

BBAA Astronomy Club, October 5, 2017 (TCC Science Building, Room JC-10)

Chuck Jagow (President):

Called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Members present not included as the roster was lost.

Chuck opened the meeting with news about the Cassini crash into Saturn's orbit. It's been there so long, Chuck was just a member of the club when Cassini arrived around Saturn.

Vice President Events Report (Shawn Loescher):

October:

10/05 – BBAA Club Meeting at TCC Room JC

10/07 – Saturday “Sun” Day (Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake) 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

10/12 – 10/14 – East Coast Star Party at Coinjock, NC.

10/17 – Skywatch NWRP (7:00 – 11 PM) only a 4 hour event (cancelled in lieu of ECSP)

10/20 – CornWatch (Cornland Park Private) Sunset – Dawn

10/20 – Grundland Astronomical Park (GAP)

10/21 – VAAS Conference at TCC (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)+ Observation at Cornland Park

10/26 – Garden Stars at Norfolk Botanical Gardens (8:30 PM – 10:00 PM)

10/28 – Observe the Moon Night

November:

11/02 – BBAA Club Meeting at TCC Room JC-10 (Election of Officers Night)

11/03 – Grundland Astronomical Park (GAP)

11/04 – Saturday “Sun” Day (Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake) 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

11/11 – Skywatch NWRP (7:00 – 11 PM) only a 4 hour event + 1 hour before for telescope help

11/17 – Grundland Astronomical Park (GAP)

Chuck mentioned that our next club meeting is the November Election of Club Officers. It's very rewarding to serve, although there is no stipend nor free membership. It is also a fun meeting.

Secretary's Report (not present)

Since he's not here, we can't read the minutes, tonight... nor move to waive the reading of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report (transcribed and read by Bruce Powers)

General Fund Income: \$ 5,798.93

General Fund Expenses: \$ 1,754.24

General Fund Balance: \$ 4,044.69

Scholarship Fund Inc: \$ 2,062.52

Scholarship Fund Exp: \$ 1,500.00

Total: \$ 562.52

GJ S'ship Fund Income: \$ 1,531.00

GJ S'ship Fund Exp: \$ 500.00

Total: \$ 1,031.00

BBAA Checkbook \$ 5,638.21

Pending PayPal Depos. \$ -

Checkbook \$ 5,641.35

Checkbook + PP – Fin. \$ 3.14

Membership Data

Honorary Members: 4

Associate Members w/AL: 8

Associate Members: 1

Regular Members: 116
Total Members on Roster: 129

Paid up Members: 127
Members' Dues (due Sept.) 2
Delinquent in dues: 0
Anticipated 2017 Dues: \$ 51.00

Anticipated Expenses

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| AL Dues | \$ 650.00 | Paid on 5/3/17 |
| State Corp. Comm. Fee | \$ 35.00 | Paid on 3/2/17 |
| Insurance | \$ 325.00 | Paid \$320 on 6/11/17 |
| Fees PO Box | \$ 102.00 | Paid 1/9/17 |
| Picnic | \$ 199.00 | Paid 8/14/17 |
| Mailings | \$ 150.00 | Newsletter Snail Mail Mailings |
| Charitable | \$ 150.00 | IDA and Clear Sky Chart |
| <u>Misc.</u> | <u>\$ 800.00</u> | Awards, Raffle Prizes, etc. |
| Total: | \$ 2,411.09 | |

VAAS Committee Report (Leigh Anne)

Virginia Association of Astronomical Societies Conference. We will host the conference this time on October 21st here at Tidewater Community College. Options of timing for the conference were difficult and conflicted by several other important events. All speakers are confirmed. Two different planetarium shows. Door prizes are offered with the big prize from Orion (unknown, presently). Lunch here at TCC and dinner planned at Cornland Observing park, too. Chuck will do the cooking-out. Pizza from Gino's and sub sandwiches from Walmart.

RRRT Report ("Bird") Mark and Bird went up on the mountain. Imaging was done and works very well. Choose the object you want from SkyNet, and the target will be captured. Camera has been removed, sent back to SBIG, and will be replaced. The newest SBIG camera will be used for now. Newest computers and weather system. Professor Edward Murphy (who got the \$10,000 grant) wants to make several dry runs to exercise the system and make sure it takes darks, bias, and flat frame correct exposures. The dome motors have been replaced with the 220 volt, more powerful motors. Requests will be prioritized into a queue and FITS files or JPEG files will be made by request. Google Drive may be used to share photos. Therefore, you will be able to access and process these images. You choose the target, which filters to use, and other details. Currently, no one knows it's active, yet. So, if you want to image a target, send Bird an email and he will make sure the target is imaged. It is proposed that the interface for submission will possibly be a spreadsheet. Currently, there is only an operator on-site to ensure the images will work. Numerous other details were shared by Bird. Several members asked great questions on its current and future use. For requests Lawrence.W.Taylor@nasa.gov.

Old Business:

Still unfinished business from City of Chesapeake for contracts and instructions. The last person, Shaun, recently quit and now the work is still pending. Currently, the paperwork is in their Legal Department. No documents have been signed, yet about the SkyWatch program. This has not been a problem since it conflicted with ECSP.

Also the 2018 Astronomical Handbooks are \$27 and may be ordered through Bird Taylor.

Observing Reports:

Chuck mentioned that he had up to 700x on his Skywatch 20" Dobsonian scope. Tracking has been excellent, but the GOTO has some factory issues that should be resolved.

George mentioned his Solar Eclipse Presentation he made to the Isaac Walton Conservative Organization. His Garden Stars was a huge success at Garden Stars, too.

Program: (Bill Rust on Star Drift Minimization)

Bill gave a superb presentation and gave many details on current techniques for star drift minimization. He decided to apply some logic to the techniques. Mathematical measurements and comparisons were given, as well as the terminology. Longer exposure means more drift. Even after polar alignment and collimation, there is still drift. He crafted a method (model) to measure the star drift and minimize it. It was measured in arc seconds per unit of time. Many details and ideas were presented and well received by the club members. A questions and answer period followed.

Post Program Evolution:

Several self introductions were made by new members and these were welcomed and given more directions to improving their equipment and techniques.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.