

BBAA Meeting Minutes 1/5/2012

The January, 2012 meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm in a classroom near the planetarium at Plaza Middle School by president Courtney Flonta. Those in attendance were Nick Anderson, Robert Beuerlein, Tom Flatley, Courtney Flonta, Dino Giangregorio, Mary Giangregorio, Jeff Goldstein, Curt Lambert, Ben Loyola, Bill Mclean, Bill Newman, Bill Powers, Max Rakestraw, George Reynolds, Bernie Strohmeier, Kevin Swann, Jim Tallman, Paul Tartabini, Bird Taylor, Emily Wiggans, Laura Wiggans, Tom Wiggans, and Kevin Weiner.

Treasurer's report: \$2827.03 general fund, \$3710.12 scholarship fund, \$6537.15 total.

Secretary's report: The reading of December's minutes was waived and are posted on the BBAA web site.

Bill Mclean "ALCOR" (Astronomical League CORrespondent) representative discussed that we have 99 awards in the club. He said to use the Astronomical League site for info on observing programs, like the Messier Certificate and the Lunar observing awards. George Reynolds was the first BBAA member to get a lunar certificate back in 2002.

New Member joining tonight is Max Rakestraw. Membership dues were requested to pay tonight.

Visitors are Emily Wiggans (A University of Vermont student who is minoring in astronomy and leader of her dorm's star gazing guild), and Laura & Tom Wiggans from Yorktown.

New Business: Sun filters can be hand-made (Dale Carey did years ago.)
Sky Safari is now on Android with 3 levels. Also is on IPAD & IPHONE.

Kevin Weiner discussed Circulation Curriculum Pro Plus is used for web-inars & we can use the software for outreach newsletters which has over 100 thousand viewers. You can view simultaneous synchronized windows & can use to promote any astronomy & and science event.

The question was asked if there are any viewers of "The Observer" online?

Old Business: Lawrence "Bird" Taylor representing VPAS (Yahoo Group "Virginia Peninsula Astronomy/Stargazers") is also our representative for the RRRT (Rapid Response Robotic Telescope) scope on Fan Mountain (15 miles South of Charlottesville, VA). This 24" telescope is a \$1 million asset that sends you raw file data. But, if you use this data you must credit the Fan Mountain scope in your references. It has a new filter kit & camera & hopes to be running in April. It uses SWIFT satellite (gamma ray bursts & decay) and is capable of optical and infrared imaging and spectroscopy too but it needs alignment. Dr Carlos Salgado wants to know if BBAA will use the scope. Fan Mountain also has one 40" & one 31" reflector and a 10" refractor for imaging purposes.

We received \$750 from city of VA beach for boardwalk astronomy last year.

Question posed – is the Skywatch POC position filled? Better communication is needed.

Newsletter Editor is still needed. It currently uses an Adobe product so the editor may need some software. In the past Barb used MS Publisher.

NASA monthly "Space Place" takes 1 page. The president writes approximately 1 page. There is an RRRT entry. It was proposed if not many read it, then maybe just email it out. Some state that they use it for the calendar. Paul Tartabini will be the editor for March & April.

George Reynolds consulted the By-Laws for newsletter editor position description.

Schedule:

January 6 Garden Stars 7 pm – if enough people sign up (will post this on yahoo group web site).

January 13 Skywatch (NWRP)

January 21 Chippokes

February 2 next BBAA monthly meeting @ TCC

Scholarship update: Ben Loyola is the Chairman of the scholarship committee. 2011 amount set was \$1,000 and we inform all schools about it by mailing it to school counselors. 1st week of May is the deadline. Committee & treasurer set the projected amount of scholarship. The requirements, GPA and teachers' comments are all entered into a weight factor algorithm.

SURPRISE - Emily Wiggins (present from Vermont) wins it for 2011! It was the best essay they've received in a long time! She then read her essay.

Ben Loyola mentioned old BBAA shirts with our emblem on them that were never picked up are with him here tonight. If you donate or pay for it, it's yours.

Green lasers were discussed. Only get under 5 milliwatts. Dimmer is better for small groups but big groups need higher power. Orion has them for sale. If you remove the IR filter, it is dangerous!

Wickedlasers.com has 2 Watt ones for sale – do not get!

You can mount on scope for view finder or can use when teaching a Scout merit badge.

SKY TOOLS 3 is available for \$100 but a discount of approximate \$25 is available if ordering quantities 3 to 10. A few members present recommended this as a must-have item! This offer has been discussed on the Backbayastro yahoo group. TheSkyX Professional Edition & Starry Night Pro were also recommended as beneficial tools. Kevin Weiner will do a future presentation on beneficial software tools.

Chuck Jagow wants to give Webmaster position to someone.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.