave us an update on the upcoming elections. No volunteers for the nominating committee have come forward. The current officers will be ready to continue, if elected to do so in the June elections. Understandably so, the re-start up of the ACA close to the upcoming elections, could allow the current temporary officers who were elected at the January meeting could also be elected to serve in the upcoming year. Those elections would be held at the June meeting.

After the announcements were made our member Jim Cadeau gave us a report on the events at the Winter Star Party held last month. A slideshow was presented showing pictures from the event held in Key West, Florida. Unfortunately, not a lot of good viewing because of the clouds and weather, but a couple of nights were clear and beautiful with lots of telescopes of various sizes set up.

Accommodations there are very cheap compared to the Hotels nearby. The "chiki-huts" have bunk beds and AC and are enclosed. Showers and restrooms are also available. Speakers are there also to present interesting topics. If interested in going to the next one talk with Jim for more info or one of the officers can maybe answer your question. You can also go to the website to learn more about the WSP.

Now for our presentation on Radio Astronomy:

Neil Miller gave us a very informative and enjoyable presentation. Neil has an undergraduate degree in physics and a masters in astrophysics. He also teaches the astronomy class here at USCAiken. It will be impossible for me to write out all the info that Neil presented. However, he presented it in such a way that everyone present enjoyed learning a little about radio astronomy. It all began in 1931 when Karl Jansky detected radio waves from the Milky Way galaxy. Neil explained how in 1955 Jupiter's radio waves were detected because of the volcanic eruptions on its moon Io. He showed us how the Ionosphere is thinner at night which allows clearer radio to be heard from a farther distance. He talked of how radio waves can help predict earthquakes and power outages due to the solar activity. Lots of good questions were asked throughout the presentation and Neil was right there with the answers. He presented his presentation in such a way as to not overwhelm everyone (including me). One thing was clear, Neil has a passion for this area and is dedicated to researching and logging the data as it is presented. His presentation will be available on the Astronomy Club of Augusta website: <https://astroclubaugusta.weebly.com/presentations.html>

For more info for those interested in getting started in radio astronomy here are a few websites:

- Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers  
<https://www.radio-astronomy.org/>
- Galactic Hydrogen Detection  
<https://www.rtl-sdr.com/a-talk-on-21cm-hydrogen-line-amateur-radio-astronomy/>
- Meteor Detection  
<https://www.amsmeteors.org/ams-programs/radio-observing/>

Thanks, Neil, for an awesome presentation.

The ACA meeting concluded at 20:25 (8:25PM).

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Owens – ACA Secretary