

BBAA Meeting Minutes 11/3/2011

The November, 2011 meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. in room JC-13 at TCC Virginia Beach Campus by club president Mark Gerlach. Those in attendance were Neill Alford, Kenny Broun, George Curran (guest from VPAS), Tom Flatley, Courtney Flonta, Amy Koenig Gardner, Mark Gerlach, Jeff Goldstein, Curt Lambert, Matt McLaughlin, Bill McLean, George Reynolds, Bernie Strohmeier, Kevin Swann, Matt Swingle, Paul Tartabini, and "Bird" Taylor.

There was no Treasurer's report. Jim Tallman is out of the state on business.

Secretary's report: The minutes of the October meeting were read by the secretary, and approved as read.

ALCOR Report: Astronomical League Correspondent (ALCOR) Bill McLean reported that Nick Anderson is working on his Messier pin. He has already earned the regular Messier certificate, and is now going for the Honorary award.

Vice President and outreach coordinator Courtney Flonta reported that she just got a request from Sarah Newton of the North Suffolk Public Library, asking for a presentation on astronomy on Monday night, January 23, 2012. More details later.

Tom Flatley brought in a broken spotting scope in which the eyepiece lenses had come apart. Courtney helped him put it back together. Everyone applauded.

Calendar items for November and December: November 4 Garden Stars was cancelled by Norfolk Botanical Garden. No one signed up to attend. Skywatch Friday, November 18. Also that night there will be an annual Boy Scout/Cub Scout campout off of West Road in Chesapeake, near Grassfield High School. Nightwatch at Chippokes Plantation State Park is scheduled for Saturday, November 26. The next BBAA meeting will be December 1 at TCC. Skywatch will be Friday, December 16, and annual luncheon Saturday, December 17. Nightwatch will be Saturday, December 24.

Observing Reports: Mark said that he saw Comet Garradd at the East Coast Star Party. No tail was identifiable. New member Paul Tartabini observed Jupiter and saw the Great Red Spot recently. Neill Alford said he was in Minnesota last month, and saw some very dark skies. He saw the Northern Lights, and got some good photos of Andromeda with his Canon Rebel camera. Mark said he took some good night sky pictures at Green Bank with his camera on a tripod.

Old business: Professor Ken Broun reported on his students who attended Kent Blackwell's East Coast Star Party. He said that all his students commented on how knowledgeable and accommodating were the people at ECSP. The students were very appreciative of the nice treatment they received there. Amy K. Gardner said that her four middle school students liked it as well. Mark Gerlach told how Dale Carey had arranged the sale of telescope equipment for a woman whose astronomer husband had passed away. Everyone fared well in the deal, Mark said. Buyers got some real bargains, while the woman got some profit from the equipment she chose to sell.

New Business: The annual December BBAA Anniversary Luncheon will be held Saturday, December 17 at 1:00 PM at Fire and Vine Restaurant, 1556 Laskin Road, in the Hilltop area of Virginia Beach.

Nomination of officers for 2012.

After much discussion and hand-wringing, the following slate of officers was nominated: President, Courtney Flonta; Viced President, Mark Gerlach; Secretary, Kevin Swann; Treasurer, Bernie Strohmeier. No other nominees were presented. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. A motion was made and seconded that the slate of officers be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

Mark Gerlach showed a brief DVD, "Backstage on Mars: Secrets of the Animators", showing an animation of the Mars Exploration Rovers under construction, at launch, en route, and on Mars. The person who did the animation narrated, and explained how some of the rovers' techniques and features were visualized and redesigned as a result of the "testing" via the animation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.