

BBA August 2, 2012 meeting minutes

The Meeting at Plaza Middle School was called to order by president Courtney Flonta at 7:33PM.

Those in attendance were: Courtney Flonta, Robyn Korn, Mark Gerlach, Jeff Goldstein, Linda Goldstein, Robyn Korn, Curtis Lambert, Ben Loyola, Bill McLean, Katelyn Neese, Stacy Neese, Joey Quinn III, George Reynolds, Bernie Strohmeier, Kevin Swann, Paul Tartabini, 'Bird' Taylor and Rachel Wilbur.

Visitors & Guests: Jeff's wife Linda Goldstein, Katelyn & Stacy Neese, & Rachel Wilbur.

Treasurer's report:

\$1676.66 general fund
\$2719.92 Scholarship fund
\$4396.58 Total

Top expenses:

Tonight the scholarship fund will award \$1500 to this year's recipient.
\$130 picnic reservation
\$178 picnic food
\$390 yearly ALCOR dues
\$411 is due for the web server site's 3 year domain name.

Secretary's report: There was no reading of the previous meeting's minutes due to no official meeting last month.

Outreaches:

7/31 Boardwalk Astronomy had viewers from Ukraine & Turkey among the locals.

Calendar:

August 2, Thursday, Monthly Meeting @ Plaza Middle School, 7PM
August 10 Friday, Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, Equestrian area, 7PM
August 18 Saturday, Nightwatch @ Chippokes
August 24 Friday, Night Hike @ Northwest River State Park, 7PM
August 24 Friday, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens, 8:30PM
August 25 Saturday, Science Saturday, Blackwater Regional Library, Carrollton, VA, 10AM-12PM
August 27 Monday, Moon Watch, Princess Anne library (Nimmo pkwy), 6:30-9PM
August 28 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy @ VA Beach boardwalk 24TH Street Stage
September 6 Thursday, monthly meeting @ TCC
September 7 Friday, Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, Equestrian area, 7PM
September 15 Saturday, Nightwatch @ Chippokes
September 21 Friday, Night Hike @ Northwest River State Park, 7PM
September 21 Friday, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens 8PM
September 25 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy @ VA Beach boardwalk 24TH Street Stage
NOTE: VPAS meets 1st & 3rd Friday of every month on Grundland Dr, Hampton (vpas@yahoo.com)

Scholarship:

Ben Loyola, Bill McLean & Matt McLaughlin met & awarded Rachel Wilbur the \$1500 scholarship. Rachel read her winning essay & Ben read her teacher recommendation.

New business:

8/5 VA Air & Space Museum will have IMAX stream of Mars "Curiosity" landing at 11PM until 3 hrs after touchdown. Another web site for information is on youtube: Mars Science Lab (MSL)

BBA newsletter is easy to write an article &/or post pictures compared to other magazines. Email the information to Paul Tartabini (paultar@gmail.com)

President Courtney motioned to post the newsletter 1 week after the meeting. The motion was seconded.

Courtney attended 2 of the 50 talks at the Chicago ALCON convention last July. One was how to grow your astronomy club. It discussed how to keep members & get old ones back. The teacher was a member of the NASA Night Sky Network (<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/>) which has no dues & you get gifts like science posters & hands-on crafts. You get web publicity for your club's events where you can search by zip code for other club events as well. Membership only entails two observing events per quarter and a building address to mail the free material. Courtney recommended we join. The motion was seconded.

Courtney & other members believe BBA membership benefits are unclear. If the newsletter is online, then it is not a benefit. Courtney suggests possibly emailing the newsletter to members & posting online every quarter.

Another benefit is Sky & Telescope magazine subscription \$10 discount & discounts off other astronomy items.

Courtney also suggested:

Giving the Astronomy Magazine calendars to new members.

Holding member only workshops hosted by another member's expertise for eg, astro photography, scope assembly/disassembly, cleaning eye pieces/mirror, building observing chair or a solar filter.

Another membership benefit is 24 hour access to dark sky observing areas.

For better BBA meeting attendance Courtney & Mark Gerlach suggested:

Business meetings only once every 3 months (technically required only once/year to elect officers)

Handing out the event calendar at each meeting

Possible door prizes

Adding some more benefits

Lowering the dues

Possible member only outings

Monthly theme with a speaker like a Meteorology expert or an event like find double star night for the ALCOR pin

Dark Sky location: Hampton Lodge camping \$20/night – away from campers

Also parking lots along Colonial Parkway, Yorktown with occasional cars' headlights & rangers spot light safety checks.

Officers can add events to yahoo calendar but only moderators can edit once posted. George Reynolds will change this for all officers.

BBA library is currently held by Bill Newman (billn59@verizon.net) so email him if you need anything.

BBA sun scope is currently held by George Reynolds. A sign-out sheet has been created & is held by the secretary.

The club needs VA beach school, VA Pilot & TV station POC's to post our events accurately. Jeff Goldstein has a VA Pilot POC & will give to vice president Mark.

Club anniversary luncheon is projected to be 12/8 or 12/15 at Fire & Vine again.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM