

## BBA Meeting Minutes 8/4/2011

The August, 2011 meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Virginia Beach Public Schools Planetarium by President Mark Gerlach. Those in attendance were Neill Alford, Nick Anderson, Tom Flatley, Courtney Flonta, Tony Flonta, Ted Forte, Mark Gerlach, Jeff Goldstein, Chuck Jagow, Karen Jagow, Matt McLaughlin, Bill McLean, Bill Newman, Jake Putz, George Reynolds, Matt Swingle, Jim Tallman, "Bird" Taylor, and Larry Wade.

Treasurer's report: General Fund, \$4136.17; Scholarship Fund, \$3706.12; total, \$7842.29.

Secretary's report: No July meeting was held during the picnic, so there were no minutes to be read.

This year's BBA scholarship recipient was announced to be Emily Wiggins, teenage member of VPAS, who is very active and deserving of the scholarship award. Bird Taylor told us a little about her and what she has done for VPAS.

### Old business:

The membership roster is almost up to date. George and Jim will get together and compare notes, then give a copy of the current list to ALCOR Bill McLean to send to the Astronomical League.

Jim made the motion that all membership terms be made to expire on 31 December of each year, to facilitate keeping track of the current payment of dues by club members. Right now memberships expire on year from join date, which makes it hard to keep records current. Annual dues of \$18 is \$1.50 per month, so dues could be pro-rated for those with less than a year before 31 Dec. Motion was seconded and affirmed by those present.

President Mark Gerlach reported that the Dark Sky Site Search is no longer in process. Hampton Lodge has said anyone can come and camp in or around the cedars for \$20 a night. Members of the search committee deemed this more economical than procuring or leasing land two hours away in North Carolina and spending money to improve the site. The search committee has been disbanded.

Chuck Jagow reported that the VAAS conference is scheduled for Saturday, 1 October at TCC Virginia Beach. He has contacted the NASA Speakers' Bureau, but has yet to receive a reply. Several others who were asked to speak have declined. A motion was made to give Chuck Jagow a budget from BBA funds to cover VAAS expenditures for stipends, expenses, etc. Motion seconded and carried. A second motion was made and seconded that the VAAS funds be not to exceed \$1500, and that all receipts be turned in to the treasurer. Motion carried.

### New business:

The Virginia-Pilot printed an article about the Perseid meteor shower (12-13 August), quoting Dr. Bob Hitt and George Reynolds.

There was some discussion that the amount of the scholarship be increased. Others suggested that we offer more than one scholarship. In the absence of the scholarship chairman Ben Loyola, further discussion was tabled.

Ted Forte gave an update on the RRRT: A number of things need to be taken care of; routine chores, mechanical problems with the dome, etc. A new polarimeter is in, and needs to be attached. Activity is "on hold" for now, waiting for Dr. Salgado in the fall. After that, the site will be open for proposals for use. Those who have spent time working on it will have precedence.

VP Courtney Flonta was recognized for receiving the 2011 Horkheimer Award for young astronomers. She is the fourth BBAA member to receive this prestigious award. Previous BBAA recipients were Adam Forte, C.J. Wood, and Jordan Bramble.

The meeting feature was a presentation by VB Planetarium Director Chuck Dibbs on "Space Fest", held at Starizona, in the foothills of Tucson, Arizona. Chuck was there in June of his year, and showed many pictures of the event. An exciting element of the event was the ability of attendees to meet and talk to real astronauts, including some from the Apollo program who went to the moon. Chuck highly recommends this event. The next one will be held in June of 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. by President Mark Gerlach.