BBAA Minutes (July 2026 Monthly Meeting)

Date: 07/18/2026 @Elizabeth River Park

In attendance: A large group of amazing people

1:12 pm: The BBAA July 2026 meeting was called to order by Jeremy Mitchell.

Refreshments Committee (George Reynolds): Temporarily disposed

Because it was the day of the club picnic, refreshments were provided by all, so George got to take a break from his duties this meeting.

REPORTS:

VP Report (Jeff Goldstein): 1:14 pm.

Calendar of events forJuly :

-Club Meeting and club picnic (Elizabeth River Park, July 18th @1:00 pm).

-Cornwatch (Cornland Park, July 3rd, 10th, 17nd, 24th and 31st @8:00 pm).

-Dog Days of Summer (VA Children's Museum, July 11th @10:00 am).

-Skywatch (NW River Park, July 18th @8:00 pm).

-Nightwatch (Chippokes State Park, June 13th @5:00 pm).

-Garden Stars (Norfolk Botanical Gardens, July 21st @8:30 pm).

-Saturday Sun Day (Elizabeth River Park, July 25th @10:00 am).

-FantaSci (Chesapeake Central Library, July 25th @10:00 am).

-Boardwalk Astronomy (VA Beach Oceanfront, July 28th @6:00 pm).

-Ignite (Chrysler Museum, July 31st @7:00 pm).

Treasurer's Report (Rich Roberts): Waived

Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): Waived

Scholarship Committee (Ben Loyola): Not present

ALCOR Report and East Coast Star Party (Bruce Powers): 1:25 pm

-One club member got mentioned for winning AL awards, being Jeff Goldstein, who won the Comet 3-I Atlas observing award. He also mentioned that the Reflector magazine is available to anyone in the AL.

-Friendly reminder that the fall ECSP dates are in November, during the first weekend of the month. The November club meeting will be held during the Thursday.

Observing Reports: 1:30 pm.

-Kent observed a bunch of double stars, taking advantage of the poor transparency but excellent seeing that the smoky conditions earlier in the month caused. He also mentioned that during his mid-July visit to Manhattan, on the 12th, the Sun rose directly through the buildings of the city, like a great tunnel.

Old Business: 1:35 pm.

-Web host is still in progress of changing, backup your email if you have a backbay.org email address.

-Pride in the Peake was a massive success, and it allowed us to triple the club's number of swamp coolers.

-Dwarf Labs smart telescope is still being passed around between club members, and we're discussing having one of their engineers join us for a discussion.

-Western Branch schools are still trying to help us get a local astronaut to be interviewed, but since the candidate we were eyeing got selected for Artemis III, that is much harder now.

New Business: 8:03 pm.

-Sandy was looking for the club to purchase a demo telescope for the library observing program. This would help with outreach at other club events. There was a motion to allocate $800 for this purpose, which was accepted.

-Because of rising costs of renting restaurant rooms, the annual luncheon was discussed to be transformed into a potluck instead. Jeff and his wife offered to have it at their house on Saturday December 12th, to avoid the Christmas holiday. Further discussion was tabled to a later meeting.

-There was also discussion about moving the summer picnic earlier or later in the year to avoid the heat, ideally the months of June or September. This conversation was also deferred for later.

Library Telescope Program (Sandy Paxson): Not there.

Special Program: None

Next meeting is on August 6th, 2026, back at TCC Virginia Beach.

Meeting was adjourned at **2:10 pm.**