

BBAA Astronomy Club December 3, 2020 (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Shawn Loescher (President)

Called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Vice President Events Report (read by George Reynolds):

- BBAA Club Meeting via Zoom 12/3
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 12/5
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 12/11
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 12/12
- BBAA Annual Anniversary Luncheon@ Stripers Restaurant 333 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510 12/12@ noon
- Elijah Muhlenhoff's 13th Birthday/Bar Mitzvah celebration @ 5:45PM 12/12 (has been canceled)
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 12/18
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 12/19
- Garden Stars at Norfolk Botanical Garden 12/27

January 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting via Zoom 1/7/2021
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park 1/8/2021
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 1/9/2021

Requests: Volunteers needed for outreach events. To volunteer: Go to BBAA calendar online, click on the event you'd like to support, and RVSP with a message stating your interest in attending/supporting.

Secretary's Report (Jeffrey Thornton): no report.

Treasurer's Report (Chuck Jagow):

- General Fund: \$4,067.47
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$179.50
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$1,604.00
- Total Funds: \$5,850.99
- 142 Total Members
- 44 Dues paid in full members
- 98 Member dues are due this month
- 0 Members Delinquent in Dues
- Projected 2020 Dues \$2,254.00

2021 Estimated EXPENSES

- Astronomical League Dues: \$660.00
- State Corporation Commission Fee: \$35.00

It seems that sky and telescope is no longer wanting to honor the Astronomy club discount to the sky and telescope magazine. I called in to get a couple subscriptions a couple days ago and they gave me all kinds of grief and I managed to wrangle those three subscriptions in at the old rate, but they told me it was not going to be valid for long. Tomorrow I will call and try to negotiate for our esteemed vice president's magazine subscription. I'll see if I can see what we must do to try to renegotiate a better rate.

On December 5th Chuck reported: I contacted Sky & Telescope yesterday and after as much horse trading and haggling the best rate I could muster was \$43.95 per year. The two-year rate would be \$65.95 (?? Did not go up??). I would suggest setting the amounts on the website to \$46 for a single year and \$69 for a two-year subscription, the added amount would cover PAYPAL and SQUARE fees. The two-year rate on the website does not now cover the PAYPAL and SQUARE fees.

Newsletter Editor (Rich Roberts)

I'll bring up since I'm taking over newsletter. Which I plan to do quarterly next year. But one thing that I wanted to add, and I have been thinking about different columns is like basically observer interviews, like what the club's come and talk to members about some of their interests. So, I was debating whether and I'll take some feedback here whether I should just get in touch with them and esteemed Observers like George or someone could tell us about your interest, how you got started, what your equipment is or should I just come up with a series of like standard questions and then blast them out to everybody in the email server, and then hopefully theoretically will get responses back and then just could disseminate them out. As, I feel like it or which one or ones are interesting in first. Tell you how you got into astronomy. It helps people get a little bit more breath of, like, what are the experience in the club is. Probably you may see somebody who goes where if you read one of these in the newsletter find somebody has similar interest that you have and then you could get in touch with them and maybe swap stories or expertise, stuff like that. This does something different on top of our normal like recaps of events, you know, photos that hopefully club members want to share. And then probably I want to try to find some people who had some like DIY, Do It Yourself private debt so they can, like, kind of outlay what they've done I'll probably stick to some science stuff. Those my general plan. I'll probably just come up with a list of questions like standard questions and blast them on the email server and see if anybody gets back to me. If not. That's all I have, although I will toot my own horn. I'm a published author now because the observer's handbook came out today and I am pleased that my paper did get published.

New Business

Jupiter and Saturn will be in conjunction on December 21st and Vincent Pendleton mention the possibility of live streaming the event on the BBAA website.

RRRT Report (“Bird” Lawrence Taylor & Ben Loyola): no report.

Scholarship Committee Report: (Ben Loyola): no report.

Observing Reports & Announcements:

VP George Reynolds:

Reflector magazine author Chappell a couple months ago. He did his favorite books for new astronomers and I wrote him told him he forgot one he forgot, turn left at Orion and so he mentioned me and the Back Bay amateur astronomers in his column when he mentioned the book.

Charles JAGOW:

I kind of do was out, looking at the moon. I think it was last week, maybe last Wednesday or last Thursday, something like that. And I was looking at the Terminator right there was down there by, I think it's the crater Plato. And I'll be damned. It looked like there was a search light coming off the edge of the moon. Just a very short distance inside the Terminator inside the shadow. At first thought it was a star, and I will know that can't be a star. A star wouldn't be that close to the moon in that most of the terminator. Right. So I'm looking at I'm looking at I'm looking, I'm watching this thing for like A hour and a half. And it just seems like it's been great as hell. Right. So on a whim, I called Ken Blackwell on his home phone. I said to Ken, is there any chance you're out observing right now. And he goes, Well, yeah, he says, I know you don't want to do it, but go look at the moon and look down at this corner down here and look at Plato and tell me what you see. And he says, yeah, that's a real bright spot. So he explained to me what it was it's like this little Cirque on top of a crater. What that is super reflective for some reason they might be ice. They don't know what the heck it is. But it, I swear to God, it looked like a search like coming off of the moon. So, it was actually Moon Base alpha, but he wouldn't have nothing to do with it. So, can't talk me out of it not being Moon Base office. But it was fun and kept me occupied for about an hour and a half, two hours.

Shawn Loescher

Ken Blackwell reported that the sun has been very active over the past month or so with multiple sunspots large prominences on the eastern limb and beautiful surface detail in A-alpha light.

Charles JAGOW:

We had our Sunday on Saturday on November 14th and I would say that that was the most active I have seen on one of our Sunday on Saturday. Finally, we have 30 some odd visitors come, but there were multiple sunspots, there were flares. There was a prominent It was actually very

active, it was good to be able to point to stuff and tell people to look right first before we would just say, well, we're in the middle of a solar minimum and our sun is really quiet.

George Reynolds reported that we had Solar flares and sunspots to show the public at Elizabeth river Park with the November Saturday SUN day: We had a good Sunday. Last month we had about 36 people come looked through a telescope. Since the record and there were actually some sunspots

Main Presentation was given by VP George Reynolds:

Astronomy 101

George as done this several years in the past, but this is the first time he has ever done it online. Usually, I have tons of handouts that I pass out. But I'll give you my email address and I can disturb them that way. Georges lesson covered 5 parts in getting started in astronomy.

After the presentation, several members had questions. One was about push to apps and software. Another was about the cheap department store telescopes and how low the quality is in these scopes. George also expand the eyepiece differences and Barlow lens and how they can multiply the power of the original eyepiece.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.