

Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes

MAY 4, 2023

Called to order @ 7:30 PM, @ at TCC by President George Reynolds

Members in Attendance:

Ana Kohlway, David Shouldice, Matt McLaughlin, Bill Powers (a “new old member” who rejoined at the meeting after several years of inactivity), Kirt Kerr, Eric Fadely, Shawn Loescher, Neill Alford, Bill Rust, Ben Loyola, Kevin Brooks, Jeff Goldstein, Rafael Mazzocchi, Paul Sood, George Reynolds.

ZOOM Attendees:

Rich Roberts, Chuck Jagow, Bruce Powers, Rachel Perry, Jonathan Scheetz, Roland Downing, Dave Fontanyi, Derrick McDonald, Ron Herndon, Sherri, Meltonk.

REPORTS:

Events Report: Vice President, Jeff Goldstein

Calendar:

- Club Meeting- TCC (VB Campus) 5/4
- Larrimore ES Astronomy Night 7:00-9:00 5/11
- YO! Youth Summit & Mental Health Awareness Event 11:00-2:00 5/13
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 8:00-12:00 5/13
- (Cancelled) IRHS Skywatch 6:00-9:00 5/16
- Garden Stars 8:30-10:00 5/25
- Night Hike @ Northwest River Park 8:00-10:30 5/26
- Saturday “SUN” Day 10:00-1:00 5/27
- Boardwalk Astronomy #1 6:00-11:00 5/30
- Club Meeting- TCC (VB Campus) 6/1

Treasurer's Report (Richard Roberts): The treasurer's report was accepted.

- **General fund = \$5,980.53**
- **Primary Scholarship = \$2,588.29**
- **Georgie June Scholarship = 1,900.00**

MEMBERSHIP DATA

- **Honorary Members = 4**
- **Associate Members w/AL = 8**
- **Associate Members = 2**
- **Regular Members = 149**

Total Members on Roster = 168

Secretary's Report: (Secretary was absent)

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

ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers)

Bruce stated we did not have any members awards in this month's Reflector magazine. He encourages everyone to look into these awards. He also talked about getting involved with the Astronomical League's Observing Programs.

Scholarship Report (Benito Loyola)

Ben stated that the club offers 2 scholarships a \$1,500.00 from the BBAA and a \$1000.00 Scholarship from the Georgie June Memorial Scholarship Fund. Online applications were due the 1st of May. Applicants have to provide their GPA and a copy of their SAT or ACT scores. Also, a recommendation from their teacher and a 500-word essay stating what they like or their experience with Astronomy.

Old Business:

We have BBAA apparel available. George Reynolds gave out a door price. A book entitled (Advanced Skywatching) at the ending of the meeting. Won by Kirt Kerr. We have 5000 Eclipse Glasses for sale in preparation of the 2024 eclipse on April 8th which are \$2.00 apiece. Oct 10th there will be an eclipse event @ Courtland.

New Business:

Jeff Goldstein stated that he and Sam Bartholomew were appointed the Solar Eclipse Ambassadors as part of the club.

Observing Reports:

Jeff stated that Shawn is the “Venus finder”. Bruce Power brought up Shawn Loescher’s EAST COAST STAR PARTY website. George Reynolds spoke about Dowdy Park in Nags Head that they saw a one day old “Moon, Venus,,Mars and Jupiter”

Meeting feature: Ben Loyola My Observatory I built !

“Ben showed slides of the design, construction, and equipping of his home observatory, and the meticulously detailed adjustment of the equipment. He also talked about how the photons travels through his Celestron Edge HD C-14 OTA which is a Schmitt Cassegrain reflector telescope that he uses. He touched on Telescope System issues. The best ways to capture the photons for imaging and eliminating noise issues that affect your images. He spoke about the importance of Polar Aligning your telescope. He spoke about Backlash that affects your tracking and the importance of having your telescope east heavy during OTA balancing. Overall preparing your telescope for night imaging.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:06PM