

BBAA May 2, 2013 meeting summary

The Meeting was held at TCC

Those in attendance were:

Courtney Flonta, Bill Holmes, Kevin Swann, Jim Tallman, Mark Gerlach, Thomas Jarvis, Chris Jarvis, Bill McLean, Andrew Reisenweber, Chuck Jagow, Neill Alferd, Jason Tackett, Matt McLaughlin, Bird Taylor, Robert Beuerlein, Mat Snellings, Jeff Goldstein, Ben Loyola, Robyn Korn, Tom Flatley, Leigh Anne Lagoe, Pete Goulart.

Calendar:

May 31 Friday, Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, Equestrian area, 7:30PM

June 6 Thursday, monthly meeting @ Plaza Middle School Planetarium, 7:30PM

June 8 Saturday, Nightwatch @ Chippokes, 7:30PM

June 14 Friday, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens, 9PM

June 14 Friday, Night Hike @ NWRP, 7PM

June 18 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy, 1:30PM (rain date June 20 Thursday same time)

June 28 Friday, Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, Equestrian area, 8:30PM (TBA 3PM also here)

June 29 Saturday, Sun watch @ Pungo-Blackwater Library, 1:30-3PM

July 10-14 Green Bank Star Quest

July 21 Sunday, BBAA annual picnic @ NWRP 11AM-3PM (in lieu of monthly meeting)

July 24-27 ALCON 2013 Astronomical League's national convention, in Atlanta, GA

Meeting summary

Treasurer's report was read.

Secretary's report reading was waived.

Visitors: Leigh Anne Lagoe who has an 8" Dobson & Pete Goulart who is an amateur cosmologist.

The Scholarship committee will meet in June - 5 applications were collected for the scholarship.

A Northwest River Park coordinator is needed. See Chuck Jagow.

ALCON 2013 convention is in Atlanta, GA July 24-27. (<http://alcon2013.astroleague.org/>)

Flights for the Astronomical League's national convention this July in Atlanta, GA are currently \$227 round trip with \$113/night hotel reservations.

ALCOR representative Bill Mclean awarded Robert Beuerlein the Messier marathon champion of the evening at the last VPAS event. He counted 28.

Bird Taylor recently got pinned the Venus Transit award.

Tom Flatley finished the Galileo program & recommends using online examples of how to organize everything.

ALCOR has recently added the Asterism Observing Program.

Jim Tallman received the Double Star Program award.

Observing reports:

Last Saturday's cub scout viewing was manned by Chuck Jagow, Jim Tallman, Mark Gerlach and one more. 50+ scouts (1st thru 4th grade) with 20 parents viewed. Spoke & gave hand-outs. The Dobson had the best clarity.

Neill Alferd saw the March 22 mid Atlantic boli break apart.

(check out <http://thelatestworldwidemeteorreports.blogspot.jp/> and also http://mbiq.blogspot.com/2013_03_01_archive.html)

Bird Taylor barely saw the NASA Antares rocket launch.

Mat Snellings drove up to Wallops Island to see the launch & got a great view. The main road was blocked but security directed him to an alternate road that had about 300 people - but check for ticks.

Yuri's night had about 60 people attending.

Chuck Jagow & Jim Tallman held a solar filter workshop. The filters were started with pizza boxes.

This evening's raffle winner was Robert Beuerlein who won a smooth space camera in addition to donated launch code cards (time on SLEW scope).

An additional winner was Neill Alferd who won an Illustrated guide to Astronomy Wonders.

The meeting presentation was by Jason Tackett. His presentation was entitled: The CALIPSO Mission – Understand Aerosol & Cloud Influence on Climate with Lasers in Space. It is a series of satellites that use green and near infrared lasers that measure natural & human generated aerosols. They are naked eye safe, but not through a telescope. Highlights were seeing Sahara desert dust over the Atlantic Ocean & the Caribbean; Siberian summer fire smoke that even reached Virginia in 5/14/2012. Volcanic eruptions were also visible.