

BBAA February 2015 Meeting Minutes

The February 5, 2015 meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM, in room JC10 at TCC in Virginia Beach, by president Jim Tallman.

Members & Guests in Attendance:

Bob Beuerlein, Ken Broun, Tim Barrios, Keri Dodd, Michael Dodd, Robert Dodd, J. Duffany, Mauricio Dunzweiler, Tom Flatley, Mark Gerlach, Dino Giangregorio, Mary Giangregorio, Michelle Hegedus, Chuck Jagow, Chris Jarvis, Tom Jarvis, Leigh Anne Lagoe, Curt Lambert, Brittney Lane, Penny Lane, Shawn Loescher, Teri Loescher, Matt McLaughlin, Bill McLean, Bill Neuman, Bruce Powers, Joey Quinn, Robert Scheible, Mel Spruill, Amanda Stark, Jim Tallman, Bird Taylor, Trent Toporek, Matt Turner, Evan Walsh, Zoe Waring, Garrick Weller, Leon Van Dyke, and Owen Van Dyke.

REPORTS:

A motion was made to waive the reading of the previous month's minutes. Motion seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Jagow reported there is \$2816.05 in the general fund, \$2040.67 in the scholarship fund, for a total of \$4856.72. Total of 102 members.

Astronomical League Report:

Bill McLean encouraged involvement in the AL observing programs.

Vice President's Outreach Report:

2/6 - VPAS at the GAP

2/14 - Skywatch at Northwest River Park, 5:45PM (or 90 minutes earlier to help members with new equipment)

2/20 - VPAS at the GAP

2/20 - ODU Outdoor Adventure Program - details pending, may be canceled.

2/21 - Nightwatch at Chippokes Plantation

3/5 - BBAA Meeting at TCC Virginia Beach

Jim Tallman recommends reading the featured articles on the NSN home page, such as "Introduction to Astronomy" by Phil Plait. Phil Plait will be speaking at the Virginia Living Museum on 2/16.

Observing Reports:

January Skywatch was a success. Leigh Anne Lagoe did the NSN presentation "Cook up a Comet" at the Skywatch. Melvin Spruill brought his new iOptron CEM60 to Chippokes and is still learning to use it. Bill McLean viewed Jupiter and the Moon. Chuck Jagow viewed Jupiter and Saturn in the early morning sky. Bruce Powers reported the 4H event in Wakefield went well, with about 48 kids all under 12 years old. Mark and Chris Jarvis spotted Comet Lovejoy in

a 12 inch dob from Virginia Beach. Leigh Anne Lagoe viewed a 0.2 degree conjunction of Mars and Neptune.

Old Business:

Bill McLean asked for members to bring in used magazines to give away to guests at future meetings.

Virginia Living Museum has a free presentation of “Follow the Drinking Gourd” on Saturdays in February.

New Business:

National Astronomy Day needs to be coordinated with the Central Virginia Beach Library - rain or shine event.

Information on the 2015 VAAS is still unclear. They have not released a date or location yet.

HAVOC: High Altitude Venus Operational Concept.

NASA Langley aerospace engineer, Christopher Jones, discussed his project on a “new and unusual concept in human spaceflight”. During his project, he explored how a manned mission to Venus could be possible. Using an airship similar to a blimp, mankind could explore the upper atmosphere of Venus, where conditions are similar to Earth’s. By building a 3D model, Mr. Jones’ project explored how the airship would fit into the rocket for launch. It also explored what materials should be used to protect the solar panels in the harsh environment. While this mission is not likely in the very near future, his project showed that it is a feasible concept.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53PM.