

BBAA Astronomy Club meeting August 5, 2021, from the Michael and Kimthanh Lê Digital Theater and Planetarium located on the campus of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Also broadcast on Facebook live.

Shawn Loescher (President)

Called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Vice President Events Report (read by Shawn Loescher in George's absents) :

August 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting 8/5 @ ODU Planetarium
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 8/6
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 8/7
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 8/12 8:30 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 8/13
- Boardwalk Astronomy @ VB Boardwalk 8/17 @ 6 PM
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 8/21 10:00 AM
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 8/28

September 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting 9/2 @ TCC 7:30 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 9/3
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 9/4
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 9/10
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 9/11 @ 7 PM
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 9/16@ 8:00PM
- Boardwalk Astronomy @ VB Boardwalk 9/21 @ 6 PM
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 9/25 10 AM

Secretary's Report

Report is available on the BBAA webpage.

Scholarship Report:

No report at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Richard Roberts):

- General Fund: \$5,297.70

- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$700.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$604.00
- Expenses: \$391.83
- Total balance of all accounts is \$6,601.99
- 152 Dues paid in full members
- 4 Honorary Members
- 14 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 152 Regular Members
- 172 Total Members on Roster

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/> The annual convention for the Astronomical League is virtual this year so everybody that is a member of the club can participate. The convention will be held from August 19 from 3 PM to August 21 at 11 PM EDT. You can register for the event at this website: <https://www.alconvirtual.org/>. Normally this convention is in New Mexico or Wyoming, so you would have to spend a lot of money, get a hotel room, and fly out to get all this high-quality programming. But through the miracles of zoom, as we've all known for the past year and a half, they converted this entire agenda to on-line! Several awards will be presented, and our club has won many of these in the past. Including best website and best newsletter. There will be roughly \$15,000 worth of door prizes given out and everyone who is register for the convention is eligible. The BBAA is sponsoring a 3-volume hardback set of Burnham's Celestial Handbook valued at \$210. Grand prize will be a Explore First Light 127mm Mak-Cassegrain Telescope with Twilight I Mount value at \$750.

RRRT Report:

Bird was not in attendance, so no report. However, Shawn was able to pull up the website and the telescope is up and working. Anyone wanting access to this remote telescope just needs to email Shawn or Bird and if you are a member of the club, you will be given a password so you can gain access.

Old Business:

T-shirt orders are in, and all the T-Shirts should be available by our next boardwalk astronomy event. The baseball hats are on backorder.

Shawn has not heard anything back yet on the music and astronomy ambassador program. BBAA did submit a tentative agreement that we were going to support them.

New Business:

A Perseids Meteor Shower Watch Party is being work out for the August 11, thru August 12th meteor shower. We are hoping to get the Heritage Park & Joel C. Bradshaw Fairgrounds on the outskirts of Windsor, VA. for the event.

Observing Reports:

We had a good Saturday SUN day on July 24th with 12 visitors. Just one small sun spot and a rather large prominence was observed through the hydrogen Alpha telescope.

We also had a very successful boardwalk astronomy event on July 20th whit a larger number of visitors.

Shawn, George and Mel were present for an event in Gloucester, VA. This was at the “Under the Stars lavender Farm” the dates were mixed up and no guest were present, but the owners did allow the club to setup and observe the sky. It is a good dark sky location, so hopefully they will allow us back for another future event.

Program:

We were lucky enough to have this month’s meeting in the brand-new Michael and Kimthanh Lê Digital Theater and Planetarium located on the campus of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Justin Mason, the Planetarium Director gave us a demonstration on what this amazing Planetarium has to offer. The Theater and Planetarium are located inside the new Chemistry building, so several different classes can be taught inside this Theater and Planetarium.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM