

**Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes**  
**February,1 2024 by President George Reynolds**  
**Called to order @ 7:33 PM, @ TCC**

**Members in Attendance:**

Jeff Goldstein, Shawn Loescher, George Reynolds, Kirt Kerr, Ben Loyola, Jeremy Mitchell, Evan Stallings, Geoffrey Runyon, Richard Smith, Bruce Powers, Jacob Daniel, Joseph Brown, David Runtany, Patrick Vartuli, Jeff Edmondson, Jeff Thornton, David Shouldice, Eddie Parris.

**ZOOM Attendees:**

Rich Roberts, Bob Beuerlein, Roland Downing, James Sorenson, Kevin Brooks.

**REPORTS:**

**Secretary's Report: Eddie Parris**

Last Month's Minutes were read and accepted

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

**Calendar:**

- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 2/3/2024 5:00-9:00pm
- Kempsville Rec Center Astronomy 101 2/14/2024 6:30-8:30pm
- Garden Stars 2/15/2024 7:00-8:30pm
- Saturday "SUN" Day 2/17//2024 10:00am-1:00pm
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 3/2/2024 7:00-11:00pm
- Kempsville Rec Center Astronomy 101 3/6/2024 6:30-8:30pm
- Club Meeting - TCC (VB Campus) 3/7/2024 7:30-9:00pm
- Garden Stars 3/14/2024 8:00-9:30pm
- Stargazing at the Fort Story Campgrounds 3/15/2024 8:30-10:00pm
- "Eclipse"@ Churchland Library 3/23/2024 11:00am-12:00pm
- Saturday "SUN" Day 3/30//2024 10:00am-1:00pm

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

- **General fund = \$7,209.79**
- **Primary Scholarship = \$3,395.29**
- **Georgie June Scholarship = \$1,365.08**

**MEMBERSHIP DATA**

- **Honorary Members = 5**
- **Associate Members w/AL = 11**

- **Associate Members = 3**
- **Regular Members = 192**

**Total Members on Roster = 211**

The Treasures report were accepted.

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

Ben indicated that we will be submitting the forms to the schools for the amounts of \$1500.00 and \$1000.00 for the Georgie June and Primary scholarships.

### **RRRT Report**

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

### **ALCOR Report (Bruce Powers)**

Bruce spoke about the annual convention ALCON 2024 "Stars and all that Jazz" which will take place in Kansas City Missouri. The event starts July 17<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> 2024. "Tuvok" Tim Ross from Star Trek Voyager will be there. Also, David Levy co-discoverer of Comet Shoemaker-Levy and others. There will be more information in the upcoming edition of the Reflector magazine. He urged members to Participate in the observers program. The East Coast Star Party meeting with Trevor Johnson went well. The old permit was revised for 2024 and resubmitted with the fee and accepted. He spoke of Shawn Loescher's updated ECSP website for the upcoming event. He urged those with RVs to register ASAP! also NO Generators will be allowed to run all night, but may be used during the day for charging batteries.

### **OLD Business:**

The raffle tickets for the Celestron 5" StarSense Schmidt Cassegrain Telescope will be sold for \$5.00 each through April, when the the winning ticket will be drawn. There were NIGHT SKY NETWORK STAR 2023 pins awarded to members that participated in the Outreach programs throughout the year. The Dates, time and milage are required to submit on the club's website for the awards.

### **New Business:**

George reminded everyone about the upcoming Skywatch event this weekend. A member asked about using green laser pointers at the ECSP. Green lasers can be used only on public viewing nights because of interference with those who are imaging with their equipment. ID cards were given out to members to display at outreach events. There were tickets given out at the start of the meeting for a Door prize which is a "green light star pointer". The winning ticket was pulled out of a hat and the prize was presented to the lucky ticket holder, Kirt Kerr.

**Observing Reports:**

Jeff Edmonson thanked members for helping him get started in the wonderful world of Astronomy and also for lending him a telescope and equipment that he can learn from. Another member Jeff Thornton has been doing some Solar observing.

**Meeting features: I LOVE ASTRONOMY! Presented by George Reynolds**

George selected this subject due to the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday. There are many heart related images now in the sky. He spoke of the Greek mythologies that incorporated romantic themes in the heavens that gave us the constellations that we know now. He mentioned a website "Heavens Above" that is very helpful in determining your location which is very important when observing. It is also helpful in tracking the ISS and the location of Constellations etc.. It has many other helpful astronomical features.

**Meeting Adjourned @ 9:14PM**