

## BBAA Meeting Minutes 1/6/2011

The January, 2011 meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice President Courtney Flonta. President Mark Gerlach had undergone shoulder surgery and cannot drive. Those in attendance were Neill Alford, Jordan Bramble, Gerry Carver, Nick Depaulo, Chuck Dibbs, Elizabeth Dougherty, Kevin Dougherty, Courtney Flonta, Jeff Goldstein, Chuck Jagow, Curt Lambert, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Bill Newman, George Reynolds, Mark Shaw, Kevin Swann, Jim Tallman, and "Bird" Taylor.

Treasurer's report: General Fund, \$3297.80; Scholarship Fund, \$3686.12; total, \$6983.92.

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.

Georgie June, who has vigorously performed the duties as ALCOR (Astronomical League Correspondent) has turned that job over to Bill McLean. Thank you, Georgie, for all your hard work and "cheerleading". There was no ALCOR report, since Bill was not at the meeting.

Chuck Dibbs introduced a fellow teacher at Plaza middle School, Mark Shaw, who visited tonight's meeting and joined the club afterwards.

New business:

Courtney reported that BBAA got a request from the Great Bridge Kiwanis Club for a member to make a presentation to one of their Tuesday morning breakfast meetings. George Reynolds volunteered, since he is retired. Courtney will tell the Kiwanis point of contact to get in touch with George.

There was some discussion of obtaining a dark sky observing site similar to Chiefland, Florida. Chuck Jagow told about visiting such a site in San Diego and obtaining information about it from the San Diego astronomy club. Jim Tallman suggested that a separate meeting be convened of just the people interested in pursuing such an option.

The office of BBAA librarian is available for a new volunteer. Gerry Carver, who has ably filled this position for many years, would like to step down. The BBAA library list is posted on the BBAA Web site. Any member wanting to check out a book should contact the librarian, who will bring that book to the next meeting.

A database in Backbayastro has been established for members to volunteer to present a monthly meeting feature. Please sign up on the database with the date and subject you would like to present.

Jeff Goldstein gave a presentation on SLOOH remote observing and astroimaging. Jeff joined SLOOH online between 5 and 7 years ago, and has taken hundreds of astroimages, using the remote telescopes in the Canary Islands, Chile, and Australia. He showed the online SLOOH interface and demonstrated how to reserve time on one of the scopes, and how to observe and take pictures. Jeff showed many of

the pictures he has taken over the years, including M37, the “Gold dust Cluster”, and M51 the Whirlpool Galaxy, with a supernova that occurred there back in June-July 2005.

Jeff showed how he detected the elusive former planet Pluto by taking pictures on successive nights and then “blinking” them to compare and see which object appeared to move. He passed out handouts explaining SLOOH and illustrating how to find Pluto.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. by Vice President Courtney Flonta.