

BBA Meeting Minutes 12/2/2010

The December meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Mark Gerlach. Those in attendance were Neill Alford, Ken Broun, Gerry Carver, Bryan Condrey, Elizabeth Dougherty, Kevin Dougherty, Courtney Flonta, Tony Flonta, Ted Forte, Mark Gerlach, Jeff Goldstein, Dave Hales, Chuck Jagow, Curt Lambert, Matt McLaughlin, Bill Newman, George Reynolds, "Bird" Taylor, and Larry Wade.

Treasurer Chuck Jagow mentioned that he had received another bill from Cavalier Sportswear for \$85. Some discussion ensued. Treasurer's report: General Fund, \$3211.85; Scholarship Fund, \$3627.07; total, \$6838.92. Chuck said he received three membership checks this week in the P. O. box.

Secretary's report: The membership list is in the process of being updated. There are approximately 100 members at present. Many members' expiration date is 12/31/2010. It was suggested that members submit their 2011 dues of \$18 by the end of the month. The RASC *Observer's Handbook* shipment arrived this week and the books were available at the meeting for those who requested a copy. All but four were distributed by the end of the meeting.

New business: Some calendar items were mentioned. Skywatch tomorrow night 3 December, Nightwatch Saturday, 4 December. Ted Forte said to expect a large group of students at Skywatch, so we need as many members with telescopes as possible. The weather is forecast to be clear and cold, so dress warmly. The annual BBA anniversary luncheon will be held Saturday, 11 December, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm, at Tripp's Restaurant on Independence Boulevard in Virginia Beach Town Center.

Bird Taylor said the date for Yuri's Night at the Air and Space Center will be Saturday, 16 April 2011, from 7 pm to midnight. Mark confirmed that the January meeting will be held 6 January 2011 at the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Planetarium, Plaza Middle School on Lynnhaven Road. Jeff Goldstein volunteered to give a presentation on SLOOH remote observing and astroimaging.

George mentioned the opportunity to consider developing a "Chiefland North" dark sky site near Columbia, NC. Some interest was evidenced among those present. Members asked that the URL of the site and the original email from Rob Schonk be posted on Backbayastro.

Someone asked about the possibility of BBA purchasing the CD archive set of *Sky & Telescope* magazines currently available at "Shop at Sky" for about \$250. No decision was made.

Observers' Corner: Bird and Chuck said they have been observing Saturn, and Mark said Venus has been extremely bright in the mornings. Bird said he and Bill McLean had a good time observing at Machipongo recently. Bird and Mark passed out sky maps and a schedule of the total lunar eclipse which will occur after midnight 21 December (the night of Monday, 20 December).

President Mark Gerlach presented a video entitled "Journey to the Stars", narrated by Whoopi Goldberg. The video traced the birth and death of stars, particularly our sun and how heavy minerals and planets are produced in supernovae. The information presented was very up-to-date, and the graphics were very good.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by President Mark Gerlach.