

## BBAA Minutes (February 2025 monthly meeting)

Date: 02/06/2025 @Kempsville Recreation Center

**In attendance:** Gabriel Dandrade, Tom Flatley, David Shouldice, Matt McLaughlin, Mark Buckner, Eric Fadely, George Reynolds, Jeff Edmondson, Aaron Cominio, Ed Marciano, Jeff Goldstein, Michael Hall, Ben Loyola, Shawn Loescher, Jeremy Mitchell, James Sorenson, Ella Sorenson, Sylvio Canu, Eatnar Wuakil. **Zoom:** Rich Roberts, Jonathan Scheetz, Bruce Powers, Kevin Brooks, Roland Downing, Linda\*.

\*Zoom attendee's online name. More information required.

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

### REPORTS:

**7:31 pm:** VP/Schedule Report (Jeff Goldstein).

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

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

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

Astronomy 101 at Kempsville Rec center (Wed Feb 5 @ 7:00 pm).

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

Crestwood Intermediate Science Night (Feb 13 @5:30 pm)

Thalia ES Stem (Tues Feb 18 @ 5:30 pm).

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

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

Mercury/Saturn conjunction (Mon Feb 24 @ 5:30 pm).

Woodstock Stem night (Wed Feb 26 @ 6:00 pm).

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

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

*BVES PTA Star Party (Mon Feb 3 @5:30 pm). DELETE THIS – it already occurred in Feb.*

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

Astronomy 101 at Kempsville Rec center (Wed Mar 5 @ 7:00 pm).

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

Garden Stars (Tues Mar 11 @8:00 pm).

Total lunar eclipse (Thurs Mar 13 @ 11:00 pm).

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

Skywatch at NWRP is Saturday Mar 22 @ 7:00 pm.

Spring ECSP (Begins Thursday Mar 27-Mar 30).

Staunton River Star Party (Monday Mar 24-Mar 30).

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

ECSP is almost here!!

**7:40 pm:** 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 7:44 pm and was unanimously accepted.

**7:44 pm:** Treasurer's Report (Rich Roberts was not in attendance, so Jeremy Mitchell, the club president, gave an abridged version). CORRECTION: Rich was on ZOOM and gave his report.

-Club finances are doing quite well right now.

-213 members on the roster at present.

-Treasurer's Report was accepted at 7:47 pm.

**7:47 pm:** ALCOR Report (Bruce Powers).

-All BBAA members get a subscription to Reflector magazine as part of the Night Sky Network.

-AL live event is coming up in March.

-The East Coast Star Party has a Q and A on the BBAA website for anyone who has questions.

-ALCOR report was accepted at 7:53 pm.

**7:53 pm:** Scholarship Committee and RRRT (Ben Loyola):

-Three scholarships are currently listed; the BBAA scholarship, Georgie June Memorial Scholarship, and the Nick Anderson Memorial scholarship. The Nick Anderson scholarship is only available for Virginia Beach students however.

-The RRRT (Rapid Response Robotic Telescope) is fully accessible for club members to use for free. It can track supernovas and can be set to image any object. Ask the club for more details.

**7:59 pm:** Refreshments committee (George Reynolds):

-Coffee and cookies are available at any time during the meeting.

**8:00 pm:** Old Business:

-Outreach awards are being distributed in the coming weeks.

-New business cards have been distributed to the club's **officers and selected members.**

**8:05 pm:** New Business:

-New bank cards are needed for the club's officers. Motion was passed to distribute cards to Shawn Loescher, Rich Roberts, Jeff Goldstein, George Reynolds, Jeremy Mitchell, and Bruce Powers at 8:07 pm.

-\$200 dollars was approved to be allocated for the summer picnic for door prizes and raffle items at 8:09 pm.

### **Special Program (Rich Roberts observing V725 Sag.):**

**8:09 pm:** V725 Sagittarii is a misfit star that Rich has been observing since 2019. It's an irregular variable star in Sagittarius with a declination of -37 degrees south. Despite being originally classified as a Cepheid variable, observations by Henrietta Swope in the 1930s contradicted this assumption and it was dropped. It remained forgotten until 1973, when the Johnson Photometric System was deployed to try and classify the star. However, Milky Way dust in the area hindered the observation and resulted in a wrong B-V value for the star. Combined with an

unknown distance to V725 Sgr, and it was a lot of trial and error to get to the final answer. It was assumed to be a population 2, or metal-poor, supergiant star, but despite a better solution, its true identity was left a mystery. It wasn't until the early 2000s that a new theory was proposed. V725 was almost certainly an AGB giant star that was undergoing rapid thermal pulses, where intense flashes of helium fusion occur every several thousand years. This was also theorized to be happening to T Ursae Minoris, another AGB giant star once classified as a Mira variable, which was confirmed in 2018. Eventually, after more photometric studies near the turn of the 2010 decade, it was eventually decided to classify V725 as a K-type giant star, not a supergiant, and that it was not population 2, but population 1, at least at that point in time.

Rich, meanwhile, conducted three years of observations with 168 observations per year, between 2021 and 2024, in order to determine the average star I, B-V, etc. The goal is to prove whether or not if the star is redder than it was in the past. Some issues still need to be resolved, and the next step on Rich's agenda is to compare his observations to Demers' sequence and see if there are any discrepancies.

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

Meeting was adjourned at **9:15 pm.**