

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 12, 2024

By: Jean Davids

There was no assignment this month because we were meeting jointly with the Sherburne Refuge Photography Group. We jointly paid for the presenter this month. This was a decision approved by the board.

The topic was Northern Lights or Astro photos presented by Bob King (astro Bob) - (<https://astrobob1.blogspot.com/>). This event was held at the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Oak Savanna Learning Center. Bob was an excellent speaker and had a variety of helpful tips and information. I jotted down some cryptic notes and we have access to the recorded zoom session on our club Facebook page. If you aren't a member of our club Facebook page and would like to be, contact Jean Davids and she can get you the link or invitation to join. Here are the notes, such as they are:

Northern Lights/Aurora is measured by KP numbers. When it gets to KP7 or above there is great viewing in our region. KP9 is the highest number on this scale.

Red colors are high altitude aurora. Green is lower altitude so southern states don't see the green because of the curvature of the earth. They see red. Where we are we can see them all.

Bob normally shoots aurora at 2-3 seconds, ISO 1600-3200 (up to 6400), 16-35 mm lens, F2.8, focus to infinity. He always shoots in Raw. Uses a Dew Chaser made by Move Shoot Move (MSM). It keeps the cooling weather from fogging up the lens of his camera.

Geo magnetic storms are rated using GP1-GP5 scale. GP1 = KP5, GP2 = KP6, GP3 = KP7, GP4 = KP8, GP5 = KP9.

STEVE = Strong Thermal Emission Velocity Enhancement. I tried jotting down notes related to this phenomenon but here is a link that explains and shows it better. <https://www.space.com/what-is-steve>

Using a VLF Receiver, you can listen to the sounds of northern lights. He had one of these at the meeting but started having computer issues there so we couldn't listen to his recording.

Best time to get aurora shots is around both equinoxes because of the earth's tilt.

Has a Facebook page called Astro Bob's Astronomy for everyone. Is also part of the Great Lakes Aurora Hunters.

Can report your aurora sightings to AURORASAURUS.ORG which is used for scientific purposes.

Will have a book out soon (July) called Magnificent Aurora by Bob King. Mentioned the American Astrological Society but can't remember the connection there.

We had to take a break during the meeting when a huge wall cloud came up. Of course, a room full of photographers had to go outside and shoot photos. It was awesome. It rained, hailed and it even knocked down the flag pole. But it was really worth the break. Then we got back to the meeting after that.

Website that he referenced is: swpc.noaa.gov/products/3-day-forecast. You can give a 3 day forecast for geomagnetic activity of the sun. Also showed us how to use spaceweathlive app.

2024 Camera Club Meeting Dates and Topics

July 17

- Assignment: Northern Lights/Astro photos/Sky Photos/Time Lapse Photos
- Topic: Blind Critique - Chris Lommel

August 21

- Assignment: Top Vacation Photos/Improved photo based on blind critique (before/after)
- Topic: Use of triggers and remotes - Don Pfeleiderer

September 18

- Assignment: Time-Lapse photo or photo showing time in some fashion
- Topic: To be determined

October 16

- Assignment: To be determined
- Topic: To be determined

November 20

- Assignment: To be determined
- Topic: To be determined

December 18

- Assignment: Top photo of 2024
- Topic: Holiday party, open discussion – bring your spouse. We will be meeting at 6:30 to get our food all ordered in advance of our meeting.