

BBAA Astronomy Club May 3, 2018 (TCC Science Building, Room JC-10)

Chuck Jagow (President):

Called meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Members present include: Chuck Jagow, George Reynolds, Shawn Loescher, Bruce Powers, Jeff Goldstein, George Jarvis, Bill Rust, Bob Beuerlein, M.J. Webster, Joey Quinn, Arch Walpole, Kenny Broun, Ben Loyola, Bill Powers, Matt McLaughlin, Mark Croom, Raina Guffey, Scott Guffey, Paul Tartabini, Neill Alford, Lawrence “Bird” Taylor, Larry Ugarte, and Cynthia Ugarte.

Chuck opened the meeting mentioning Skywatch on May 5th may or may not happen depending on the weather.

Vice President Events Report (read by Shawn Loescher):

May:

05/03 – BBAA Club Meeting at TCC Room JC-10

05/05 – Skywatch NWRP (8:00 – 11:00 PM) only a 4 hour event + 1 hour before for telescope help

05/10 – 05/12 East Coast Star Party at Coinjock, NC. (No preregistration. Just pay when you arrive)

05/11 – Corn Watch (Cornland Park Private) Sunset – Dawn. Bring BBAA ID & Cornland Permit

05/12 – Nightwatch Chippokes Plantation State Park (8:30 PM – 6:30 AM)

05/18 – Corn Watch (Cornland Park Private) Sunset – Dawn. Bring BBAA ID & Cornland Permit

05/19 – Saturday “Sun” Day (Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake) 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

05/22 – Boardwalk Astronomy #1 for this year, 24th Street (6:00 PM – 11:00 PM).

05/24 – Boardwalk Astronomy (backup day)

June:

06/07 – BBAA Club Meeting at Plaza Middle School Planetarium

06/09 – Skywatch NWRP (7:30 – 10:30 PM) only a 4 hour event + 1 hour before for telescope help

06/15 – Corn Watch (Cornland Park Private) Sunset – Dawn. Bring BBAA ID & Cornland Permit

06/17 – Nightwatch Chippokes Plantation State Park (8:30 PM – 6:30 AM)

06/22 – Corn Watch (Cornland Park Private) Sunset – Dawn. Bring BBAA ID & Cornland Permit

06/23 – Saturday “Sun” Day (Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake) 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

06/26 – Boardwalk Astronomy #2 for this year, 24th Street (6:00 PM – 11:00 PM)

Shawn asked club members to express their opinion on the format of the email received on events.

Shawn mentioned that if you want to order more T-shirts this year, he wants to close the order by tomorrow.

Shawn demonstrated how to order the shirts online using the room’s multi-media projector. There is only one color to screen print, so they are very inexpensive. However, there are many shirt colors to choose.

Secretary’s Report (Jeff Goldstein)

Jeff started to read the April 5th minutes, however moved and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes.

Treasurer’s Report (previous month read by Chuck Jagow)

General Fund Income: \$ 7,414.78

General Fund Expenses: \$ 3,041.89

General Fund Balance: \$ 4,372.89

Scholarship Fund Inc: \$ 1,923.52

Scholarship Fund Exp: \$.00

Total: \$ 1,923.52

GJ S’ship Fund Income: \$ 1,131.00

GJ S’ship Fund Exp: \$.00

Total: \$ 1,131.00

BBAA Financ. Sum’y \$ 7,427.41

Pending PayPal Depos. \$

BBAA Checkbook \$ 7,433.30

Checkbook + PP – Fin. \$ 5.89

Membership Data

Honorary Members:	5
Associate Members w/AL:	1
Associate Members:	10
<u>Regular Members:</u>	<u>99</u>
Total Members on Roster:	115

Paid up Members:

Members' Dues (due May.)

Delinquent in dues:

Anticipated 2017 Dues: \$

Anticipated Expenses for 2018

AL Dues	\$ 650.00	Due in May
State Corp. Comm. Fee	\$ 35.00	
Insurance	\$ 325.00	Anticipate payment May 2018
Fees PO Box	\$ 102.00	Last paid 1/9/17
July Picnic	\$ 199.09	Last paid 8/14/17
Mailings	\$ 150.00	Newsletter Snail Mail Mailings
Charitable	\$ 150.00	IDA and Clear Sky Chart
<u>Misc.</u>	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	Awards, Raffle Prizes, etc.
Total:	\$ 3,611.09	

Scholarship Committee Report: (Ben Loyola). 10 applications were received, and the committee will meet soon to decide the winners of the scholarships. Jeff Goldstein mentioned sending all the Principals and Superintendents the application package. This probably explains why this year we have 10 and last year only two.

RRRT Report ("Bird" Lawrence Taylor) Dr. Croom will give a short presentation at the end of the meeting.

Old Business:

- A 2nd Telescope was delivered to the MRO Library on Astronomy Day. They are happy with it.
- Chuck will buy a laminating machine for the instructions on these telescopes to aid users checking them out.
- Moon Charts and Star Charts are available from Chuck. These are \$6.

New Business:

- Raffle Tickets for the Celestron 130 Reflector Telescope are \$5. Cell phone app controls it. The proceeds to the GJ Scholarship Fund. Tickets are available from all Club Officers.
- Picnic: We may need to find an alternate spot. No communications with VB City after 6 attempts from Chuck. Chuck will call them, tomorrow. If there is no response, we will attempt to get Chesapeake's Elizabeth River Park (snack bar, picnic area, and other amenities. However, we may have to pay for the use of their picnic area (planning for July). Directions were mentioned
- An Apparel Coordinator is needed.
- A Social Media Coordinator is needed. Raina Guffey volunteered to be the coordinator.
- Christmas Luncheon for December, 2018. Since the Lynnhaven Fish House has been sold, there is no place to hold the luncheon. However, it was reported that George Reynolds has already reserved the "Stripers" Restaurant for December 15th. Noon until 3:00 PM.

Observing Reports & Announcements:

- George and Chuck went to the Virginia Aquarium and sponsored the Young Scientists. They saw the moon for a short session and saw Venus for a short session. About 16 kids and hundreds of questions.
- Chuck went out the Grunland Astronomy Park (GAP) and observed and had a good time.
- Bill Rust found a nice way to collimate SCT optics. When viewing Jupiter's moons, noticed they were not round. He used a special mask to help collimate he optics. Making an equilateral triangle with the mask, was a great aid to help his collimation attempt.
- Bird mentioned 757 Makerspace (24th St. Norfolk) that will make anything you like laser tools.
- Bruce mentioned that they have a website: www.757Makerspace.com. 1st Friday of each month 7:00 PM they have Open House. They have interesting projects that can be made, parts for your telescope with a 3D Printer.

Program:

Dr. Mark Croom, Professor at Christopher Newport University, presented “The Rapid Response Remote Telescope (RRRT)”.

RRRT is a 40” Telescope. Dr. Croom used the internet to project the presentation with photos. This started with a NSU Grant for Dr. Salgato of Norfolk State University NSU). University of Virginia (UVA) contributed the site on Fan Mountain. After 10 years, UVA will acquire all the hardware. He mentioned research topics such as astrophotography, polarized light from Gamma Ray Bursts, and many other projects. It has a 4.8 meter focal length f/8 instrument. The photographic Camera from Santa Barbara Instrument Group (SBIG) has been placed on the telescope recently. However, crystallization happened on the imaging sensor. This was returned to the manufacturer and replaced with a loaner camera that cost about 16,000. We will receive the refurbished camera replacement when it is available.

He explained mount problems and the fix to repair it. Dr. Croom mentioned that Ben Loyola was very instrumental in helping to fix the telescope. It is now corrected and fully operational.

The filter wheel had a problem balancing the telescope, so a different lesser expensive filter wheel was used. The telescope has weather sensors that open and close the dome.

It uses SkyNet as the interface to remotely access the telescope. Dr. Ed Murphy sets up our accounts and emails us the login information. Dr. Croom demonstrated how to login. Bird is the BBAA coordinator to help to get us our log in information and pass this to Dr. Murphy to get accounts.

Dr. Croom demonstrated how to set the camera up for a listed target. He also mentioned that the entire group could make an observation that is available to everyone. For example, if you set up NGC3227 for a group observation, then all members of BBAA can view the photos.

There is a 30 degree (now reset to no lower than 25 degrees from the horizon). He used M87 as a target to choose, he chose the target with a pull-down menu tool. The system also shows a simulation of the object in the sky. Duration in seconds. For faint objects we should choose one minute. There is a maximum that limits the use especially when near a bright star. He chose 300 seconds, BBAA Group, and priority defaults to 1. There is a summary sheet that shows how many credits this target will take and shows your balance of credits.

Several comments from Ben and Bird were made encouraging us to sign up for an account and use the telescope. Some remote telescopes charge as much as \$1 per second of exposure. We’re very lucky to have the use of a scientific instrument such as the RRRT on Fan Mountain for free!

The presentation was well received, and he explained how to log in, find targets, and get exposures scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.