

**BBAA Astronomy Club meeting June 2, 2022. at Tidewater Community College, Also broadcast on Facebook live.**

**President Shawn Loescher called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM**

**Vice President Events Report, Jeff Goldstein**

**Calendar of events**

**June 2022**

- BBAA Club Meeting, TCC, Bldg. J (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
- Private Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 6/25 @ 8:00 PM
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 6/25

**July 2022**

- Garden Stars @ NBG, 7/5 @ 8:30 PM
- Saturday "SUN" day @ Elizabeth River Park 7/9 @ 10 AM
- Boardwalk Astronomy #3, 7/12 @ 6 PM
- JWST 1st Images, Chesapeake Planetarium, TCC Planetarium and VB Plaza Middle School 7/12 @ 11 AM
- BBAA summer picnic, Elizabeth River Park 7/16 @ 11 AM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 7/22
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 7/23 @ 8:00 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 7/29
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 7/30

**Secretary's Report:**

Secretary Jeffrey Thornton read the report highlighting events in the previous month.

**Treasurer's Report: (Richard Roberts):**

- General Fund: \$9,933.54 (5/1/2022)
- General Fund: \$6,964.87 (5/31/2022)
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$1,580
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$1,784
- 4 Honorary Members
- 7 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members

- 142 Regular Members
- 155 Total Members on Roster

We had several significant expenses this month which account for the large balance decline, the biggest being the 2,700+ dollars for the eclipse glasses. We also paid for our webhosting and insurance policy this month.

On the income side, we received two large scholarship donations. Ben made a significant donation as usual, and Georgie June's big sister made a \$250 donation and a letter on how much it means to the family that we carry on her legacy with this scholarship.

We did not add any new members, so we're standing pat at 154 members. After a tear of adding 4 to 5 new members a month, we've hit a bit of a lull.

Two more big expenses have gone out but will be accounted for in June. I paid our AL dues (\$750), and George took out checks for the scholarship recipients. That will be all-out major expenses for the year.

### **ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers)**

The BBAA paid \$750 to the Astronomical League for the yearly dues. \$5 of every member's \$23 dues go towards membership in the Astronomical League.

Congratulations to Benito Loyola for completing the Double Star Observing program and Jonathan Scheetz for completing the Urban Observing Program.

Stephanie Allen, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) director Tidewater region, is still waiting for communication from her boss regarding the relocation of the East Coast Star Party.

### **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 \$2,500 in Scholarship money.

This year's winners are Gabriel Dandrake - Georgie June Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.00, and Caroline Kreutzberg - Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Congratulations to these most deserving young people.

### **RRRT Report:**

The telescope is up and running. 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/>

### **New Business:**

A special Skywatch will happen on June 25 for the Girl Scout Astronomy club. This is a makeup for the May 27 event that was weathered out. They are expecting 20 to 30 Girl Scouts and it will be held at the Northwest River State Park.

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), will release its first full-color images and spectroscopic data on July 12, 2022. None of us know what the first images will reveal so consider joining us at one of three locations in Hampton Roads where we will broadcast the images live on a planetarium dome! We will have amateur astronomers, professional educators, and solar system ambassadors on-site to help. Depending on the weather, we will have telescopes set up for solar observation.

The location of the planetariums will be:

Tidewater Community College - VB Campus, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453,

Chesapeake Planetarium, 310 Shea Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322

Plaza Middle School, 3080 South Lynnhaven Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23503.

The solar filter workshop is happening soon. Shawn will contact the individuals who have sign up with more information shortly.

### **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 received 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 effects 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 a 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>

### **Observing Reports:**

We had a very successful meteor watch at Heritage Park in Windsor Monday night (Memorial Day) 5/30/22. As a group, we logged seeing 201 meteors in 4 hours, an average of 50 meteors per hour. Club members there were Dan Pelzel, Jeff Thornton, Shawn Loescher, Gabriel Dandrade, Robert Schmidt, Mel Spruill, Mark Wilson, Patrick \_\_\_\_, George Reynolds, Chloe Reynolds, and Samantha Burris. The sky was clear and the night was comfortable, with a cool breeze. In between meteors, Gabriel entertained us by finding galaxies and star clusters and Messier objects in Shawn's 10-in Dob. Over 200 meteors were seen.

Kent Blackwell and Dr. Robert Hitt hosted the Eclipse Watch at Chesapeake Planetarium. Despite an "iffy" forecast, the night was clear up to totality, as clouds started rolling in about 11

pm, but they didn't stop the beautiful show the Moon put on. There was a small but enthusiastic crowd of visitors. Several people, including Anthony Wheelless, had such a steady hand and good camera on their phones that they were able to take several excellent photos through a ShortTube 80 refractor. By 12:50 am the clouds came in to stay. We were able to see totality but packed up shortly thereafter. It was a successful night, with mild temperatures, good views of the Moon and a few stars, and a friendly group of people.

One item was raffled off. It was the book titled The Backyard Astronomer's Field Guide by David Dickinson. The winner was Claire Thilenius.

**Presentation:**

George Reynolds gave a video presentation on solar weather and how solar activity effects life here on Earth.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM**