

BBAA Astronomy Club meeting September 2, 2021 (TCC JC-13). Also broadcast on Zoom.

George Reynolds (Vice President) in the absence of the president Shawn Loescher.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.

First order of business was the introduction of the new Astronomy professor at the TCC Virginia Beach campus Dr. Leah Flax. Dr. Flax gave us a brief overview of what she is doing for the college.

Vice President Events Report (read by George Reynolds):

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

October 2021

- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 10/1
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 10/2 @ 7 PM
- BBAA Club Meeting 10/7 @ TCC 7:30 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 10/8
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 10/9
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 10/12 7:30 PM

- Observe the Moon night @ Barry Art Museum 10/15 5 PM
- Observe the Moon night @ Barry Art Museum 10/16 5 PM
- Observe the Moon night @ Barry Art Museum 10/17 5 PM

Secretary's Report

Report is available on the BBAA webpage.

Scholarship Report:

No report at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Richard Roberts):

- General Fund: \$5,130.50
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$710.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$604.00
- Total balance of all accounts is \$6,444.79
- 159 Dues paid in full members
- 4 Honorary Members
- 13 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 140 Regular Members
- 159 Total Members on Roster

RRRT Report:

No Report

Scholarship Report:

No report at this meeting.

Alcor Report: (Bruce Powers report read by Shawn Loescher via zoom)

The AL virtual Convention was a great success, I attended virtually on August 20 and provided a three-minute narrated PowerPoint on the BBAA as requested by the club. Thanks to George Reynolds for the PowerPoint material that I adapted to the narrated PowerPoint presentation. There were many good talks and I saw several BBAA members virtually attending as well. I listened to a great talk on the radio astronomy very large array that is in New Mexico. The winner of the three hardbound volumes of Burnham's celestial handbook is Chris Adrian from Missouri. I will mail him his prize soon.

Old Business:

The club has two foldout guides available for sale. One is The Night Sky and the other is The Moon published by the Waterford press. The Night Sky is a simplified guide to the night sky which introduces the reader to the solar system, our moon, planets (visible with the naked eye), meteor showers and eclipses, and features seasonal GLOW-IN-THE-DARK charts to the stars and constellations! Simply shine a flashlight on the charts to illuminate them and then use your fingers to “walk” between major star groups. Laminated for durability, this indispensable pocket reference is ideal for astronomers of all ages. This guide is being sold for \$5 through the club.

The Moon is a folding pocket guide provides simplified reference to the Moon and its surface features, its phases (and how these affect gravitation on Earth), eclipses, myths and viewing hints. Detailed maps of the Moon highlight prominent craters, mountains ranges, seas, highlands and manned moon landing sites. Laminated for durability, this indispensable pocket reference is ideal for astronomers of all ages. This moon guide is being sold for \$8. If you act fast, you can have both for only \$10. To order, send an email to vp@backbayastro.org, and say which and how many you want.

New Business:

No new business at this meeting.

Observing Reports:

Rich Roberts reports that recurrent Nova RS Ophiuchi went into outburst for the first time since 2006. Rich was able to view it for three nights after it went into outburst. The star went from a fifth magnitude to a one, so this was a tremendous outburst.

Eddie Parris has been doing a lot of imaging as of late and was able to get great photos of the Andromeda Galaxy, M110, M32. Also, The North America nebula, both Saturn and Jupiter. Eddie is just getting into astrophotography and is loving it.

Bill Rust reports he has built a backyard observatory and is working on imaging with it. The last good image he has gotten was of the Dumbbell Nebula and is working on star clusters now. Bill likes the observatory because he doesn't have to break down the telescope and camera every night, just close and lock the door at the end of the evening. Bill also just had his article published in Amateur Astronomy Magazine on polar alignment.

Jeff Goldstein reports that the club was able to view the Perseids meteor shower at the Heritage Park & Joel C. Bradshaw Fairgrounds on the outskirts of Windsor, VA. on the night of August 11th through the early morning of August 12th. A total of 73 meteors were seen by the group.

Program:

George Reynolds gave us a recorded presentation that the BBAA originally gave back in 2006 at a men's retreat in Silver Beach, which is a very, very dark sky YMCA camp on the eastern shore of Virginia. We gave a presentation and little did George know, they videotaped the presentation. The pastor who was in charge sent George a copy of the video on DVD. The title of the presentation is "Reach to the Heavens" and it gave an outstanding explanation on how vast the universe is.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM