

**BBAA Astronomy Club meeting on November 3, 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**

**November 2022**

- Homeschool Solar Science, 11/2 @ noon, Church of Nazarene Tidewater Central, 5514 Parliament Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23462
- Homeschool co-op, 11/3 @ 9:00 AM, First Baptist Church of Norfolk, 312 Kempsville Road, Norfolk, VA 23502
- 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 N Grief & 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 @ 5:00 PM, Surry, VA.

**December 2022**

- BBAA General meeting, 12/1 @ 7:30 PM, Tidewater Community College VB Campus
- Math Night, 12/2 @ 6:00 PM, Mathnasium of Great Neck, 1408 N Great Neck Rd #301, Virginia Beach, VA 23454
- Saturday "SUN" day 12/3 @ 10:00 AM, Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake, VA.
- Muse/Ghent Market Shops Holiday Party, 12/9 @ 5:00 PM, The Muse Writers Center, 2200 Colonial Ave. Suite #3, Norfolk, VA 23517
- BBAA Annual Anniversary Luncheon, 12/10 @ Noon, Stripers Waterside, 333 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 12/16, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 12/17 @ 5:00 PM, 1569 Indian Creek Road, Chesapeake, VA
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 12/23, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 12/24, Surry, VA.

### **Secretary's Report, Jeff Thornton**

Jeff read the minutes from the October general meeting.

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

- General Fund: \$3294.07
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$220.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$774.00
- 4 Honorary Members
- 9 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 160 Regular Members
- 175 Total Members on the Roster

### **Scholarship Report: (Benito Loyola)**

The club is now in the process of having raffle tickets printed out for the Georgie June Scholarship prizes. The grand prize will be a Celestron StarSense Explorer DX 100AZ Smartphone App-Enabled Refractor Telescope. Each year in the Spring, the BBAA sells raffle tickets, with the proceeds funding our Georgie June Scholarship Fund. The tickets cost \$10 each and are available from the four club officers.

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

Bruce gave an overview of what the Astronomical League mission does 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.

Bruce has posted five information sheets that the Astronomical League generated. The first one was information on the upcoming lunar eclipse on November 8. The second one was on the November sky and the astronomical events happening throughout the month. The third was on donating no longer used telescopes to astronomy clubs. The fourth was on a job opening at the AL for an advertising executive, and the fifth was on the Astronomical League convention that will be happening July 26-28, 2023, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **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 BBAA member is allowed time on the telescope. <https://skynet.unc.edu/>

### **Old Business:**

George Reynolds has several T-shirts of various sizes for \$12 each. The club will 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 place your order through the BBAA store website. <http://backbayastro.org/store.php>

Shawn Loescher will 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 yet to be successful.

### **New Business:**

Rachel Perry suggested that the BBAA conduct an astronomy course like the one Richard Bell of the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society presented last Spring.

The city of Chesapeake is in the planning stage of rezoning 1,400 acres of farmland for a 'mega' industrial park. This land is very close to Northwest River and Cornland parks, where the club holds many observing events. Per the Virginia Pilot, "In a meeting this week, city leaders said Chesapeake is moving quickly on the rezoning request because the competitive grant funding is expected to be given out by the end of the calendar year." It will significantly affect the views to the west from both NWRP and Cornland. Shawn suggested we require that lighting conforms with International Dark Sky lighting requirements. Here is a link to the IDA website with an idea on how to compose your response:

<https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/public-policy/policy-makers/>

You can submit comments electronically regarding this upcoming agenda item by using this form, <https://cityofchesapeake.jotform.com/210536857544057>, and it will be shared with the Planning Commission before the meeting. Comments must be received by 4 PM on the day of the Planning Commission meeting on November 9. Only a little time from now.

A poll was created on the Groups.io website regarding the age requirement of officers within the BBAA. The proposal is to remove the age requirement for all officers listed in Article V and change Article IV section 4.03 The wording of the poll was "4.03 Qualifications of Office.

Any regular or honorary club member in good standing with the desire and ability to fulfill the obligations set forth in Article V of this document for the open role shall be eligible for all officer positions." With only 28 members voting and 20 of these members voting to disapprove,

there will be no change to this age requirement rule. The proposal failed. The minimum age requirement to serve as President, Vice President and Secretary will remain at 20 years of age. The office of Treasurer will remain at 21 years of age.

**Elections:**

The term of office of President and Secretary will be up at the end of this calendar year, and elections were held at this meeting. The results are as follows:

President: George Reynolds

Secretary: Eddie Parris

Congratulations, George and Eddie!

Richard Roberts suggested we form a committee one to two months before the November elections to field nominations.

There were 24 people in attendance at this meeting. The list is as follows:

Attended in-person:

George Reynolds

Paul Sood

Eddie Parris

Rachel Perry

Kevin Brooks

Jeff Thornton

Jeff Goldstein

Shawn Loescher

Bill Rust

Damien Twyman

Ana Kohlway

David Shouldice

12 total in person

Attended online via Zoom:

Richard Roberts

Pamela Nichols

Bruce Powers

Samantha Bartholomew

Ben Loyola

Gene Tracy

Roland Downing

Sandy Paxson

Nigel Taylor

Dan Pelzel

Patrick Vartuli

Chuck Jagow

12 total on-line

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.