

BBAA Astronomy Club meeting October 6, 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

October 2022

- International Observe the Moon Night 10/1 @ 1: PM Portsmouth Public Library.
- Garden Stars @ NBG, 10/4 @ 8:00 PM
- BBAA General meeting, 10/6 @ 7:30 PM, Tidewater Community College VB Campus
- Saturday "SUN" day 10/8 @ 10:00 AM, Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake VA.
- Mars Festival 10/14 to 10/16 @ 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM each night, Barry Art Museum, 1075 W 43rd St, Norfolk VA.
- First Landing Fall Fest 10/15 @ 12:00 PM, First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, VA.
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 10/15 @ 7:00 PM, 1569 Indian Creek Road, Chesapeake, VA
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 10/21, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 10/22, Surry, VA.
- Staunton River Star Party@ Staunton River State Park, 10/24 to 10/30, Scottsburg, VA 24589
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 10/28, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA

November 2022

- BBAA General meeting, 11/3 @ 7:30 PM, Tidewater Community College VB Campus
- Planets and Potables, 11/4 @ 6:30 PM, Russell Memorial Library, 2808 Taylor Rd, Chesapeake, VA.
- Kids NGrief & Mikey's Camp Star Gazing, 11/5 @ 8:30 PM. Jamestown 4-H Educational Center, 3751 4-H Club Road, Williamsburg, VA.
- Saturday "SUN" day 11/12 @ 10:00 AM, Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake VA.
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 11/18, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 11/19 @ 7:00 PM, 1569 Indian Creek Road, Chesapeake, VA
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 11/25, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 11/26, Surry, VA.

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report: (Richard Roberts):

- General Fund: \$2928.80

- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$210.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$774.00
- 4 Honorary Members
- 9 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 158 Regular Members
- 173 Total Members on Roster

ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers)

Bruce gave an overview of what the Astronomical League mission is and that they publish a quarterly magazine, The Reflector. Inside this magazine, you will find a list of awards that have been awarded over the previous three months. BBAA members' names are mentioned quite often.

The Astronomical League and NASA are sponsoring a program to create 500 Eclipse Ambassadors for the upcoming solar eclipses that are occurring October 14, 2023, and April 8, 2024. The **Eclipse Ambassadors Off the Paths project** will partner 500 amateur astronomers across the United States with local college undergraduates to work together as local eclipse experts within their communities. Connect with a new generation of enthusiasts who bring fresh perspectives and resources to astronomy engagement. Share your knowledge of the sky and the joys of amateur astronomy with an enthusiastic college student. The BBAA has three people already signed up and looking for more. If you're interested in becoming an Eclipse Ambassador, please follow this web link to sign up and for more information:

<https://astrosociety.org/education-outreach/amateur-astronomers/eclipse-ambassadors/program.html>

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/>

Old Business:

The solar filter workshop will be Saturday 10/8. If you have signed up to participate, please send your money in by using the Members Event/Services Payments portion of the BBAA website. It's set up to accept payment via PayPal. You can get to it through the BBAA store portion of the website. Cost is \$25 per filter and Shawn does have extra material for any last-minute participants.

Status of the relocation of the East Coast Star Party to Chippokes Plantation State Park. Shawn Loescher is going to attend the friends of Chippokes Plantation State Park monthly meeting in November. The goal is to present a face-to-face introduction to the State Park as to who we are

and our desire to have the ECSP at the Chippokes Plantation State Park. The email and telephone route has not been successful.

The term of office of President and Secretary will be up at the end of this calendar year, and elections will be held in November. Please think about volunteering for one of these positions, because Shawn and Jeff can no longer serve. This is because of the term limits that are written in the by-laws. Also, a proposal is being voted on within the groups.io website regarding the removal of the age limit of BBAA officers. If you are a member of the club, please vote on this at the following web address: <https://groups.io/groups>

George Reynolds has several t-shirts available for sale at the price of \$12 each. The club is going to order more t-shirts soon, but we need a minimum of 25 for the supplier to fulfill the request. If you are interested in ordering one or more, please email info@backbayastro.org your request.

A motion was made for the club to purchase a Celestron StarSense Explorer telescope as the grand prize of the Georgie June scholarship raffle. The price of this telescope will be around \$230.

On October 15th, the BBAA has three events happening at the same time. The ODU Mars fest, The First Landing Fall Fest and Skywatch @ Northwest River Park. If we do not get anyone to RSVP to either the First landing event or the Skywatch, we will have to cancel our commitment to attend. Bottom line, please RSVP your intentions to attend one of these events at the NSN website so we can determine if it must be canceled. You can find us on the NSN at this address: https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-view.cfm?Club_ID=1591

The door prize, a book donated by Bruce Powers, was won by Kevin Mitchell..

The club is using the app Discord as a tool to communicate between members for specific events and share photos. Discord was first launched in 2015 as a means for people to easily communicate while playing PC games together. This is a CNN article on the history of discord and how it's being used today: <https://www.cnn.com/cnn-underscored/electronics/discord-app>

If you would like to download the app to your device, here is the BBAA invite link: <https://discord.com/invite/AvdthJT2Cu>

There were 30 people in attendance to this meeting. The list is as follows:

Attended in-person:

Christian Andrejko
Sebastian Andrejko
Samantha Bartholomew
Kevin Brooks
Matt Cook
Jacob Daniel
Jeff Goldstein
Ana Kohlway
Rebecca Landry

Shawn Loescher
Ben Loyola
Matthew Miranda
Kevin Mitchell
Bruce Powers
George Reynolds
Marcia Sun
Damien Twyman
Michelle Uson
Mark Wilson

19 total

Attended on-line via Zoom:

Bob Beuerlein
Roland Downing
Tom Flatley
Chuck Jagow
Rachel Perry
Dave Pugh
Sue Richardson
Rich Roberts
Nigel Taylor
Jeff Thornton

11 total

Grand total: 30

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm and the meeting was re-convened in the planetarium for a show about the Egyptians and astronomy.