

BBAA Astronomy Club meeting April 7, 2022. at Tidewater Community College, room JC-13. Also broadcast on Facebook live.

President Shawn Loescher called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM

Vice President Events Report, Jeff Goldstein

Calendar events

April 2022

- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 4/1
- Girl Scouts @ ODU Planetarium 4/2 @ 6:45 PM
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 4/2
- Malibu Elementary Science Night 4/6 @ 5:30 PM
- BBAA Club Meeting, TCC (VB Campus) 4/7 @ 7:30 PM
- NC Statewide Star Party - Dowdy Park, NC 4/8 @ 7:30 PM
- EGGS- Treme Egg Drop @ Tarrallton Park 4/9 @ 11 AM
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 4/12 @ 8:30 PM
- Saturday “SUN”day@ Elizabeth River Park 4/16 @ 10 AM
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 4/23 @ 8:00 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 4/29
- Cub Scout Pack 700 Spring Camp Out @ Northwest River Park, 4/29 @ 7:30 PM
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 4/30

May 2022

- 2nd Annual Family STEM Night, 5/4 Saint Patrick Catholic School @ 5:30 PM
- BBAA Club Meeting, TCC (VB Campus) 5/5 @ 7:30 PM
- Boardwalk Astronomy #1, 5/10 @ 6 PM
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 5/12 @ 8:30 PM
- Saturday “SUN”day@ Elizabeth River Park 5/14 @ 10 AM
- Total Lunar Eclipse Watch Party 5/15 @ 9:30 PM, Chesapeake Planetarium
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 5/20
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 5/21 @ 8:00 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 5/27
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 5/28

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: \$9,893.00
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$1350.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$1,534.00

- Total Funds: \$9,893.00
- Expenses: \$0
- Balance: \$9,893.00
- 4 Honorary Members
- 6 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 139 Regular Members
- 151 Total Members on Roster

ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers)

Announced all BBAA recipients of AL awards from March 22 Reflector magazine.

2022 Astronomical League Convention (ALCON 2022) will be held from July 28-July 30 in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Follow this link for more information and how to register for the convention:

<https://www.astroleague.org/al/alcons/alcons.html>

RRRT Report:

The telescope is up and running.

Old Business:

Bruce Powers reports the following on the ECSP move to Chippokes State Park: East Coast Star Party (ECSP) possible move to Chippokes State Park Fall 2022 Date TBD. In March 2022, Ann Zahn / VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) director Tidewater region was working with the director of Chippokes State Park and will get back to BBAA "within a few weeks". Background: BBAA met with VA DCR rep Stephanie Allen, Jamie Haznek of Chapel Hill Astronomy club, and BBAA members in Feb 2022 on Zoom. As of April 2022, Bruce had not heard back from Ms. Zahn. If nothing heard by end of April, Bruce will re-contact Ms. Zahn.

New Business:

Shawn is looking for someone to help with the club support a Cub Scout pack April 29 at Northwest River Park. They have requested an event, which is still pending and not scheduled until we can get a member to commit to it.

We have been accepted for the JWST First Images programs

- A) Date unknown right now
- B) Time will be late morning to early afternoon
- C) Need a volunteer to lead

Festevents (Harborfest Organizer) – Exploring the possibility of have the BBAA support the Harborfest this year with telescopes and a booth. This will be like Boardwalk astronomy, as far as foot traffic is concerned.

Upcoming Outreach Events

ODU Mars Festival 2022 Oct 14 -16. This will be just like last years moon festival, which was a huge success with over 12,000 visitors. Justin has asked our club to once again to support this event.

Start thinking about the total solar eclipse that will happen on April 8th, 2024. Gabriel has volunteered to create a BBAA solar eclipse website with everything our club is doing regarding the 2024 eclipse. BBAA is exploring the possibility of reselling solar glasses as a fundraising project.

Observing Reports:

Jeff Goldstein reports that he was able to view the conjunction of Venus and Saturn in the early morning of March 29, 2022.

Bruce Powers reports that he attended the Staunton River Star Party that was held at Staunton River State Park on March 28, to April 3, 2022. Bruce reports that it was a truly outstanding event once again. The next Staunton River Star Party will be held October 24th through 30th of this year. It's a well-run event and everyone is encouraged to attend. More information can be found at this website <http://chaosastro.org/>

Gabriel Dandrade reports that he attended a retreat with his church group and was able to bring along his ten-inch Dobsonian telescope. He was able to show the Orion nebula, a number of star clusters, The Leo triplet and other Messier objects. Everyone who looked through the scope was impressed.

George Reynolds reports that he helped Boy Scout troop 407 with earning their merit badges in Astronomy on March 25th at Cornland park. George was able to point out about 10 or 12 constellations and some of the major stars. It was scout group of around 20 boys. They were well behaved and really interested. One of the Scout Masters was able to get George to sign up to be an official boy scout merit badge counselor.

Jonathan Scheetz reports that he also attended the Staunton River Star Party and was able to look through a 30-inch, 20- inch and a 14-inch Dobsonian telescopes. He will be going back in Fall.

Bob Beuerlein reports he attended the Staunton River Star Party and was able to photograph a few DSOs before technical difficulties happened and was no longer able to. Overall, he had a good time and will be attending the fall version of the party.

Shawn Loescher reports that the Malibu Elementary school event was well attended with 50 kids and parents. Good view of the Sun and of the moon.

Presentation:

Georgie June Raffle was picked, and the winners are:

The winner of the 1.25" Broadband filter is Scott Cadwell

The winner of the 7.2 to 21.6mm eyepiece is Brian LaFitte

The winner of the Raspberry Pi 4 Magic Mirror is Jeff Goldstein

The winner of the 10" Dobsonian Telescope is Tony Ellis

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Leah Flax led the group to the Planetarium for a special movie on Dark Matter