

## BBA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 1, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Courtney Flonta promptly at 7:30 pm. Those members in attendance were Neill Alford, Nick Anderson (via Skype from Blacksburg), Kenny Broun, Tom Flatley, Courtney Flonta, Mark Gerlach, Jeff Goldstein, Chuck Jagow, Dave Kratz, Curt Lambert, Matt McLaughlin, Joey Quinn, George Reynolds, Mat Snellings, Bernie Strohmeyer, Jim Tallman, and Lawrence "Bird" Taylor. Visitors were Dominic Bologna, Beth Cox, Sulay Elescano and Bill Rust.

Secretary Kevin Swann was stuck at work, so there was no Secretary's report. George took notes for the meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: General Fund \$1799.66, Scholarship Fund \$2469.92, for a total of \$4269.58. Income from dues was \$117, while \$1250 came in from Beach Events for Boardwalk Astronomy. Expense paid out was \$1500 to Rachel Wilbur for her scholarship award.

The floor was opened for nominations for 2013 club officers. Nominees for president were Courtney Flonta and Jim Tallman; for Vice-president, Mark Gerlach and Chuck Jagow. Secretary Kevin Swann and Treasurer Bernie Strohmeyer were unopposed. After the close of nominations, a secret ballot was conducted. Members wrote their choices for the four offices on pieces of paper, which were collected and counted by two members, George Reynolds and Curt Lambert. (Remote attendee Nick Anderson showed his ballot onscreen to George, who recorded it and threw it into the hat.)

President-elect for 2013 is Courtney Flonta, Vice-President-elect is Chuck Jagow. Secretary Kevin Swann and Treasurer Bernie Strohmeyer will fill those rolls again next year. The new officers will assume their duties January 1, 2013.

Observing reports were made by several of the members. It was suggested by one member that calendars again be purchased for the active members.

The November schedule was briefly discussed:

Friday, 9 Nov Skywatch, dusk to midnight

Wednesday, 14 Nov, Presentation to Ron Shaneyfelt's Landstown High School Astronomy Club, 2 pm

Thursday, 15 Nov, Cox High School Sky Watch, hosted by Jeff Goldstein, 5-9 pm

Friday, 16 Nov, Boy Scouts observing, West Road, 5-9 pm

Monday, 19 Nov, tentative sky observing at ODU (not yet confirmed)

Also not yet confirmed is a possible Moonwatch at Princess Anne Library later in November

Friday, 30 Nov, Garden Stars at Norfolk Botanical Garden, 7 pm

At 8:05 pm the business meeting was adjourned, and the meeting re-convened in the TCC Planetarium for a special sky show presentation by Professor Ken Broun. The feature began with a Halloween laser light and music show, which was dazzling. The main event was an engrossing movie entitled, "The Secret Life of Stars", narrated by Patrick Stewart, who took us on a trek to the stars.

Ken told the club that the planetarium has been upgraded, and made infinitely more versatile and powerful than it was before. Though the number of computers necessary to run the planetarium was cut in half (from 18 to 9), the software upgrade from Version 3 to Version 5 is a giant leap in capability and control. He will be attending a workshop in Utah in December to learn how to operate the new system and convert his sky shows so they will run on the new operating system.

The meeting was adjourned at the end of the sky show, with a lot of favorable comments by the members concerning the new planetarium system.

Respectfully submitted,

George Reynolds,  
Filling in for Secretary Kevin Swann