

**BBAA Astronomy Club meeting on December 1, 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

December 2022

- BBAA General meeting, 12/1 @ 7:30 PM, Tidewater Community College VB Campus
- Plaza Middle School Skywatch, 12/2 @ 7:00 PM, Plaza Middle School, 3080 South Lynnhaven Road, Virginia Beach, VA
- 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.
- Virginia Beach Holiday Parade 12/3 @ 5:00 PM, Boardwalk Astronomy Site, 2401 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, 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.

January 2023

- BBAA General meeting, 1/5 @ 7:30 PM, Tidewater Community College VB Campus
- Corn Watch 1/13 @ Cornland Park, 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA
- Skywatch 1/14 @ Northwest River Park 5:00 PM, 1569 Indian Creek Road, Chesapeake, VA
- Corn Watch 1/20 @ Cornland Park, , 2908 Benefit Rd. Chesapeake VA
- New Moon New You Night Hike, 1/20 @ 8:00 PM, Lone Star Lakes Park, 401 Kings Hwy, Suffolk, VA
- Nightwatch, 1/21@ Chippokes Plantation State Park, Surry, VA.
- Astronomy 101 Outreach, 1/25 @ 7:00 PM, Kempsville Community Recreation Center, 2520 Perimeter Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA
- Garden Stars, 1/26 @ NBG, 7:00 PM, 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA

- Carrollton Elementary STEM Family Night, 1/26 @ 6:00 PM, 14440 New Towne Haven Lane, Carrollton, VA

- Saturday "SUN" day 1/28 @ 10:00 AM, Elizabeth River Park, Chesapeake, VA.

Secretary's Report

Secretary was absent, and no minutes were read.

Treasurer's Report: (Richard Roberts):

- General Fund: \$3,171.00
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$270.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$774.00
- 4 Honorary Members
- 9 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members
- 162 Regular Members
- 177 Total Members on the Roster

There will be an occultation of Mars and the Moon on December 7, 2022. It won't be visible through our telescopes, but you can view it online through this link:

<https://www.kopernik.org/unar-occultation-of-mars-conjunction-of-the-moon-and-mars/>

Scholarship Report: (Benito Loyola)

Tickets for the Georgie June Scholarship Fund should be available for purchase on December 10th at the annual luncheon.

Donations are always appreciated! The BBAA is a 501(c)(3) Scientific Educational organization dedicated to "Bringing Astronomy to the People of Hampton Roads."

All donations to the Back Bay Amateur Astronomers are tax deductible. You can make a cash donation at the BBAA website: <http://backbayastro.org/store.php>.

ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers)

Bruce gave an overview of what the Astronomical League's 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.

Programs and awards.

Once you have completed your program, Bruce asks you to contact the Program Coordinator from the AL website for instructions on submitting your work for review. Each program has a separate coordinator, so please follow this link for more information:

<https://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/AlphabeticObservingClubs.html>

New Business:

The BBAA has been invited to set up telescopes on the boardwalk in front of the old Coast Guard museum during the annual holiday parade on Saturday, December 3rd at 5:00 PM. We did an event at the museum on November 17th that was well received. Five BBAA members were there, and over 125 guests looked through our telescopes. The event was so well received that the museum asked us back for the holiday parade event!

The city of Portsmouth Parks and Rec has expressed interest in the BBAA having monthly events in 2023. Details are to be announced soon.

Observing Reports:

Several attendees mentioned getting good views of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars.

Presentation:

Telescopes buying 101. George Reynolds gave us a presentation on telescopes, which ones are worth the money and which ones to avoid. A word of warning about the shortage of telescopes, Orion and other manufacturers are having difficulties with their supply chain, so your telescope may arrive after Christmas. George has six handouts that were given out at the meeting, and he is making them available to anyone who wants one via email. You can request one from George at pathfinder027 at Yahoo.com, or download them at this website:

http://backbayastro.org/documents/Telescope_Buying_Guide_Handouts.zip. The first handout is advice on buying a telescope for a child. Some of the quotes are as follows. "Thinking about buying a scope for a child? Age counts, although not as much as you might think; a bright, interested eight-year-old can make more use of enjoying more and learn more with a telescope than a disinterested 14-year-old. The only real problems associated are with the child's age or how much weight and size the child can lift and carry, and how much money you're willing to spend. How much the child knows is the best assurance you have that interest will last as the amount of effort he or she puts into learning about it". The second handout is eight pages long and offers advice for people new to astronomy and wanting to purchase their first real telescope. The third handout regards what not to buy, like department store telescopes with plastic lenses. Regarding binoculars, never purchase anything having red or so-called Ruby coatings or amber gold-tinted coatings; this is a certain indication of inferior unsuitable instruments that won't satisfy the viewing requirements of astronomy. The other handouts are buying guides for Orion smaller telescopes ranging in price from \$80 for a tabletop Reflector to \$420 for a 5.3-inch Dobsonian.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Attendance List:

In Person:

Shawn Loescher
Jeff Goldstein
David Shouldice

Jonathan Longman
Kevin Brooks
Ronald Neale
Ana Kohlway
Bruce Powers
Jacob Daniel
Michael Russo
Kevin Mitchell
Damien Twyman

Online:

George Reynolds
Richard Roberts
William Harrison
Ben Loyola
Sandra Paxson
Pamela Nichols
Aldo
Mark Wilson
Roland Downing