

BBA June 2014 Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2014

The June 2014 meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM in the Plaza Middle School Planetarium in Virginia Beach by president Jim Tallman.

Members in attendance were:

Neill Alford, Nick Anderson, Robert Beuerlein, Mark Gerlach, Dean Giangregorio, Mary Giangregorio, Jeff Goldstein, Pete Goulart, Michael Hiser, Chuck Jagow, Chris Jarvis, Thomas Jarvis, Jeff Klein, Leigh Anne Lagoe, David Lamb, Curt Lambert, Shawn Loescher, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Bill McLean, Joey Quinn, George Reynolds, Mark Roehm, Melvin Spruill Jr, Jim Tallman, Paul Tartabini, Bird Taylor, and Michael Webster.

Guests were Michael Bushell, Ruby LaCroix, Dustin Loescher, Tiffany Ramos, and Isaac Tan.

Reports:

A motion was made by Chuck Jagow to waive the reading of the previous month's minutes. Motion seconded by Bird Taylor. Majority in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Jagow reported that there is \$1500.86 in the General Fund and \$889.67 in the Scholarship Fund, for a total of \$2390.53. The club has a total of 88 members and 75 are in good standing. AL dues are coming up.

Vice President/Outreach Report:

Calendar

6/6 - Garden Stars at Norfolk Botanical Gardens

6/10 - Boardwalk Astronomy #2 6PM-11PM

6/14 - Virginia Living Museum Star Party

6/16 - Cub Scout Twilight Camp at USCG Base Portsmouth: 5:30PM - 6:00PM

6/19 - 96X Fest in Portsmouth. RSVP only

6/20 - Skywatch at Northwest River Park

6/20 - VPAS at Gosnold's Hope Park

6/25-6/29 - Green Bank Star Quest

6/28 - Nightwatch at Chippokes Plantation

There will be no club meeting in July. Club picnic will be held on July 12th. See online calendar for July events.

ALCOR (Astronomical League Coordinator):

Nick Anderson was awarded his certificate and pin for the Double Star observing program and the Master Observer award. Ben Loyola just completed his Messier log to be reviewed.

Scholarship Report:

On behalf of the BBAA scholarship committee, Ben Loyola presented the \$1500 check to home-schooled student, Isaac Tan. Isaac read his essay about his experiences with amateur astronomy. He will be attending Geneva College.

Observing Reports:

East Coast Star Party on Saturday night: faint view of Omega Centauri.

Old Business:

The revision committee for the by-laws needs to set a meeting date.

Bird Taylor reported that he should have keys next week to go to the RRRT on Fan Mountain.

They are still waiting on an upgrade of the computer software.

New Business:

BBAA will be paid \$300 for participating in the 96X Fest on June 19.

Bird Taylor reported that the 20 x 20 deck with telescope mounts at the GAP should be finished soon. All materials for the deck were purchased by the City of Hampton.

The officers will meet soon to plan the annual club picnic scheduled for July 12.

Einstein's Relativity and Gravitational Waves:

Dr. John McNabb is a research assistant professor of atmospheric and planetary sciences at Hampton University. Dr. McNabb, without using complicated mathematics, discussed briefly how Einstein came to conclude that the speed of light was relative to nothing and can be used to measure time. He discussed how tidal forces and spherical geometry can help us understand the curvature of space-time that occurs in general relativity. When mass is accelerated, it creates a ripple in space-time called a gravitational wave. Dr. McNabb discussed the different ways to search for gravitational waves, including the study of black holes, pulsars, and binary white dwarf stars.

Door Prize Drawing: Sky & Telescope Magazine awarded to Mary Giangregorio. Two planispheres awarded to guests.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58PM.