

Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2015

Called to order at 7:33 PM, in Room JC10 at TCC in Virginia Beach, by president Jim Tallman.

Members & Guests in Attendance:

Neil Alford, Edith Auchter, Tom Auchter, Kenny Broun, Robert Beuerlein, Mark Gerlach, Nicholas Hawkins, Chuck Jagow, Chris Jarvis, Tom Jarvis, Leigh Anne Lagoe, Wayne Lowe, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Bill McLean, Tom Pearson, Bruce Powers, Joey Quinn, George Reynolds, William Sanderlin, Melvin Spruill, Kevin Swann, Jim Tallman, Paul Tartabini, Bird Taylor, Trenton Toporek, Cassidy Trowbridge, Matt Turner, and Zoe Waring.

Jim Tallman awarded 4 club members the 2015 International Year of Light pin supplied by the NASA Night Sky Network for outreach efforts: Chuck Jagow, Leigh Anne Lagoe, George Reynolds, and Bird Taylor.

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): \$1907.41 in the General Fund. \$2040.67 in the Scholarship Fund. Total: \$3948.08. 108 Total members. Astronomical League dues have been paid. Website dues coming up.

Vice President's Outreach Report (George Reynolds):

Calendar:

5/9 - Skywatch at Northwest River Park

5/14 - 5/17 - East Coast Star Party in Coinjock, NC

5/15 - VPAS at the GAP

5/26 - Boardwalk Astronomy at 24th Street Oceanfront

5/30 - Mount Trashmore Star Party

5/30 - Girl Scout Encampment at Northwest River Park (pending details)

6/2 - Boardwalk Astronomy

6/4 - BBAA Meeting (location pending)

6/5 - VPAS at the GAP

6/6 - Skywatch at Northwest River Park

6/13 - Nightwatch at Chippokes

6/17 - 6/20 - Green Bank Star Quest in Green Bank, WV

6/23 - Boardwalk Astronomy

6/25 - Look to the Stars teen event at TCC Joint Use Library

Astronomical League Report (Bill McLean):

Encouraged involvement in the AL observing programs.

Scholarship Report (Ben Loyola):

Applications have been received and will be reviewed.

Observing Reports:

Bruce Powers recommends Dark Sky Meter for iPhone. Garden Stars in April had 28 guests and 10 telescopes. Guests were able to view Jupiter, Venus, the Moon, and the passing ISS. Skywatch in April had a large turnout of 19 telescopes. How-To-Fest at the Joint Use Library went very well. Wayne Lowe attended the Northeast Astronomy Forum and is interested in getting involved with astronomy.

May 23 Saturn at opposition - Seeliger effect.

Venus Jupiter conjunction June 30/July 1.

Old Business:

No old business to report.

New Business:

Bill McLean discussed the importance of talking about light pollution with the public and suggested passing out the International Dark Sky Association's informational brochures.

Raffle Winners:

Nicholas Hawkins - Sky & Telescope Magazine 2014 on disk

Kevin Swann - headlamp

Target of Opportunity Observation of an Episodic Storm on Uranus

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kunio Sayanagi, Assistant Professor at Hampton University.

Dr. Sayanagi discussed the outbreaks of massive storms on Uranus in 2014. Using images from the Keck Observatory, Herschel Telescope, approved time on the Hubble Space Telescope, and even help from amateur astronomers, Dr. Sayanagi reported his research on the brightest feature ever to be observed on Uranus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.