

BBAA Astronomy Club meeting May 5, 2022. at Tidewater Community College, room JC-13. Also broadcast on Zoom.

President Shawn Loescher called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM

Vice President Events Report, Jeff Goldstein

Calendar events

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

June 2022

- BBAA Club Meeting, TCC (VB Campus) 6/2 @ 7:30 PM
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 6/7 @ 8:30 PM
- Saturday “SUN”day@ Elizabeth River Park 6/11 @ 10 AM
- Boardwalk Astronomy #2, 6/14 @ 6 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 6/17
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 6/18 @ 8:00 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 6/24
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 6/25

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: \$8,061.60
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$1370.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$1,534.00
- Total Funds: \$9,933.54
- Expenses: \$1,032.35
- Balance: \$7,029.25
- 4 Honorary Members
- 7 Associate Members w/AL

- 2 Associate Members
- 141 Regular Members
- 154 Total Members on Roster

Scholarship Report: (Benito Loyola)

The BBAA gives away two scholarships annually. The Primary Scholarship, which is worth \$1,500, and the Georgie June Scholarship, worth \$1,000 for a total of \$2,500 in Scholarship money. It is a fantastic amount for a club of this size. We accept contributions and are a nonprofit organization. You can donate to the fund, and we do accept checks and donations online at backbayastro.org. We also fund the Scholarships with raffles and the fees we collect from the local cities from our monthly outreach events. The cut-off was May 1st for this year's Scholarship, and we will gather up the folders and score them based on their essay, their GPA, and a write-up from their professors and teachers.

We look forward to awarding the Scholarships at next month's meeting.

ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers)

Bruce Powers recognizes people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Benito Loyola certainly has done that with this. He has completed the Double Star observing program, which required him to watch 100 stars, which is no small feat. From 2018 to 2020, Ben has observed 100 stars and has been awarded a lapel pin and certificate from the Astronomical League.

RRRT Report:

The telescope is up and running. Ben Loyola gave a presentation on how the remote telescope works. The telescope is a 24-inch Ritchey-Chretien telescope and is physically located on Fan Mountain just outside Charlottesville, Virginia. Users can control it through Skynet Robotic Telescope Network, and every member is allowed time on the telescope. <https://skynet.unc.edu/>

JUPITER ASTEROID IMPACT DETECTION PROJECT:

Dr. Kunio M. Sayanagi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Planetary Science Department of Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at Hampton University, has gotten additional funding from The National Science Foundation (NSF) to continue this project. The BBAA is now co-researchers with this program. The program's mission is to image Jupiter to detect asteroid impacts. Amateur astronomers can see impacts with any amateur-grade telescope and camera. Thus, with the right tools, anyone can contribute to this research project. Dr. Sayanagi will accept all imagery! You do NOT have to be a member of our club to participate. You can even use your cell phone camera as tool in this project! Details can be found on the club's website. Just follow this link for more information: <http://backbayastro.org/jupiter.php>

Old Business:

Bruce Powers reports no updates on the East Coast Star Party.

We have been accepted for the James Webb Space Telescope First Images program and have ten people in the club participating. Tidewater Community College will be one of the locations that will participate in the first image program. It will happen one day in July. NASA has not announced the date other than sometime in July.

New Business:

There was a discussion on buying solar glasses for the upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. The proposal was made that we buy 5,000 at \$0.53 each and sell them for \$5 each. This motion was second and a vote was taken. No one voiced any objections, so the motion was carried.

The solar filter workshop is happening soon. Please take your measurements and enter the data into the database on the groups IO website before May 22. The filters will be made out of Baader Solar Filter material, which is much better than the material used in past workshops.

The BBAA has purchase a new telescope mount. It's an iOptron SmartStar® CubePro and works great with the Coronado Personal Solar Telescope (P.S.T.) that we have. The cost was \$448, and funds came out of the general funds account.

Observing Reports:

Bill Rust has developed a better way to calculate star drift using two stars and approximates them as planes in the sky. Bill has been working on this for seven years and now has it perfected.

Two items were raffled off at the end of the meeting. They were an astronomical theme face mask and the hard cover book: *The Universe Today Ultimate Guide to Viewing the Cosmos: A Complete Look at the Night Sky from the Moon to the Edge of the Galaxy: Everything You Need to Know to Become an Amateur Astronomer* by David Dickinson.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM