

BBAA Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2010

The June meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Planetarium, Plaza Middle School, by president Mark Gerlach.

Those in attendance were Jordan Bramble, Gerry Carver, Cheryl Colvin and daughter Amber, Zachery Colvin, Bryan Condrey & daughter, Elizabeth Danley, Kathleen Danley, Patrick Danley, Chuck Dibbs, Courtney Flonta, Janice Flonta, Mark Gerlach, Dave Hales, Curt Lambert, Bill McLean, Bill Newman, John Norman, George Reynolds, Chuck Rippel, Kevin Swann, "Bird" Taylor, Kevin Weiner, and Shelton Williams.

Reports: Secretary's report was waived (on Web site and in newsletter). The treasurer was not in attendance, but he sent a message that the report is the same as last month. Chuck Jagow was in Colorado taking care of family business. ALCOR Georgie June was not in attendance, nor was Scholarship Committee Chairman Ben Loyola.

Old Business: John Norman reported that for VAAS, if we have the observing session at TCC, we can petition the city of Virginia Beach to turn off the parking lot lights at Lynnhaven High School. We would need an official representative from TCC (Prof. Ken Broun) petition the city. John will find out who the point of contact will be.

The membership was reminded that the annual BBAA Family Picnic is scheduled for SUNDAY, July 18th at Northwest River Park. There is a signup database on the backbayastro Yahoo site.

New Business: President Mark Gerlach had received a message of the possible donation of a telescope to the club, as long as it would be used for outreach. He said he initially accepted, but reconsidered the logistic problems of storage and accountability, so he replied that the club would not take the scope.

Activities Reports: John Norman and Bryan Condrey reported on the Scout night 15 May at North Landing Park. They said they kept the Scouts mesmerized for two hours with their binoculars and telescopes. Garden Stars on 21 May was very successful. About twenty were in attendance, with several club members setting up five telescopes and a pair of big binos to show the Moon, Saturn, Mars, the Pleiades, and several other celestial objects. Bayside Library Astronomy was also well-attended on 26 May, observing Venus, Saturn, and Mars, and several significant stars, Arcturus, Betelgeuse, and Rigel. After 1 July the Bayside Library Astronomy nights will come to an end, as the Virginia Beach libraries will be closing at 7:00 pm due to budget constraints.

The meeting feature was a NASA documentary movie, "Explorer 1", recounting the origins of rocketry at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Space Race between the U.S. and the former USSR to launch the first satellites into earth orbit. It was a fascinating piece of history. The DVD was provided by George Reynolds and shown by our gracious host, planetarium director Chuck Dibbs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Reynolds
Secretary