

Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2023

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

Members in Attendance:

Leah Flax, David Shouldice, Kevin Mitchell, Jeff Goldstein, Ana Kohlway, Jeremy Mitchell, Ron Repinski, James Green, Shawn Loescher. Eddie Parris, Bill Powers, James Sorenson, George Reynolds, Kirt Kerv, Geoffrey Runyon, Bill Rust, Dugan Tommy, Michael Russo, Clayton Prather, Mark Midland, Michall, Madeleine Waldow, Andy McKay, Evan Stallings, Benito Loyola, Kaitlum Ramera, Brian Morgan.

ZOOM Attendees:

Rich Roberts, Bruce Powers, Kevin Brooks, Roland Downing,, Tom Flatley, Les the Farmer, Jonathan Longman, Wayne.

REPORTS:

Events Report: Vice President, Jeff Goldstein

Calendar:

- Club Meeting- TCC (VB Campus) 11/2/23 7:30-9:00pm
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 11/4/23 5:00-9:00pm
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park 11/10/23
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park 11/11-11/12/23 5:00-6:00am
- OBX Fall Star Party 11/17/23 4:30-8:29pm
- Saturday "SUN" Day 11/18/23 10:00-1:00pm
- Churchland Explore the Planets Night 11/21/23 6:00-7:30pm.
- Saturday "SUN" Day 12/2/23 10:00-1:00pm
- The Muse's (and Ghent Market Shops) Holiday Party 12/2/23 5:30-9:30pm
- Astronomy Night at the Gates County Library-NC 12/6/23 6:30-10:00pm
- Club Meeting- TCC (VB Campus) 12/7/23 7:30-9:00pm
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park 12/8/23
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 12/9/23 5:00-9:00pm
- Geminids Meteor Shower 12/13-12/14/23 11:00pm-3:00am
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park 12/15/23
- BBAA Annual Anniversary Luncheon 12/16/23 12:00-3:00pm
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park 12/16-12/17/23 5:00-6:00am

Treasurer's Report (Richard Roberts):

- **General fund = \$5,330.81**
- **Primary Scholarship = \$1,358.29**
- **Georgie June Scholarship = \$900.00**

MEMBERSHIP DATA

- **Honorary Members = 4**
- **Associate Members w/AL = 11**
- **Associate Members = 2**
- **Regular Members = 184**

Total Members on Roster = 201

(Membership renewals will be sent out in December)

Secretary's Report: (Eddie Parris)

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

Scholarship Report & Award of Scholarship's (no report)

RRRT Report

Rapid Response Robotic Telescope, a million-dollar telescope which is available to all members to use is now operational.

ALCOR Report (Bruce Powers)

Bruce talked about his completion of the Globular Clusters Challenge that was being reviewed that he finished at the East Coast Star Party after 3 years..

OLD Business:

The Georgie June Scholarship raffle was discussed and proposed that we raffle off a Celestron 5" StarSense Schmidt Cassegrain Telescope. The tickets will be sold through April for \$5.00 each and the winning ticket will be drawn in May.

New Business:

George reminded all to set clocks back (end of Daylight Savings Time) and spoke about the beginning of the BBAA December 14, 1978, and the upcoming Anniversary Luncheon that will be held at Stripers Restaurant Saturday, December 16 at 12 noon. He also spoke about next

year's East Coast Star Party in the Spring and coordinating with Chippokes. He asked for those interested in being on the committee to let him know. Jeff Goldstein proposed that we make Club ID cards for members which was approved. November election of officers (Treasurer and Vice President). Richard Roberts and Jeff Goldstein indicated that they would be willing to serve. They were elected by acclamation.

Observing Reports:

Members indicated that they observed the Moon and its phases. The Orionid meteor shower at Sandbridge. Also, a member was doing some Jupiter imaging. And another member imaged M31, IC63 and IC1396. Rich's five-year-old young son viewed the planets and constellations. Shawn talked about the Spooktacular event that was held at Churchland Primary School and how all the children that were so interested in Astronomy.

Meeting features: How to buy a Telescope by George Reynolds

George's topics touched on: Buying a telescope as a gift, Different Types of Telescopes, how they gather the light, their Magnification and what that means, selecting eye pieces, using a telescope to view the sun and dangers of not having the proper solar filters. Purchasing a sturdy mount and tripod. How not to get ripped off by fancy boxes with unattainable power ratings on them. The cost and warnings about purchasing a Department Store Telescope. Purchase from a reputable Dealer such as Highpoint Scientific, OPT, Celeston, Mead, Orion, etc.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:14PM