

Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes

JUNE 1, 2023

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

Members in Attendance:

Ana Kohlway, Matt McLaughlin, Shawn Loescher, Ben Loyola, Kevin Brooks, Jeff Goldstein, Paul Sood, George Reynolds, Shawn Weaver, Aaron Weaver, Sam Bartholomew, Eddie Parris, Bruce Powers, Jacob Daniel, Les Wilson, Sonia Kekeh, Richard Smith, Jerome Smith, Likhita Raparti, Madison Hanrahan, Lisa Hanrahan, Jeff Edmondson, Merel Cook.

REPORTS:

Events Report: Vice President, Jeff Goldstein

Calendar:

- Club Meeting- TCC (VB Campus) 6/1
- 3 Southern Targets: Omega Centauri, Centaurus A, and M83 @ Knotts Island 6/4
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park 6/9
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 6/10
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park 6/16
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park 6/17-18
- Star Gazing At The Beach 6/24
- Saturday "SUN" Day 6/24
- Boardwalk Astronomy #2 6/27
- Garden Stars 6/29
- Lost in Space Boys and Girls Club Star Observation 7/7
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park 7/14
- Annual Family Picnic 7/15
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park 7/15-16
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park 7/21
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 7/22
- Boardwalk Astronomy #3 7/25
- Garden Stars 7/27
- Saturday "SUN" Day 7/29

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

- **General fund = \$5,203.86**
- **Primary Scholarship = \$2,798.29**
- **Georgie June Scholarship = 1,900.00**

MEMBERSHIP DATA

- **Honorary Members = 4**
- **Associate Members w/AL = 8**
- **Associate Members = 2**
- **Regular Members = 159**

Total Members on Roster = 173

Secretary's Report: (Eddie Parris)

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

ALCOR Report: (Bruce Powers)

Bruce stated that all new members of the club will automatically receive the quarterly publication of the Reflector magazine at no cost. He talked about the observing report pins you can receive for doing the observing report challenges. He mentioned the upcoming East Coast Star Party (redux) Sept 14-17 @ Chippokes State Park. All questions can be answered on Shawn's Web site that he developed for the Star Party @ backbayastro.org you can also register there, and a map is provided. There will be power, and water also flushed toilets. Sites can be reserved for RVs also. Ben is also working on door prices at the site.

Scholarship Report & Award of Scholarship's (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 given yearly nonprofit. Online applications were due the 1st of May. Applicants must 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. He also explained our selection process.

Georgie June Memorial Scholarship Award Winner: Sonia KeKeh shared about herself, her project and where she is going to school. She turned in a paper she wrote to Ben entitled "Overall Elements Tracking Asteroids". She also visited The Moorhead observatory in chapel hill NC. where she was able to accumulate data to find the orbital elements of the asteroids.

Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Scholarship Award winner: Madison Hanrahan gave a background about herself and where she is heading off to. Madison spoke about her extra curriculum activities. She is a High School Senior in Chesapeake. She is very interested in Astronomy. She wrote a separate speech which can be seen on the BBAA website.

RRRT Report

Ben explained that the (Rapid Response Reflector Telescope) is a very large Reflector telescope located at Fan Mountain. All members of BBAA can use it. It was put together by Norfolk State University and UVA. BBAA is the principal organization which helped design it, wire it, and organize it. There for BBAA members have unlimited access. Anyone that wants to access it just go to the web page and indicate what you want to see. All the information is available on our site.

Old Business:

We have BBAA apparel available. We have 5000 Eclipse Glasses for sale in preparation of the 2024 eclipse on April 8th which are \$2.00 apiece. On Oct 10th there will be an eclipse event @ Courtland.

New Business:

George suggested that at the upcoming EAST COAST STAR PARTY that we give out large prizes George requested a motion that we spend up to \$400.00 on door prizes which was seconded. We will also accept donations for door prizes.

Observing Reports:

One of our members imaged the Supernova (SN 2023ixf) located in the prominent HII region of NGC5461 of the Pinwheel Galaxy. Paul Sood talked about his love of astrophotography and his excitement of learning new skills to help him take better images. Jeff, Eddie, Shawn, Leah and Kevin went to Knotts Island and managed to bring back an image of Omega Centauri NGC5139.

Meeting feature: An Eclipse to Remember by George Reynolds

Where were you on August 21,2017?

George Reynolds spoke about his adventure tracking the Eclipse. He was in Cerulean, Kentucky at a small church where he ended up being the “featured Astronomer” at Sinking Fork Christian Church. He had 2 computers and 2 telescopes running! He gave a presentation on Eclipse 101 (basic information) How to enjoy a partial eclipse, What’s the big deal about a total eclipse? Resources for viewing, holding eclipse parties, and more! He also gave local information on the upcoming Eclipse’s for Hampton Roads. The amount we will see. How to track it. and safety for viewing.

Jeff Goldstein stated That he and Samantha Reynolds are the Solar Systems Ambassadors for our area. They are still in the training phase. He brought some training aids and demonstrated how they use them to teach. He gave out prizes for those who correctly answered the questions that he presented in the club meeting. Jeff will be heading to Valley Mills Texas to view the Eclipse and offered to give a presentation to a local High School. He also informed everyone that we will have 3 sites that we will set up for the Eclipse viewing for the public in Hampton Roads. At the end of the night’s presentations the drawing of the winners of the previously handed out raffle tickets at the beginning of the meeting was announced. The first prize was. A NASA Video entitled “from the sun to the stars Helophysics “the second prize was also a video entitled “journey to the stars”

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:54PM