

Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2024 by President George Reynolds

Called to order @ 7:30 PM, @ TCC

Members in Attendance:

Neil Alford, John Almeter, Sam Bartholomew, Joseph Brown, Jeff Edmondson, Tom Flatley, David Fontanyi, Jeff Goldstein, Kirt Kerr, Shawn Loescher, Jonathan Longman, Benito Loyola, Jeremy Mitchell, Eddie Parris, Rachel Perry, Clayton Prather, David Read, Ron Repinski, George Reynolds, Mike Russo, Bill Rust, David Shouldice, Richard Smith, Evan Stallings, Jeff Thornton, Patrick Vartuli.

ZOOM Attendees:

Kate, Kevin Brooks, Roland Downing, Randy Regan, Rich Roberts, Geoffrey Runyon, Nigel Taylor, Ron in Yorktown.

Special Report:

George spoke of the passing of long-time member and a former Vice President Dale Carey. A Moment of Silence was held. George requested that if anyone has any pictures of Dale please send to him at pathfinder027@yahoo.com

REPORTS:

Astronomical News

March 10th Eastern Standard Time -> **Eastern Daylight Time**

“Devil Comet” 12P/Pons-Brooks (periodic 71 yrs.) currently in Andromeda

March 10th close to M31 about 7 degrees

March 22st close to M33 about 3 degrees

Perihelion on April 21st (might be visible during the Total Eclipse on April 8th)

March 13th Jupiter/Moon conjunction thin crescent (around 8 PM EDT)

March 21nd Venus/Saturn conjunction (between 6 and 7 AM EDT)

March 24th Mercury G.E.E. 18.7 deg from Sun

March 25th Penumbral Lunar Eclipse [Saros 113 #64] Sunday 3:12 AM EDT greatest “bottom smudge”

Events Report: Vice President, Jeff Goldstein

Calendar:

- 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
- Astronomy 101 at JEB Little Creek Library 4/3/2024 6:30-8:30pm
- Club Meeting- TCC (VB Campus) 4/4/2024 7:30pm-9:00pm
- Statewide Star Party: OBX 4/5/2024 6:30pm-10:00pm
- Skywatch (Beginner Campground) @ Northwest River Park 4/6/2024 6:30pm-11:00pm
- Statewide Star Party (Dismal Swamp) 4/6/2024 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Total Eclipse of 2024 (78% obscured in Tidewater) NN Library 4/8/2024 1:50-4:30pm
- Kempsville Rec Center Astronomy 101 4/11/2024 7:30pm-9:00pm
- Tidewater Master Naturalist Monthly Program 4/17/2024 7:00pm-7:45pm
- Garden Stars 4/18/2024 8:30-9:00pm
- Saturday “SUN” Day 4/20//2024 10:00am-1:00pm
- Malibu Science Night 4/24/2024 6:00pm-7:30pm
- STEAM Night 2024 George Washington Carver School 4/25/2024 6:00pm-7:30pm
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 4/27/2024 8:00-12:00pm
- Girl Scout Sun Viewing Party 4/28/2024 12:00pm-2:00pm

Secretary’s Report: (Eddie Parris)

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

Treasurer’s Report (Richard Roberts):

- **General fund = \$7,607.50**
- **Primary Scholarship = \$3,405.29**
- **Georgie June Scholarship = \$1,674.00**

MEMBERSHIP DATA

- **Honorary Members = 5**
- **Associate Members w/AL = 7**
- **Associate Members = 3**
- **Regular Members = 157**

Total Members on Roster = 172

The Treasurer’s report was accepted.

ALCOR Report (Bruce Powers absent)

Bruce is currently at the Staunton River Star Party and George gave the report. There will be a site visit with the new park Ranger at Chippokes State Park on 23rd of March. At the visitor's center @11:00am. Committee members need to attend. Bruce plans to order door prizes for the ECSP in late March. Jeremy Mitchell, one of Bruce's coworkers had some great ideas and spoke about more beginner levels of the Astronomical League programs. He spoke about awards, achievements observing programs, the night sky and how to get started. He suggested for those getting to started to purchase a book *Objects in the Heavens* which is very helpful for observing. It's not just for beginners but for all levels of experience to use.

Scholarship Report & Award of Scholarships (Benito Loyola)

Ben gave a quick summary of our nonprofit Scholarship programs, its history of how it all started and how we get the funds to support both Scholarships. He also spoke about how the winners are selected, how to support them through our site and to contribute online. Note that it is also tax deductible. The amounts of the scholarships range from \$2000.00 and \$1500.00 for the Primary and Georgie June scholarships. The Scholarships are determined by the Students GPA, SAT and ACT scores, a 500-word essay and a letter of endorsement from a teacher.

RRRT Report

Was not discussed.

Old Business:

Clothing apparel orders were discussed. The Nick Anderson scholarship proposal was brought up and debated. It was proposed that the Scholarship committee discuss it further.

New Business:

Boardwalk astronomy has 5 events scheduled. The city informed us that we are getting \$250.00 per event not \$500.00 due to Budget cuts. The city is having a May the 4th Star Wars event and thinks we should participate in the event. T-shirts with a Star Wars theme along with our BBAA normal logos to sell was discussed. Shaun proposed that we invest in a machine to print the t-shirts which would help in making more cost effective for the clubs' outreach and scholarship programs. The proposal was discussed, and it was decided we need to investigate it more at a later date. Further discussion will be made on the groups IO. ID cards were also handed out to those who did not receive theirs at the last BBAA meeting.

Observing Reports:

David Shouldice reported that he observed on Valentine's night and that he had seen a fuzzy ball moving with little white dots coming from it. He found out that it was a SpaceX rocket putting out Starlink satellites.

Meeting features: Get Ready for the April 8 solar eclipse! Presented by George Reynolds

George shared about the August 21, 2017 solar eclipse which he and his family journeyed to Sinking Fork Christian Church, in Cerulean, Kentucky. He shared photos and talked about a presentation he gave to the church about what to expect in a total solar eclipse. He shared that the church put out a brochure in which he was listed as the featured Astronomer. He talked to them about how to look at the eclipse safely. Told them about what stars to look for in the total eclipse. He shared with us the slides that he showed them. He explained to them why the moon appears to cover the whole sun "The Cosmic Coincidence." George shared how he made a Sun funnel that he uses on Saturday "SUN" Day events to view the Sun. It can be helpful viewing the upcoming total/partial eclipse. He also shared a website which explains how to build one. A member brought up an interesting site during George's presentation that may be handy for the eclipse. "GreatAmericaneclipse.com" is a great site to track the eclipse. George shared a video at the end of his presentation about temperature and wind changes and awareness of the sounds of nature during a solar eclipse.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:00PM