

BBAA Astronomy Club meeting August 4, 2022 at Tidewater Community College, Also broadcast on Zoom.

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

Vice President Events Report, Jeff Goldstein

Calendar of events

August 2022

- Garden Stars @ NBG, 8/2 @ 8:30 PM
- BBAA General meeting, 8/4 @ 7:30 PM, Tidewater Community College VB Campus
- Fort Story Family Stargazing, 8/5 @ 9:00 PM, Fort Story Library, Virginia Beach
- Boardwalk Astronomy #4, 8/9 @ 6 PM, 2401 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach
- Saturday "SUN" day 8/13 @ 10:00 AM, Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake VA.
- Skywatch at Bacon's Castle, 8/13 @ 7:00 PM, 465 Bacons Castle Trl, Surry, VA
- The Nature Bus Star Party, 8/14 @ 8:30 PM, Cornland Park, 2908 Benefit Rd
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 8/19, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA.
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 8/20 @7, 1569 Indian Creek Road, Chesapeake, VA
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 8/26, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 8/27, Surry, VA.

September 2022

- BBAA General meeting, 9/1 @ 7:30 PM, Tidewater Community College VB Campus
- Great Navy Campout, 9/3 @ 5 PM, Breezy Point Park, Naval Station Norfolk,
- Boardwalk Astronomy #5, 9/6 @ 6 PM, 2401 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach
- Saturday "SUN" day 9/10 @ 10:00 AM, Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake VA.
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 9/16, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA.
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 9/17 @7, 1569 Indian Creek Road, Chesapeake, VA
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 9/23, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA.
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 9/24, Surry, VA.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary was absent, so no report

Treasurer's Report: (Richard Roberts):

- General Fund: \$2,544.94 (7/31/22)
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$90.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$774.00
- 4 Honorary Members
- 8 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 146 Regular Members

- 160 Total Members on Roster

ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers)

Still waiting for communication regarding the relocation of the East Coast Star Party to Chippokes Plantation State Park. Were at a standstill because of lack of communication from VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

Old Business:

If anyone who has ordered a t-shirt and has not received it, please see George Reynolds. George has them and wants to arrange delivery or pick-up.

New Business:

Shawn Loescher has all the material for the solar filter workshop but cannot host the workshop. He is looking for a volunteer to take over this endeavor. If you are willing and able to help with this, please see Shawn.

The club now has several donated telescopes that need astronomers to operate. These telescopes range from smaller Dobsonian to medium and large Schmidt–Cassegrain or SCT telescopes along with appropriate mounts. If you want to borrow any of these scopes, please get in touch with Shawn Loescher and he would be happy to lend them out. You can reach Shawn at shawn.loescher@gmail.com.

Observing Reports:

Kudos to Mel Spruill on his animation of the transit of C/2017 K2 (PanSTARRS) that was observed during Skywatch. This can be seen on the BBAA Facebook page.

The July Skywatch turn out to be very successful after a not so promising start. The first two hours were cloud covered and then the sky opened. There were 15 astronomers and several families with telescopes that needed assistance. Good views of Saturn and comet K2 PanSTARRS were had.

The August Garden Stars was another successful event. NBG sold out the event with 18 to 20 people and six astronomers with telescopes. This event started out with cloudy skies and then it opened with great views of the moon and stars.

Presentation:

The speaker, Dr. Dennis M. Conti was introduced by BBAA Treasure Richard Roberts. Dennis is a retired telecommunications professional and an amateur astronomer with a strong interest in exoplanet research. In 2015, he founded the AAVSO's Exoplanet Section and has continued as section leader.

Tonights presentation is titled "The Indispensable Role of Amateur Astronomers in Exoplanet Discoveries"

Amateur astronomers have played a key role in NASA's search for habitable planets, especially during TESS, NASA's most recent and ongoing exoplanet discovery mission. Even though a space telescope such as TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) is free from the vagaries of Earth's atmosphere, TESS' resolution, as a survey telescope, is not detailed enough to pinpoint from which star a transit-like event might be occurring. As a result, ground-based observations are needed to eliminate several false positive scenarios in order to help with the final confirmation of an exoplanet discovery.

This presentation reviewed some of the challenges in exoplanet discoveries, how amateur astronomers have played an essential role in the continuing success of TESS, and how TESS is viewed as a "finder scope" for the James Webb Space Telescope.

Several items were raffled off after the presentation was over.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM