

**Back Bay Amateur Astronomers Meeting Minutes**  
**May1,2024 by President George Reynolds**  
**Called to order @ 7:30 PM, @ TCC**

**Members in Attendance:**

John Almeter, Sam Bartholomew, Joseph Brown, Jacob Daniel, Jeff Edmondson, Thomas Flatley, Jeff Goldstein, Michael Hall, Jimmy-, Kirt Kerr, Ana Kohlway, Shawn Loescher, Matt McLaughlin, Bruce Powers, George Reynolds, Mike Russo, David Shouldice, Jeff Thornton.

**ZOOM Attendees:**

Kevin Brooks, Roland Downing, Derrick McDonald, Rich Roberts, Geoffrey, Runion, Jonathan Scheetz.

**REPORTS:**

**Events Report: President, George Reynolds**

**Calendar:**

- Cornwatch @ Cornland Park 5/3/2024 all night
- Nightwatch @ Cornland Park 5/4/2024 all night
- Star Wars (May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be With You) Extra Boardwalk Event 5/4/24 6:00pm-11:00pm
- East Coast Star Party (Spring 2024) 5/9/24-5/12/24 2:00pm-12:00am
- Boardwalk Astronomy #1 5/14/24 6:00pm-11:00pm
- International Astronomy Day 5/18/24 11:00am-2:00pm
- Garden Stars 5/23/2024 8:30pm-10:00pm
- Cornwatch @ Cornland Park 5/24/2024 all night
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 5/25/24 8:00pm-12:00am
- Girl Scout Encampment, Camp Skimino 6/1/2024 8-11pm
- Club Meeting- TCC (VB Campus) 6/6/2024 7:30-9:00pm
- James River Camera Club (George Kon'kov) 6/6/2024 6:30-8:30pm
- Cornwatch @ Cornland Park 6/7/2024 all night
- Nightwatch @ Cornland Park 6/8/2024 all night
- Boardwalk Astronomy #2 6/11/24 5-11pm
- Garden Stars 6/13/2024 8:30pm-10:00pm
- Saturday "SUN" Day 6/22/2024 10:00am-1:00pm
- Cornwatch @ Cornland Park 6/28/2024 all night
- Skywatch @ Northwest River Park 6/29/24 8:00pm-midnight

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

Last Month's Minutes were not read, since the Secretary was not there.

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

- **General Fund = 9,610.39**
- **Primary Scholarship = 3,425.29**
- **Georgie June Scholarship = 2,509.00**

## **Membership Data**

- **Honorary Members = 5**
- **Associate Members w/AL = 7**
- **Associate Members = 3**
- **Regular Members = 164**

**Total Members on Roster = 179**

The Treasurer's report was accepted. We received a \$40 donation to the scholarship fund from Edinburgh Animal Hospital and a \$200 donation given to Jeff Goldstein in Waco, TX.

## **Scholarship Report (Benito Loyola)**

Ben was not in attendance, but George indicated the the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for scholarship applications had just passed, so we should be watching the post office box for them. The scholarship committee will meet in a few weeks to consider the applications and decide weather to increase the scholarship amounts.

## **RRRT Report**

There was no RRRT report.

## **Old Business:**

We have approximately 1600 eclipse glasses left over- Shawn has about 800 and George has about 800- but we probably made a small profit, or at least broke even. George will deposit \$532 cash from eclipse glasses sales. We can continue to sell them on Saturday SUN Days. We also have many T-shirts for sale. Sam Bartholomew asked about a hat she had ordered, but George knew nothing about it, so he gave her a hat ordered by Robert Schmidt, who was not there. We will need to order another blue hat for Robert.

## **New Business:**

Two outreach events to plan for are the annual Barry Art Museum event at ODU (corner of 43<sup>rd</sup> and Hampton Blvd), which is scheduled for Friday and Saturday October 11 and 12, with Sunday October 13 as a rain date. Also, we have been contacted by the Neptune Festival asking if we could participate 27-29 September. As President, George will respond to that request. Shawn Loescher was tasked with looking for a different restaurant for the annual BBAA Anniversary Luncheon in December. Strypers has been good, but we hope to find a place less costly.

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

Jeff Thornton was awarded the Outreach Award, Basic and Steller levels, from the Astronomical League. Bruce reported on next week's upcoming East Coast Star Party at Chippokes State Park. He will contact Ranger Trevor Johnson to confirm any last-minute details. Shawn Loescher will order T-shirts, another sign, and red lights to line the walkways. George will buy the food, once we know the total number of registrants. He stated those with RVs should avoid parking on the field, since the forecast calls for rain in the days preceding ECSP. Also, no Generators will be allowed to run all night, but may be used during the day for charging batteries.

### **Meeting feature: Eclipse "Stories" and Observing Reports:**

**Various members recounted their eclipse adventures. George told of going to a farm near Attica, Ohio and having perfect weather. Michael Hall said he went to Uvalde, Texas and had clouds and rain. John Almeter did not go to his place in Main, but saw the eclipse in Indiana. Jeff Edmonson went to a small town in Maine and had good weather, with snow on the ground. Jeff Thornton went to Nashville, Illinois, and had high clouds, but good seeing for the eclipse. Jeff Goldstein had some clouds in Waco, TX, but was able to see the whole eclipse and capture some photos and a time-lapse video. Other members went to Oberlin, Ohio. Indianapolis, Indiana, and other places along the line of totality.**

To finish up, Jeff Goldstein explained his work to earn the A.L.'s "Gold" award for viewing the eclipse. It is a six-month project, involving a lot of complicated mathematics to calculate the Moon Saros cycles and determine the "ascending node" of lunar orbit.

**Meeting Adjourned @ 8:58PM**