

**Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes**  
**January 4, 2024 by President George Reynolds**  
**Called to order @ 7:37 PM, @ at Kempsville Rec Center**

**Members in Attendance:**

Jeff Goldstein, Shawn Loescher, George Reynolds, Neil Alford, John Almeter, Samantha Burris, Gabriel Dandrade, Tom Flatley, Michael Hall, Marco Iraola, (with his two children) Kirt Kerr, Ana Kohlway, Jonathan Longman, Ben Loyola, Ed Marciano, Matt McLaughlin, Jeremy Mitchell, Wayne Mitnick, James Sorenson and Stallings.

**ZOOM Attendees:**

Rich Roberts, Eddie Parris, David Shouldice, Robert Beuerlein, Patrick Vartuli

**Reports:**

***Secretary's Report: Eddie Parris***

Last Month's Minutes was read and accepted and seconded.

***Events Report: Vice President, Jeff Goldstein***

**Calendar:**

- Club Meeting- Kempsville Rec Center 1/4/24 7:30-9:00pm
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 1/6/24 5:00-9:00pm
- Comet Watch 12p/Pons-Brooks 1/7/24 6:00-7:00pm
- Winter Star Party 1/13/24 4:30-9:00pm
- Kempsville Rec Center Astronomy 101 1/17/24 6:30-8:30pm
- Garden Stars 1/18/24 7:00-8:00pm
- Saturday "SUN" Day 1/20/24 10:00am-1:00pm
- Trail Life VA4031 Astronomy Lesson 1/22/24 7:30-8:30pm
- Greenbrier Primary STEAM Day 1/24/24 7:50am-1:50pm
- OLES PTA Stem Night 1/31/24 6:00-7:30pm

***Treasurer's Report (Richard Roberts):***

- General fund = \$6,370.70
- Primary Scholarship = \$3,385.29
- Georgie June Scholarship = \$1,145.00

**Membership Data**

- Honorary Members = 5
- Associate Members w/AL = 11
- Associate Members = 3
- Regular Members = 189

**Total Members on Roster = 208**

### ***Scholarship Report & Award of Scholarship's (Benito Loyola)***

Ben talked about the Scholarships and its history also how they are funded. There were two past Scholarship award winners present.

### ***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 absent)***

Bruce sent a message through Jeremy that there will be an event called ALCON 2024 "Stars and all the Jazz" which will take place in Kansas City Missouri. And sent a link on the Facebook page. The of the event is July 17<sup>th</sup>-22 2024. There will be a Zoom call for the upcoming Springtime East Cost Star Party for the committee on 10 January at 7:30pm for members who are not part of the committee who have questions and concerns for the committee to voice them on Zoom or on the clubs Facebook page. George reiterated for members to get their observing reports to the Astronomical League to have their names posted in the Reflector magazine.

### ***Old Business:***

There will be a Zoom call for the upcoming Springtime East Cost Star Party for the committee on 10 January at 7:30pm for members who are not part of the committee who have questions and concerns for the committee to voice them on Zoom or on the clubs Facebook page. George reiterated for members to get their observing reports to the Astronomical League to have their names posted in the Reflector 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:***

Two of our members were on Channel 13 at Noon (Jeff Goldstein and Shawn Loescher) They shared the video, which was available at Noon Guest: Back Bay Amateur Astronomers bring love of outer space to Hampton Roads. On the video spoke about our club what we do with outreach programs our upcoming events and they also brought the telescope to be raffled to the studio. Also did a plug about the upcoming total eclipse. George mentioned that in our last quarterly reflector magazine there was an article entitled a "Sun Funnel" like the one George uses at our Sunday on Saturday events. The originators were the editor "Rick Fienberg" of Astronomy magazine and a friend of Georges who works at Godard Space Flight Center "Lue Mayo." Anyone interested in learning how to make one just goggle Sun Funnel. It will take you to a site on how to do so.

### ***Observing Reports:***

Jeff Goldstien spotted a comet.

### ***Meeting features: The new smart telescope the "SeaStar" by Jeff Goldstien***

Jeff brought in his telescope spoke about how to use its functions and shared his images he has taken.

**Meeting Adjourned @ 9:14PM**