

BBAA Astronomy Club meeting October 7, 2021 (TCC JC-13). Also broadcast on Zoom.

Shawn Loescher

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.

Vice President Events Report (read by George Reynolds):

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
- The Nature Bus Star Party 10/8 @ 6:30 PM Cornland Park
- 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
- Saturday “SUN”day@ Elizabeth River Park 10/23 10 AM
- Cub Scout Pack Event @ Courthouse Community United Methodist Church 10/26 6 PM

November 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting 11/4 @ TCC 7:30 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 11/5
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 11/6
- The Nature Bus Star Party 11/12 @ 6:30 PM Cornland Park (backup from Oct.)
- Saturday “SUN”day@ Elizabeth River Park 11/20 10 AM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 11/26
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 11/27

Secretary’s Report:

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

Scholarship Report:

No report at this meeting.

Treasurer’s Report:

No report at this meeting.

ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers report read by Shawn Loescher)

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. The Astronomical League now has a YouTube channel with videos on how the particular AL observing programs work with overviews on each award program. To simplify the AL observing process, Bruce is suggesting that each club member forward the logs, once completed, directly to the program coordinators mailing address listed on the AL website. The winner of the three hardbound volumes of Burnham's celestial handbook is Chris Adrian from Missouri. The prize was mailed out last month.

RRRT Report:

No Report, but the telescope is up and running, when the weather allows it.

Old Business:

No report at this meeting.

New Business:

A motion was made to make Charles (Chuck) Dibbs of Plaza Junior High School, Virginia Beach City Public Schools Planetarium a lifetime honorary member of the BBAA Astronomy Club. This motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

On Oct. 14-17, 2021, the Regent University Theatre will present the play Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson in the Dede Robertson Theatre. "It's 1901 and a group of women "computers" at Harvard Observatory crunch numbers for esteemed male astronomers. But one pioneering woman, Henrietta Leavitt, charts a map to the Milky Way that will forever change the way we see the universe. Along the way, she must confront her life choices beneath the stars even as she reaches beyond them. An unforgettable true story from the playwright of last season's Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley." Tickets can be purchased here:

<https://www.regent.edu/school-of-communication-and-the-arts/centers-initiatives/performing-arts-center/theatre-season/#season-2021-2022>

Each year in the spring the BBAA sells raffle tickets with the proceeds funding our Georgie June Scholarship Fund. The tickets cost \$5 each and are available for purchase from the four club officers. The prize this year is a MagicMirror, an electronic whiteboard that displays astronomical information in real time. President Shawn Loescher is offering his assistance in installing this device, if you happen to be the winner.

Observing Reports:

George Reynolds reports that last Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, the Skywatch event was well attended with over 48 guests showing up to the event. The club had 10 telescopes on the field and the skies were clear all night. Two bright meteors were seen along with a bright ISS pass. One of the meteors was observed for 15 to 20 seconds!

Program:

George Reynolds gave us a presentation in preparation of the International Observe the Moon Night. Our club will participate in the ODU's, Free & Open to the Public event. This event will span three days and nights starting on October 15th. This is from the ODU website "All three nights of the public festival will have performances, art demonstrations, food, and beverages from 5-8pm. Inside the Barry Art Museum, check out Waxing and Waning, the companion moon exhibition and explore NASA's hands on activities and a Virtual Reality tour of the moon's surface. The Chrysler Museum Glass Studio Mobile Studio will be creating lunar inspired demonstrations from 6-9pm and we welcome you to stargaze with the Back Bay Astronomers! Up Monarch Way the VMFA Art Mobile will be parked by the ODU Gordon Gallery and at the Brock Commons there will be the Monarch Market, a vendor fair with local crafts, food music and activities." <https://barryartmuseum.odu.edu/art/moonfestival/>

George explained that when he was just getting started in astronomy, the moon always seems to spoil the view of the DSO's or Deep Sky Objects, so he decided to observe the obvious, the Moon. He found this to be a very, very satisfying experience. In fact, George has earned the Astronomical League's lunar observing Award for observing and logging 100 objects and features on the Moon using the unaided eye, binoculars, and telescopes. Not only that, but George has also earned the lunar observing Award II! This is for observing and documenting another 100 objects. As of 2000 there have been 6235 craters designated on the near side of the moon 810 prominent craters that have names, 5425 are identified by letters added to the name of a nearby prominent crater. The PowerPoint presentation showed the man in the moon, the woman in the moon and the rabbit in the moon. Several of the most prominent features of the Moon were identified and a quiz was given at the conclusion of the presentation. We were then given the title of official lunatics!! We should now be able to explain the Moon to the public at the International Observe the Moon Night.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM