

BBAA May 2014 Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2014

The May 2014 meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM in room JC-10 at TCC in Virginia Beach by vice president George Reynolds.

Members in attendance were:

Kenny Broun, Scott Cadwell, Bill Holmes, Chuck Jagow, Jeff Klein, Robyn Korn, Leigh Anne Lagoe, Curt Lambert, Kirk Leppert, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Bill McLean, Bill Powers, Bruce Powers, Joey Quinn, George Reynolds, Mark Roehm, Melvin Spruill Jr., Bird Taylor, Mike Webster, and Christopher Weller.

Guests were Dominic Bates, Justin Knightes, Roni Sherritt, and Garrick Weller

Reports:

A motion was made by Chuck Jagow to waive the reading of the previous month's minutes. Motion seconded by Ben Loyola. All were in favor. Minutes are published on the website and in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Jagow reported that there is \$1585.80 in the General Fund and \$2389.67 in the Scholarship Fund, for a total of \$3975.47. Paid insurance. Club has expenses to pay to AL and IDSA.

Vice President/Outreach Report:

Calendar

5/2 - Garden Stars event canceled - not enough guests registered

5/2 - VPAS: Gosnold's Hope Park Observing

5/9 - Star Hike (Night Hike) at Northwest River Park - meet at ranger station 6:30PM

5/10 - National Astronomy Day at Virginia Beach Central Library 9:30AM - 5PM.

5/10 - Star Party at Virginia Living Museum

5/13 - Boardwalk Astronomy #1 - behind 24th Street stage. dusk-11PM

5/16 - VPAS: Gosnold's Hope Park Observing

5/23 - Skywatch at Northwest River Park dusk - midnight

5/29-5/31 - East Coast Star Party hosted by Kent Blackwell in Coinjock, NC

5/31 - Nightwatch at Chippokes - dependent on attendance, due to ECSP

6/5 - BBAA Club Meeting at Plaza Middle School Planetarium 7:30-9PM

Upcoming Boardwalk Astronomy dates: 5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/5, 9/2

Please RSVP for Star Hike as there is a limited number of members that can participate.

ALCOR (Astronomical League Coordinator):

Nick Anderson is now a Master Observer. Club now has 4 Master Observers.

Scholarship Report:

There are six applications going to the scholarship board for review.

Observing Reports:

Mars is still in good position for viewing.

Old Business:

Bird Taylor reported on status of RRRT at Fan Mountain. A report is in the May newsletter.

Computers worked well and he will be returning within two to three weeks to do some photometry and check the camera. In the future, candidates such as the BBAA may be able to submit a proposals to use the equipment for research.

GAP (Grundland Astronomy Park) dome is in good condition after tornado several months ago, but due to damage to the surrounding area, there is still no access to the site. The city of Hampton is willing to donate materials to build a deck for the GAP.

New Business:

The BBAA Constitution requires updating. George Reynolds asked for volunteers to form a revision committee for the constitution and by-laws. Volunteers to meet after the meeting.

What Every Telescopic Observer Should Know About the Weather on Mars:

Our guest speaker was Dr. Nicolas Heavens, a Research Assistant Professor of Planetary Science at Hampton University. Dr. Heavens compared the weather on Earth and Mars and why we study Mars. He discussed warm dust seasons, including global dust storms, and how they compare to the icy seasons. Dr. Heavens explained how the image we see through the telescope correlates with the seasonal cycle of the weather on Mars, as well as the important role amateur astronomers have played in the study of Mars, especially when Mars spacecraft are not functioning properly.

Door Prize Drawing: Binoculars awarded to Bruce Powers. Sky & Telescope Magazine awarded to Robyn Korn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.