

BBAA Astronomy Club March 4, 2021 (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Shawn Loescher (President)

Called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Vice President Events Report (read by George Reynolds):

March 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting via Zoom 3/4
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 3/5
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 3/6
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 3/12
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 3/13
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 3/27

April 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting via Zoom 4/1
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 4/2
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 4/3
- Cub Scouts Spring camp, 4/6
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 4/9
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 4/10
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 4/20
- American Heritage Girls/Trail Life Family Camp, 4/23
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 3/27

Secretary's Report

A motion was made to dispense in the reading of the minutes, which was approved.

Treasurer's Report (Richard Roberts):

- General Fund: \$5,961.29
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$1,760.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$1,604.00
- Total Funds: \$9,325.58
- 129 Dues paid in full members
- 4 Honorary Members
- 13 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 110 Regular Members
- 148 Total Members on Roster

Scholarship Report (Benito Loyola):

The 2021 BBAA scholarship is for \$1,500 and the Georgie June Memorial Astronomy Scholarship is for \$1,000.00. Both scholarship applications have been emailed out to the schools in the region and it is also available on the BBAA website. The scholarship awards will be distributed in the spring to the first and second place student applicants.

Alcor Report (Bruce Powers):

The Astronomical League was founded in 1946, so this is the 75th anniversary of the League. With this in mind, there is a new year-long AL Observing Challenge to celebrate this milestone.

To earn the certification, you need to meet these requirements:

- Image or sketch the required object(s)
- Submit that image or sketch as indicated by that challenge. These should show as much detail as possible.

For more information regarding this certification, please go to this official website:

<https://www.astroleague.org/content/al-observing-challenge-special-observing-award>

The AL is also increasing its online presence with its joint efforts with Explore Scientific and its online programs. These activities will continue and expand into 2021. Feedback indicates that, in many cases, societies that are conducting online events during this pandemic are having greater participation than when they are holding all their meetings in person. You are encouraged to access the AL Facebook page to view these special events.

<https://www.facebook.com/Astronomical.League>

The AL also gave a special presentation on March 2nd in regards to the Green Bank Radio Telescope that is located in West Virginia.

RRRT Report:

Shawn reports that the RRRT has installed a new controller box and is back up and operating well.

You can find more information on the RRRT by following this link: <https://rrrt-fmo.blogspot.com/2020/05/good-news-were-back-online.html>

Old Business:

Rich is still looking for input for the BBAA newsletter and as of this meeting, has not received any. Please support the newsletter by forwarding your stories to our newsletter editor at editor@backbayastro.org. These can come from any club member on topics ranging from reports on observing, outreach events, observing trips, star parties, equipment reviews, do-it-yourself

projects, news of member's achievements & honors, general interest astronomy/space articles, etc. So, if you have something you'd like to share, please send what you have to the email address above and our editor will work with you to get those items into the newsletter. Please note that our editors' job is to make it easy for you to submit an article. So, don't worry about grammar, article length, polishing up, etc. Just send it to them and they will work to make it great!

New Business:

The BBAA President will be getting in touch with the city of Virginia Beach in regards to when we can resume the summer Boardwalk Astronomy summer series event.

Observing Reports:

Chuck Jagow reported that he was able to get a Sky Quality Meter (SQM) reading of 21.65 from his soon to be new home in Colorado! Everyone in attendance was envious.

James Council reports that he has purchased a new set of binoculars, with the recommendations from George Reynolds, and is able to get one to two hours of observation in on most clear nights. He likes the portability of the binoculars and is having a great time with them.

Program:

George Reynolds gave the presentation on the latest Mars Exploration Program that landed on the planet February 18, 2021. This mission includes the rover [Perseverance](#) and the small robotic helicopter [Ingenuity](#). The mission, Mars 2020, was launched from Earth on an [Atlas V launch](#) on July 30, 2020. The presentation included 7 short videos from NASA regarding this successful mission.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM