

Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2023

Called to order @ 7:30 PM, @ at TCC by Vice President Jeff Goldstein

Members in Attendance:

Sam Bartholomew, Leah Flax, David Shouldice, Kevin Mitchell, Jason Nduati, Paul Sood, Jeff Goldstein, Jeff Edmondson, David Pugh, Ana Kohlway, Jeff Thornton, Jeremy Mitchell, Ron Rypinski, James Green, Shawn Loescher.

ZOOM Attendees:

Rich Roberts, Bruce Powers, Kevin Brooks, Roland Downing, Patrick Vartuli, Tom Flatley

REPORTS:

Events Report: Vice President, Jeff Goldstein

Calendar:

- Club Meeting- TCC (VB Campus) 10/5/23
- Croatan Star Gazing 10/6/23 8:30-10:00pm
- (Cancelled) ODU Reign in Science Day 10/7/23 10:00-1:00pm
- Skywatch@ Northwest River Park 10/7/23 7:00-11:00pm
- Solar eclipse safety 10/9/23 8:30-10:00pm
- Solar Eclipse Program 10/10/23 10:00-12:00pm
- Fantastic Planet @ ODU Day1 10/13 6:00-10:00pm
- Eclipse Viewing @ the Virginia Beach Surf & Rescue Museum 10/14/23 12:02am-2:45pm
- Eclipse Viewing @ the Chesapeake Planetarium 10/14/23 12:02-2:45pm
- Fantastic Planet @ ODU Day2 10/14 6:00-10:00pm
- Fantastic Planet @ ODU Day3 10/15 6:00-10:00pm
- Kempsville Rec Center Astronomy 101-6 10/18/23 7:30-9:00pm
- Garden Stars 10/19/23 7:30-9:00pm
- Churchland Primary Spooktacular Science Night 10/24/23 6:00-8:00pm
- Saturday "SUN" 10/28/23 10:00-1:00pm
- Kempsville Rec Center Astronomy 101-7 11/1/23 7:00-8:30pm
- Club Meeting-TCC (VB Campus) 11/2/23 7:30-9:00pm
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 11/4/23 5:00-9:00pm
- OBX Fall Star Party 11/17/23 4:30-8:29pm
- Saturday "SUN" 11/18/23 10:00-1:00pm

- Churchland Explore the Planets Night 11/21/23 6:00-7:30pm

Treasurer's Report (Richard Roberts):

- **General fund = \$5,300.29**
- **Primary Scholarship = \$1,348.29**
- **Georgie June Scholarship = \$900.00**

MEMBERSHIP DATA

- **Honorary Members = 4**
- **Associate Members w/AL = 11**
- **Associate Members = 2**
- **Regular Members = 176**

Total Members on Roster = 193

Secretary's Report: (Eddie Parris absent)

Scholarship Report & Award of Scholarship's (Benito Loyola absent)

RRRT Report

Raid Response Reflector Telescope) is a million-dollar telescope which is available to all members to use. it's not in service right now due to it being serviced (Mirror is being resilvered). But should be up by the end of May.

ALCOR Report (Bruce Powers)

Bruce talked about the East Coast Star Party. Acknowledged the contributions made by George Reynolds, Shawn Loescher, and Rich Roberts. To make the event successful. We had 21 campers on the field along with over 100 guests on the Friday night public night event. There were 3 nights of clear weather to go along with the success of the event. \$450.00 of raffle prizes handed out. He spoke about his completion of the Globular Clusters Challenge that he finished after 3 years at the Star Party. He summarized how he did it and explained how fellow club members can achieve the award.

OLD Business:

Jeff Goldstein proposed that the \$500.00 sky pen for Scheduling the Board walk astronomy will go to the Scholarship fund. Also, T-shirts are still available.

New Business:

We were donated two telescopes. The first a 4” was from the Astronomical League that Jeff had applied for which is going to the Newport News Library. The second, an 8” was donated by a person that a club member will be taken. George proposed assembling a nominating committee for the upcoming November election for officers (Treasurer and Vice President).

Observing Reports:

No observing reports made.

Meeting features: How to use the Celestron STARSENSE device by Rachel V Perry

Rachel gave a presentation on the Sep-up and operation of the device. Including the alignment, also it uses smartphone technology to study the night sky and calculate celestial positions in real-time. She also spoke about Celestron’s background and product history.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:00PM

