

BBA Astronomy Club meeting June 3, 2021 (TCC JC-13). Also broadcast on Facebook live and Zoom.

**Shawn Loescher** (President)

Called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Vice President Events Report** (read by George Reynolds):

### **June 2021**

- BBA Club Meeting via Zoom 6/3 7:30 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 6/4
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 6/5 8:00 PM
- Annular Solar Eclipse @ Va Beach boardwalk, 6/10 5:45 AM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 6/11
- Galaxies Night Hike@ Sleepy Hole Park, 6/11 9:00 PM
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 6/12
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 6/17 8:30 PM
- Cub Scouts Day camp@ Memorial United Methodist Church, 6/22 Noon
- The Nature Bus Star Party@ Cornland Park 6/25 8:30PM
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 6/26 10:00 AM
- Cub Scouts Day camp@ Elk's Lodge #38 6/29 11:45 AM

### **July 2021**

- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 7/2
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 7/3
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 7/9
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 7/10
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 7/15 8:30PM
- BBA Summer Picnic / Meeting @ Elizabeth River Park 7/17 @ 11:00 AM
- Family Stargazing @ Little Creek 7/19 8:30 PM
- Boardwalk Astronomy @ VB Boardwalk 7/20 @ 6 PM
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 7/24 10 AM

### **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: \$6,692.70
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$1,790.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$1,604.00
- Total Funds: \$10,086.99
- Expenses: \$758.81

- Balance: \$9,328.18
- 144 Dues paid in full members
- 4 Honorary Members
- 14 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 124 Regular Members
- 144 Total Members on Roster

**Scholarship Report:** Ben Loyola

Our club enjoys giving scholarships to deserving high school seniors who excel academically and have a passion for astronomy. The SAT scores, GPA's, counselors, and student essays are considered for the scholarship competition, so this is a competitive award. Both awards, the Georgie June Scholarship and the Backbay Amateur Astronomer's Scholarship for this year go to Samantha Burriss from Princess Anne High School. The evaluation letter from Samantha's teacher, Jeff Kinser, was read, and Samantha read her excellent essay as well. She received a well-deserved round of applause from the club audience and her parents. Samantha plans on attending Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

Ben mentioned that we are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) scientific and educational organization, and all donations are fully tax deductible.

**Alcor Report:**

Robert Powers reports that the Astronomical League is 75 years old this year and a wealth of information is available on the AL website, <https://www.astroleague.org/>

Plenty of Observing Programs are available through the league and every BBAA member should be getting the AL publication, The Reflector. The Reflector is the magazine published four times a year that highlights articles from the website, publishes members astrophotography, Observing Awards accomplishments, and upcoming events.

Robert also reports that the Astronomical League is holding a virtual Convention from August 19 through 21, and they will be giving away door prizes. The League is looking for donations to fund these door prizes. A motion was made for our club to make a donation in the form of a prize worth \$200. This motion was seconded and voted on. The motion carried.

**RRRT Report:**

Bird was not in attendance, so no report. However, Robert Beuerlein reports that data is coming in from the telescope currently.

**Old Business:**

T-shirt orders are going in soon, so please don't hesitate to place your order. The t-shirts and baseball hats are going for \$12 each, and you can place your order at the <http://www.backbayastro.org/> website. Under the BBAA tab, go to the BBAA store. From there, go to the purchase BBAA apparel. Fill out your order and when finished click on the "Add to

Cart" button. You will be able to select the quantity on the PayPal site before purchase. You do not need a PayPal account in order purchase items, just a credit or debit card.

Boardwalk Astronomy at the oceanfront may be back on. Emails from the POC in Virginia Beach indicate that we are a go for the event on June 15<sup>th</sup>! These events will be added back onto the calendar.

### **New Business:**

Jeff Goldstein reports that a partial annular eclipse of the sun will happen on June 10<sup>th</sup> and will be visible for 40 minutes at sunrise. The members discussed have a viewing event at the oceanfront on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> for this eclipse. It was agreed that we will meet at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street pavilion and safely view the eclipse from there. Shawn asked everyone to bring extra solar viewing glasses for the visitors to view it with.

Shawn Loescher attended a zoom meeting given by the Barry Art museum that is located on the campus of ODU University, and they are sponsoring a big event in celebration of International Moon Day. On the weekend of Oct. 15 to 17, they are expecting many visitors and they want the BBAA to attend each night with telescopes available for viewing the night sky. This should be the biggest event of the year for our club. The university will have the "Museum of the Moon," a large-scale touring exhibition that has been presented in more than 30 countries and has been experienced by more than 10 million people. It's twenty-three feet in diameter and highly detailed, and the Moon was built to an approximate ratio of 1:500,000. This website has more information regarding the event: <https://barryartmuseum.odu.edu/exhibition/luke-jerram-the-museum-of-the-moon/>

### **Observing Reports:**

George Reynolds reports that he is only two moon observations away from the AL's Lunar Observing Program certificate. This requires the observation of 100 features on the moon. He still needs two things that require the moon to be in the lunar sunset, which is only viewable two days out of the month. Weather has hampered this observation.

Robert Powers reports that he has had great results with his Meade ETX 125 on a few of his camping trips over the last couple of weeks. He went to Kiptopeke State Park and then to the Outer Banks and was able to log 17 DSO's into the AL's Deep Sky Observing Program.

Shawn Loescher reports that we had a successful Garden Stars event on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Shawn, George Reynolds and Jeff Thornton were present and able to show the guests the moon, Mars, M3, double stars Mizar and Alcor, and the ISS made a bright pass at 9:30 P.M.

Eddie Parris reports that the Nightwatch at Chippokes Plantation State Park on the night of May 8<sup>th</sup>. They were able to see asteroids and galaxies, and a string of starlink satellites went over.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM**