

BBAA Minutes (May 2026 Monthly Meeting)

Date: 05/07/2026 @TCC Virginia Beach

In attendance: Gabriel Dandrade, George Reynolds, Jeremy Mitchell, Sam Elrod, Will Kiff, Aaron Pellien, Jeffery Thornton, Kirt Kerr, Irene Schindler, Patrick Vartuli, Bill Rust, Michael Hall, Dave Foster, Kelly Foster, Richard Thiemann, Lorne Hubenthal, Sylvio Canu, Abran Casarez, Jhalak Pattnaik, David Shouldice, Dennis Rowley, Barry Bryant. **On Zoom:** Rich Roberts, Matthew Cook, Bill, Shawn Loescher, Tom Flatley, Kevin Brooks

7:39 pm: The BBAA May 2026 meeting was called to order by Jeremy Mitchell. Meeting started a little late due to Zoom meeting troubles.

Refreshments Committee (George Reynolds): 7:39 pm

Refreshments, including coffee and cookies, are up for grabs in the back of the room. He brought extra in case Jeremy's special talk bored anyone.

REPORTS:

VP Report (Jeff Goldstein): 7:43 pm.

Calendar of events for May:

- Club Meeting (TCC Va Beach, May 7th @7:30 pm).
- Cornwatch (Cornland Park, May 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th @8:00 pm).
- Skywatch (NW River Park, May 9th @8:00 pm).
- Girl Scout Troop Astronomy (May 16th @8:30 pm).
- Railyn's Birthday Party (May 23rd @8:30 pm).
- Boardwalk Astronomy (VA Beach Oceanfront, May 26th @6:00 pm).
- Garden Stars (Norfolk Botanical Gardens, May 28th @6:00 pm).
- Saturday Sun Day (Elizabeth River Park, May 30th @10:00 am).
- Planetarium Shows (Chesapeake Planetarium, May 15th @7:00 pm, 23rd @2:00 pm and 7:00 pm, and 30th @2:00 pm and 7:00 pm).

Treasurer's Report (Rich Roberts): 7:58 pm.

-We have a lot of money currently. We have not yet finalized the check for Chippokes State Park, but all other ECSP expenses have been paid for. Eight new members were added last month, and our balance has gone up a lot. The club is looking very good right now in that regard.

Treasurer's Report was accepted at 8:02 pm.

Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): 8:02 pm

-Because the minutes were posted as part of Jeremy's monthly newsletter, the secretary's report was waived for tonight.

Scholarship Committee (Ben Loyola): Out of town

All of our scholarships are funded, Ben is just waiting on some more applications to announce the winners.

ALCOR Report and East Coast Star Party (Bruce Powers): NOT HERE, Jeremy summarized it.

-It's highly rewarding to become a member of the Astronomical League, as you get access to observing programs, Reflector magazine, and astronomy-related news. You automatically become a member when you join the club.

-Get involved with the outreach programs and observing programs to get special certificates and merit pins.

-East Coast Star Party was a success, according to Jeremy (I have to rely on his hearsay since I wasn't there). 70 people came for public night, and we gave two different field trips, a geology one and a nature one. The next ECSP is the first weekend in November.

Observing Reports: 8:07 pm.

-Talk about doing dew heater workshops are going on for those who have interest.

-Richard had a great time showing people Markarian's Chain in Virgo during Skywatch, and it got quite the reaction from a lot of people.

-Gabriel saw the propeller in the Hercules Cluster from Skywatch as well.

-Dennis and Barry saw a rocket launch from Cape Canaveral, and they managed to see two distinct dots moving in tandem across the sky. It was due to the second stage still firing and being in sunlight.

-Jeremy had a great time with Will at Science in Sci-fi, and they got to see the Galilean moons through multiple telescopes. Eight people were in attendance and it was a great time.

-Some members discussed how to best align a telescope for motor/photographic use, and various methods on how it can be done.

Old Business: 8:18 pm.

-Club apparel interest is still up in the air, so message Jeremy if you want any article of clothing, be it a hat, a light shell, a shirt, or something else. There were some concepts of items that we can order en masse for whoever is interested.

-Some additional outreach pins need to be distributed to their rightful recipients.

-The website needs to be addressed still, Shawn is working on that currently.

New Business: 8:21 pm.

-A small batch of club T-shirts are still available from last year's Pride in the Peake event. Jeremy is considering planning a tie-dye event where members can go nuts and then get the club logo imprinted onto them. For this year's event.

-The club received a donation with a Dobsonian solid-tube telescope with a homemade mount. It's available for whoever wants to use it as a giveaway.

-The night sky for May is on the Night Sky Network, and Jeff G. would like to use it for outreach events. It would allow people to bring home something from these events instead of just going home normally. We ultimately decided to let Jeff print them out himself, and test to see if people are interested in them at outreach.

-There were some discussion about door prizes, and many of them have been donated items to the club or giveaways from generous club members. Jeff also put forth a motion to start sending \$50 to a door prize fund to help with bigger and better door prizes and getting club members in the door. The motion was tabled until additional research is conducted by Rich to see if it's sustainable.

-We had our first meeting of the library telescope committee, led by Sandy Paxson, at East Coast Star Party. Irene purchased the first telescope, a 4-inch tabletop reflector. They discussed how to maintain telescopes when it's being kept at a library, and who would be responsible for making sure it stays intact. The committee is planning on having a special meeting to determine many of the niche topics about the launch of this program.

Special Program: Due to a lack of time, Jeremy moved his topic over to another meeting. Whenever it happens, it will be on solar astronomy, how to conduct it safely, the advantages of solar observing, and how to make a solar funnel for rear projection.

Next meeting is on June 4th, 2026.

Meeting was adjourned at **9:02 pm.**