

BBAA Astronomy Club, May 5, 2016 (TCC Science Building, Room JC-10)

Chuck Jagow (President):

Called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Members present included: Chuck Jagow, Mark Gerlach, Jeff Goldstein, Bird, H.L. Marks, Jane Marks, Bill Rust, Shawn Loescher, Ben Loyola, Bill Holmes, George Reynolds, Kenny Brown, Paul Beitz, Jim Tallman, Bill Powers, Tom Auchter, Edith Auchter (IL), Curt Lambert, Bob Beuerlein, Chris Jarvis, Annette McLean, Bill McLean, and Mel Spruill.

Award Presentation (Outreach Pins for Last Year)

Curt Lambert, Chris Jarvis, Bird, Bill McLean, & Jim Tallman all received awards, tonight. Three additional awards were not given out to those not present: Mel & Bruce Powers, & Kent Blackwell.

Vice President (Leigh Ann) Events Report: (given by Jim Tallman)

May:

- 5/5 – BBAA Club Meeting at TCC
- 5/6 through 5/9 East Coast Star Party at Coinjock, NC
- 5/6 – Corn Watch (probably will be cancelled due to weather) dusk – dawn
- 5/7 – Nightwatch (Chippokes Plantation) 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- 5/9 – Mercury Transit at Boardwalk (setup at 6:00 AM) 7:12 AM – 2:42 PM
- 5/12 – Garden Stars (Norfolk Botanical Gardens) 8:30 – 10:00 PM
- 5/13 – Corn Watch (Cornland Private) dusk – dawn
- 5/13 – Garden Stars
- 5/14 – VLM Star Party
- 5/14 – National Astronomy Day (Bells Mill Park & Chesapeake Planetarium) 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- 5/14 – Saturday “Sun” Day (Va Beach Central Library & Bells Mill Pk, Ches.) 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 5/17 – Boardwalk Astronomy Outreach #1, 24th Street (6:00 – 11:00 PM)
- 5/28 – Skywatch at NWRP (6:30 – 11 PM)

June:

- 6/2 – BBAA Club Meeting at Plaza MS Planetarium (7:30 – 9:00 PM)
- 6/3 – Corn Watch (dusk – dawn)
- 6/4 – Nightwatch (Chippokes Plantation) 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- 6/10 – Corn Watch (dusk – dawn)
- 6/11 – Saturday “Sun” Day (Bells Mill Park, Chesapeake) 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- 6/14 – Boardwalk Astronomy Outreach, 24th Street (6:00 – 11:00 PM)
- 6/18 – Movie Night Star Party (City Park, Chesapeake) Time: TBD
- 6/25 – Skywatch at NWRP (8:30 – 11 PM)

Secretary’s Report (Jeff Goldstein)

I started reading the minutes (for the 1st time), then, moved and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes.

Treasurer’s Report (Mark Gerlach)

General Fund:	\$ 3,651.78
<u>Scholarship Fund:</u>	<u>\$ 2,190.02</u>
Total:	\$ 5,841.80

General Membership:	84 (but now, probably 86)
Associate Members:	6 + 7 (members of Astronomical League)
<u>Honorary Members:</u>	<u>4</u>
Paid up Members:	101
<u>Delinquent in dues:</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Members roster:	151

Scholarship Report

Jim Tallman mentioned there were \$5 scholarship donations (chance to win a telescope) to be raffled at the Picnic

RRRT Report (by “Bird”)

Road Trip with Dr. Salgado, Bird, and 3 Astronomy Students attended. Drove up Friday afternoon. Operated last week until 2 AM. UVA has been using it on site for their astronomy class. Money to replace the motors, belts, and controller is available and will be available this fall to capture data. Dr. Salgado would like folks to submit proposals, but historically, Bird mentioned that he wouldn't do any proposals until the first day RRRT comes in.

Observing Reports:

Jupiter going further westerly. Saturn a week ago, spectacular! Chuck mentioned dragging out the 14” to view and photograph. Bird mentioned he saw 5 Galilean Moons of Jupiter (oh, one was a star). August 10-13 Alcon 2016 Chuck has cards with information if anyone is interested. Hotels are a little pricey at \$150 per night.

George mentioned Mars / Antares history.

Old Business:

Solar Filter / Dew Heater Workshop was a success, but next time the workshops will be separated to do more. A bit crowded on the porch. Soldering skills were advanced. Jim made burgers and hot dogs. We have more material to do another workshop (probably in the Fall). Must buy more tubing and poster board, first. We actually have additional resistors due to shipping error on the vendor's part.

Thank Jim for the idea for the raffle for the scholarship fund.

One set of tools was left in the workshop that still remains unclaimed.

Astronomical League Report:

Bill McLean mentioned (especially for the new folks) if you're a member of BBAA, then you're also a member of the A.L. There are about 40 programs and awards: Lunar, Messier, and others to peak anyone's interest. Learn how to log and observe. It makes you a better observer. Nearly everyone in the club has at least one pin. There is a National AL meeting in DC that the club will pay Bill to attend (jokingly).

National Dark Sky Association (anti-light pollution): There is a big drive for LED lights to replace even the full cutoff lights. Two from Newport News will discuss a plan to make the public aware of light pollution in other cities. In Fort Monroe, it will eventually be made into a park, and there is a high probability of making this an observing site. National Park Service folks are also getting up to speed on the light pollution problem and make sure the lights at Dog Beach will be full cut-off and switchable.

Kenny Brown mentioned that there was a full day meeting about 20 years ago about “Dark Skies”. Many engineers were invited. Kenny offered the Planetarium as a meeting area if we want to put another meeting like the past meeting.

Chuck mentioned that in his hometown in Colorado, only 4 people took the initiative to be listed as the 2nd or 3rd city to be part of the International Dark Sky Program. Bill McLean wants to form a committee to take some action along these lines.

Ben Loyola mentioned there were issues that the Commonwealth of Virginia cannot enact ordinances that the state does not permit. This was taken to Richmond and Ben testified there, but only successful ¾ of the way. Now, the zoning inspector can authorize changing lights for individual citizens, but it was a difficult proposition. Bottom line is education to make citizens aware of these problems.

Evening Program:

Chuck Jagow, President

Presentation on: "Cleaning Mirrors with Optical Cleaning Solution"

Chuck presented this to the group. Chuck brought in a 4.5" mirror to demonstrate cleaning. Handouts were given for the home made solution and procedures to carefully clean a mirror or lenses. Mirrors are much more susceptible to scratching since they are 1st surface, instead of glass on top. Use common sense. Chuck demonstrated the procedure to remove the mirror (taping the key screw so it could be reassembled without changing collimation).

Surface dust was removed first with air and camel hair brush. Chuck demonstrated cleaning lightly with the solution. It was an excellent presentation and was well received.

Topic Ideas needed for future meetings:

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.