2/14/2020 Meeting Minutes

- Timestep
  - Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 19 @ 5pm
  - Where: Steward N305
  - Topic: Industry leaders panel discussing application and interview expectations for jobs in Space and Technology sectors
  - Internship opportunities for students, go to Timestep for more information!

- Star Parties
  - Recap:
    - Friday, 2/7: Telescope Training/Movie Night
    - Tuesday, 2/11: Lineweaver Elementary School Star Party
      - Thank you Binh, Bianca, Harrison, and Sai!
    - Wednesday, 2/12: DeGrazia Elementary School Star Party
      - Thank you Sean, Wyatt, Binh, Joaquin, and Peter!
  - Future Parties:
    - Interested in teaching kindergarteners for a day about our Solar System? Email kayliglidic@email.arizona.edu for details!
    - Thursday, 2/27: Carrillo Elementary
    - Wednesday, 3/25: Morgan Maxwell K-8
    - Sign-up sheets are out!

- Astronomy Question of the week with Don
  - What is the graphic of the United States showing?
    - Places in the United States where no one lives, 47% of the area of the US
    - Over 4 million US Census blocks with no people
  - The Orion Nebula (M42), photo by Sean Cunningham
    - Different colors at different times: red, blue, green
    - Atmospheric distortion? Automatic phone settings? Taken at different times?
    - You can download apps that let you choose different settings for your phone’s camera
  - Betelgeuse continues to dim
    - Could have changed its size to 92% of its original size
    - Giant starspot
    - Shrouded by outburst of stardust
    - Star variability overlap, might start to brighten February 21st
    - Dust cloud?
  - Mercury is up!
  - Solar Minimum
    - 11 year solar cycle
    - We are at the lowest solar minimum in 200 years
    - 271 days without sunspots
- Cosmic rays are being detected at a higher frequency due to the solar wind being diminished
  - May 1st - graduation ceremony for seniors!
- Meet the Messiers with Sean
  - M4 or NGC 6121
  - Apparent magnitude of 5.9
  - 7, 200 light years for earth
  - NGC - New Galactic Catalogue
  - The size of the moon in our sky
  - Discovered in 1745 by Philippe Loys de Cheseaux
  - Includes some of the oldest stars in the Milky Way
- Astro News of the week with Katie
  - A mysterious deep space radio burst is sending signals to Earth every 16 days
  - 500 million light years away
  - A repeating fast radio burst, first detected periodicity in a FBR
  - Various theories over what it might be: a black hole, neutron star, and/or massive star interacting weird is the current theory
- Other Announcements
  - Physics Club
    - Alternate Wednesday meetings with TIMESTEP.
    - Fun meetings with Physics undergrads and Faculty presentations!
    - Go check it out! Next meeting is Feb 26th
  - ATOMM
    - Tutoring for physics, astronomy, and math by experienced graduate students
    - ATOMM Schedule:
      - Tuesday: 2 - 4pm
      - Wednesday: 3 - 5pm
      - Thursday: 1:30 - 3:30pm
  - Astronomers
    - Snacks available for $1 or less
    - Proceeds go to your local Astroclub!
    - Located in the shelves in the kitchen area by Parker Library on the 3rd floor
    - In Stock: candy bars, chips, snack packs, granola bars.
    - A modest proposal: no theft please
  - CLUB PHOTO
    - Next Friday after our meeting
    - Wear your favorite space gear or club shirt!
  - Astrophotography
    - First Information meeting 2/14
    - Stay after the club to talk about astrophotography!
We couldn’t get a speaker today, but in about 2 weeks from now we should have a fantastic speaker!

- Adam Block was a student here, member of Astronomy Club, and went to Don’s Astronomy Camp

- Spring Trip
  - Location: Los Angeles/Pasadena
  - Dates: Friday, April 10th (5:30am) to Sunday, April 12th (early evening)
  - Itinerary:
    - Private NASA JPL Tour
    - Mt. Wilson Observatory
    - Joshua Tree National Park
    - And more...
  - Requirements
    - Attend at least one star party OR present Astro News of the Week
    - Pay club dues ($10)
    - Pay trip costs (will announce later)
  - Trip costs cover two nights lodging and paid tours
  - Sign-up sheet will be sent out later

- Kahoot

- Dues
  - Pay your dues!!!