

## **BBAA Minutes (January 2025 monthly meeting)**

Date: 01/02/2024 @ Kempsville Recreation Center

**7:30 pm:** The January 2025 meeting of the BBAA came to order. Recording started.

In attendance: **IN PERSON:** George Reynolds, Jeff Goldstein, Bruce Powers, Gabriel Dandrade, Jeremy Mitchell, Kent Blackwell, Shawn Loescher, Roland Downing, Michael Russo, Thomas Sershon, Matt McLaughlin, John Almeter, Tom Haltby, David Shouldice, Jacob Daniel, Sean Gamache, Evan Stallings, Rich Neete, Sandy Parson, Suhmn Pattnair, Thallau Pattnair. **ZOOM:** No Zoom available at Rec Center.

### **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

-The Georgie June raffle is still ongoing until early April. The raffle ticket price is \$5. The prize is a Celestron Star Sense LT-reflector Dobsonian that allows you to use your phone to help locate targets. It comes with a zoom eyepiece and a solar filter to use. Will be raffled off in the April BBAA meeting.

### **REPORTS:**

**7:32 pm:** VP/Schedule Report (Jeff Goldstein).

#### **-Calendar of events for January:**

January monthly meeting (Thurs Jan 2 @7:30 pm).

York River State Park observing (Sat Jan 4 @6:00 pm).

Garden Stars (Tues Jan 07 @7:00 pm).

Astronomy 101 at Kempsville Rec center (Wed Jan 8 @ 7:00 pm).

Saturday Sun Day (Sat Jan 11 @ 10:00 pm).

Solstice Academy Sun Observing (Wed Jan 15 @12:30 pm).

Cornwatch at Cornland Park (Fri Jan 17, Jan 24 and Jan 31 all @ Sunset).

Skywatch at NWRP is Saturday Jan 18 @ 6:00 pm.

Nightwatch at Chippokes SP (Sat Jan 21 @5:00 pm).

#### **-Calendar of events for February:**

February monthly meeting (Thurs Feb 6 @7:30 pm).

Garden Stars (Tues Feb 4 @7:00 pm).

Astronomy 101 (Harry Potter in the stars) at Kempsville Rec center (Wed Feb 5 @ 7:00 pm).

Saturday Sun Day (Sat Feb 8 @ 10:00 pm).

Cornwatch at Cornland Park (Fri Feb 21 and Feb 28 all @ Sunset).

Skywatch at NWRP is Saturday Feb 22 @ 6:00 pm.

Nightwatch at Chippokes SP (Sat Feb 1 @ 6:00 pm).

BVES PTA Star Party (Mon Feb 3 @ 5:30 pm).

### **General Information/Events notes**

-Need to RSVP as a club member through the Astronomical League website. Those not in the club cannot RSVP for club events, although they are still more than welcome to attend!

**7:40:** Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): Gabriel read the minutes from last meeting, listing important discussions and topics that came up, including the special topic on the Moore Catalog winter targets of note.

-A motion was made to accept the minutes and secretary's report at 7:47 pm, and was unanimously accepted.

**7:48 pm:** Treasurer's Report (Rich Roberts was not in attendance, so Jeremy Mitchell, the club president, gave an abridged version).

-Memberships were due for renewal on December 31<sup>st</sup> (\$23 a year in total). 203 total members on roster; over a hundred members are overdue on paying their membership. Be sure to double-check that you did pay your membership; online payment is accepted anytime. Link to pay the dues is on the Night Sky Network.

-New insurer is active, invoice coming in the next month or two.

-Treasurer's Report was accepted absentia unanimously at 7:57 pm.

**7:57:** ALCOR Report (Bruce Powers).

-Any club member gets a subscription to Reflector magazine every quarter. The March 2025 edition *only* will be only digital due to a new printer, as mentioned in the December meeting.

-New Hubble 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary observing award with gold and silver levels. You observe things that the HST has seen across each month of the year.

-New observing program coordinators needed for several new observing programs.

-The November edition of What's Up with the Astro League is available for anyone to download.

-The Astronomical League Convention this year is being held in Bryce Canyon, Utah.

-T Corona Borealis is still slated to erupt between March and November of this year; keep an eye out for any news about it!

-Solar Observing Challenge winners (2023 and 2024). Jeff Goldstein won the silver and gold level. Eddie Harris also achieved silver in 2024.

-East Coast Star Party is set to be held on March 27 through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, at Chippokes State Park. These are the same dates as the Staunton River SP, but due to Chippokes' schedule, these days were the only dates available on a new moon weekend. A fall date for the star party has not yet been finalized.

### **Other Reports:**

(No scholarship committee tonight; Ben was not in attendance).

-Nomination committee (Jeremy Mitchell): a new member should be elected now that Jeremy is club president.

-Refreshments committee (George Reynolds): This committee will bring in refreshments like coffee and water to meetings.

**8:15 pm:** Old Business.

-We need new business cards. Shawn is working on that right now.

**8:17 pm:** New Business.

-A telescope price fixing settlement is underway. A Taiwanese third-party seller has allegedly been fixing prices of amateur telescopes from Celestron, Meade and Orion. These telescopes needed to have been bought between January 2005 and September 2023.

-Outreach events. These are tons of fun and allow the general public to get up close with astronomical events. But direct outreach can also be intimidating. Jeremy is looking for an outreach training team for anyone who wants to get into outreach but might be nervous about it.

-Workshops. Specifically solar filters, where club members make homemade solar filters using DIY materials, and dew heaters using heated wires from toaster ovens. There have also been discussions about observing chair workshops, as well as doing about four workshops a year. A motion to accept Baader solar filter material under \$150 and to support a workshop was accepted at 8:26 pm.

-Earth-Sky is an online group that posts images of celestial targets. The Children's Museum planetarium and (potentially) ODU's planetarium are looking for images of celestial targets from BBAA to spread outreach to young children.

**8:37 pm:** Observing Reports.

-Gabriel observed NGC 1360 (Robin's Egg Nebula in Fornax) on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at Jeremy's House.

### **Special Program (Cometary Observing):**

**8:39 pm:** Comet 67P was visited by a probe called Rosetta. It launched in 2004 and journeyed seven years to the outer solar system. The Rosetta probe made several flybys of Earth and Mars, went into hibernation between 2011 and 2014, and finally reached the comet after ten years. They found that the comet had jagged edges and was a double-nucleus. Rosetta had a lander named Philae, which was deployed to land on the surface on November 2014. The lander only lasted 60 hours, but scientists discovered that 67P was quite brittle and porous, with the neck joining the two lobes of the nucleus slowly fracturing away from centripetal forces. The comet was also much harder than anticipated, with a surface made of water ice and dust. Sixteen organic compounds were found on 67P, including hydrogen and oxygen, both materials not found on asteroids.

Next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Meeting was adjourned at **9:00 pm.**