

BBAA Minutes (April 2025 monthly meeting)

Date: 04/03/2025 @TCC VA Beach Science Building

In attendance: Gabriel Dandrade, Jeff Goldstein, Jeremy Mitchell, Shawn Loescher, Eddie Harris, George Reynolds, Michael Hall, David Shouldice, Sylvio Canu, Eric Fadely, Hannah Harleman, Mark Wilson, Bill Rust, Matt McLaughlin, Evan Stallings, Melvin Spruill Jr., Irene Schindler. **On Zoom:** Richard Roberts, Roland Downing, Jonathan Scheetz, Jeff Thornton, Jeff Edmondson.

7:30 pm: The March 2025 meeting of the BBAA came to order. Recording started.

REPORTS:

7:31 pm: VP/Schedule Report (Jeff Goldstein).

-Calendar of events for April:

Monthly meeting (Thurs Apr 3 @7:30 pm).

OBX Star Party (Fri Apr 4 @5:30 pm).

Bertie Star Party (Sat Apr 5 @7:30 pm). Still pending approval.

Garden Stars (Tue Apr 8 @8:30 pm).

Astro 101 at Kempsville rec center (Wed Apr 9 @7:45 pm).

DCES Steam Day (Fri Apr 11 @6:00 pm).

Saturday Sun Day (Sat Apr 12 @10:00 am).

Cornwatch (Fri Apr 18 and Apr 25 @7:30 pm).

YCPR MIP (Sat Apr 19 @6:00 pm).

Nightwatch at Chippokes (Sat Apr 26 @7:45 pm).

-Calendar of events for May:

Monthly meeting (Thurs May 1 @7:30 pm).

Churchland Library Astro Day (Sat May 3 @6:00 pm).

Boardwalk Astronomy (Tues May 6 @6:00 pm).

Garden Stars (Thurs May 8 @6:30 pm).

General Information/Events notes:

7:42 pm: Treasurer's Report (Rich Reports)

- Club finances are doing quite well right now (\$16k in the account).
- Club came out on top after ECSP, despite the expenses.
- No outstanding star party expenses aside from the Chippokes invoice.
- Treasurer's Report was accepted at 7:45 pm.

7:47 pm: Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): Gabriel waived the minutes to give more time for his presentation. Motion was made and accepted at 7:49 pm.

7:47 pm: Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): Gabriel read the March meeting minutes from last meeting. The minutes were accepted at 7:48 pm.

7:49 pm: ALCOR Report (Bruce Powers).

-Bruce had to leave for medical reasons, so Jeremy Mitchell briefly mentioned the observing programs on the Astronomical League website.

7:49 pm: Refreshments committee (George Reynolds):

- Coffee and cookies are available at any time during the meeting.

7:49: Nominating Committee (Jeremy Mitchell):

-Was formed to help find officers to fill vacant positions in the club. Vice President and Treasurer are up for grabs, so message Jeremy if you have interest in running for those roles.

7:52 pm: Observing Reports

- Jeff logged a hundred Messier objects at ECSP. Gabriel logged 86.
- George discussed the *Year-Round Messier Marathon*, a guide to helping find all the Messier objects available in one night.
- NGC 3132, the Southern Ring Nebula in Vela.
- Hubble's Variable Nebula in Monoceros, looking like a little comet.

7:56: Old Business:

-East Coast Star Party Fall 2025 needs to be decided, which dates work best. We should try to find a date that avoids both any conflicting parties and also Staunton River Star Party. Three weekends are currently selected; one in September and two in November.

8:02: New Business:

-T-shirts are available from the last ECSP in a variety of sizes, as well as normal BBAA swag.

-Jeff got to participate on a boat and show the passengers the stars and planets. There might be a chance that the whole club can participate in something similar soon.

8:15: Georgie June Raffle Ticket Drawing:

-The winner of the Celestron StarSense telescope and all its accessories was Ed Marciano.

Special Program (Outreach, presented by Jeff Goldstein – 8:19 pm):

-Jeff gave his presentation tonight on outreach in astronomy and how you can participate. You don't need to be good at presentations or public speaking to be good at outreach! You can RSVP on the club website. Come prepared for cloudy weather by bringing alternate presentations that you can play when the seeing gets rough. Definitely research your audience too; you will act very differently around a group of adults versus a bunch of young kids. It's also handy to have photos to have to market other outreach events. Jeff got to show a bunch of photos from various outreach events like Boardwalk Astronomy and Kempsville Rec Center.

Next meeting is May 1st, 2025.

Meeting was adjourned at **8:56 pm.**