

BBAA Astronomy Club January 7, 2021 (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Shawn Loescher (President)

Called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Vice President Events Report (read by George Reynolds):

January 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting via Zoom 1/7
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 1/8
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 1/9
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 1/15
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 1/16
- Garden Stars at Norfolk Botanical Garden 1/21 (Cancel due to COVID)
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 1/23

February 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting via Zoom 2/4
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 2/5
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 2/6
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 2/12
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 2/13

Discussion about Post Office box keys. A key exchange from the old officers to the new ones will happen soon.

Secretary's Report (Jeffrey Thornton):

Our Vice President, George Reynolds, has reserved the restaurant Stripers in Waterside for our anniversary luncheon for December 11, 2021 Noon to 3PM.

Thank you, George.

Our former treasurer, Chuck Jagow, has secured the permit for Corn watch at Cornland Park in Chesapeake for the year.

Thank you, Chuck.

Our former treasurer, Chuck Jagow, has also submitted the permit for our Nightwatch at Chippokes Plantation State park in Surry, Virginia. The check has been cashed, but still waiting on the permit to be mailed back. In the meantime, we are still going to use the park for Nightwatch. Just make sure you pay the \$7.00 parking fee at the gate or have a valid 2021 Virginia state park parking pass.

After much discussion, it was determined that the Summer Picnic will be held on July 17, 2021 at Elizabeth River Park and we will secure the reservation by the next General meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Chuck Jagow):

Chuck will be moving out to the Great state of Colorado very soon and is in the process of handing over the Treasurer duties to our new Treasurer Richard Roberts. On a personal note, Chuck has done an outstanding job in this rolls, and all the BBAA official roles he has held. Always going above and beyond. We will miss him.

- General Fund: \$5,223.84
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$783.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$1,604.00
- Total Funds: \$7,611.13
- 142 Total Members
- 126 Dues paid in full members
- 7 Member dues are due this month
- 33 Members Delinquent in Dues
- 40 Total members with unpaid dues
- \$2,125.00 Paid dues
- \$687.00 Unpaid dues
- \$4,590 Estimated Expenses for 2021

Scholarship Report (Benito Loyola):

We will have enough money, so scholarships will be awarded this year. More on this with the next general meeting.

Alcor Report (Bruce Powers):

Several members are eligible for the Astronomical League special conjunction award for outreach with the Jupiter and Saturn conjunction that happened on December 21st 2020.

George Reynolds is almost done with his Urban Observing award that he started in 2003. George thought he had 30 to go, but it turns out, it is only 5. So the night before this meeting, he was able to get 3. Two more and he has met the goal and will be awarded the Urban Observing award. Ben Loyola is very close to completing one for

another award. Bruce is encouraging everyone to Make a new year's resolution to get at least one Award this year.

A sky chart has been posted on the BBAA facebook page with instructions on how to see the planet Uranus this month. On the nights of January 13 through January 21, easy-to-spot Mars will move past faint Uranus.

Old Business:

BBAA Luncheon was held at Noon, December 12th at Stripers (in Norfolk). Thank you, George Reynolds.

New Business:

Elections were held in December 2020 and the following is a list of the new officers:

Shawn Loescher – President

George Reynolds – Vice President

Richard Roberts – Treasurer

Jeffrey Thornton – Secretary

The new officers are planning on meeting at the bank to update the names on the BBAA bank account to reflect the names of the new officers.

Observing Reports:

Robert Beuerlein reported that he had set up his telescope, with a live video on December 22nd for the great conjunction at Huntington Park in Newport News. A number of people showed up to view the event on Robert's setup. Robert also used the same setup at his house the next night.

George Reynolds reported that Chuck Jagow, Jeff Goldstein, Mel Spruill and he went out on an impromptu get-together on December 22nd off of Sandbridge Road. They had good views of the conjunction and when several people came along, they were able to show them also. George also reported that on January 6th he saw three open clusters in Monoceros: NGC2264 the Christmas Tree Cluster, NGC 2232, and NGC 2301. Normally George does not go to Monoceros because it is a very dim constellation, in between Orion and Gemini. There are a lot of objects there, if you can pull them out.

Eddie Parris reported that he was able to get good views of the Sombrero Galaxy and great views of Orion Nebula on January 6th. Eddie did set up at his house for the conjunction on December 22nd. He had quite a few neighbors show up, some had never looked through a telescope before and had lots of questions.

Program:

George Reynolds gave the presentation titled "Our moon and the tools of an Astronomer." This was given with Jeff Goldstein doing the "flipping of the slides" because of computer issues with Georges machine.

The presentation explained how much better you can see in a dark sky vs. a light polluted sky. The best way to view the sky, is with a pair of binoculars. A cheap pair of binoculars is better than a cheap telescope any day of the week. You can see a lot with just your naked eye. There are 88 constellations, we can see about 60 to 63 of them here for the Northern Hemisphere. Astronomers have several tools for finding your way around, you have star charts, Planisphere, moon map. This led to the moon portion of the presentation. We call it the moon with a capital M. Its name is Luna. That's where we get "lunacy" and "lunatic", people who are "moonstruck". Our Moon is about one fourth the diameter of the Earth. There are mountain ranges on the moon, named after mountain ranges on the earth. There are mountain ranges on the moon, the mountain ranges are named after mountain ranges on the earth. The Andes, the Pyrenees, the Caucasus Mountains. The presentation went on to explain what causes the moon to have phases. The next portion of the presentation went into our solar system.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.