

BBAA Minutes (March 2025 monthly meeting)

Date: 03/06/2025 @TCC VA Beach Science Building

In attendance: Gabriel Dandrade, Jeff Goldstein, Jeremy Mitchell, Eddie Parris, George Reynolds, Ben Loyola, Michael Hall, David Shouldice, Jonathan Scheetz, Jeff Thornton, Keith James, Jim Sorenson, Joseph Brown, Patrick Vartuli, Mike Russo, Ed Marciano, Kevin Brooks, Richard Thiemann, Kirt Kerr, Irene Schindler, Eathan Walker. **On Zoom:** Richard Roberts, Roland Downing, Bruce Powers, Shawn Loescher.

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

REPORTS:

7:33 pm: VP/Schedule Report (Jeff Goldstein).

-Calendar of events for March:

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

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, public night March 28).

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

Nightwatch at Chippokes (Sat Mar 29 @7:15 pm).

-Calendar of events for April:

Malibu Science Night (Wed Apr 2 @6:00 pm).

Monthly meeting (Thurs Apr 3 @7:30 pm).

OBX Star Party (Fri Apr 4 @5:30 pm).

Bertie Star Party (Sat Apr 5 @7:30 pm). Still pending approval.

Garden Stars (Tue Apr 8 @8:30 pm).

Astro 101 at Kempsville rec center (Wed Apr 9 @7:45 pm).

DCES Steam Day (Fri Apr 11 @6:00 pm).

Saturday Sun Day (Sat Apr 12 @10:00 am).

Cornwatch (Fri Apr 18 and Apr 25 @7:30 pm).

Nightwatch at Chippokes (Sat Apr 26 @7:45 pm).

General Information/Events notes:

ECSP is almost here!!

7:44 pm: Treasurer's Report (Rich Reports)

-Club finances are doing quite well right now.

-212 members on the roster at present.

-Treasurer's Report was accepted at 7:46 pm.

7:47 pm: Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): Gabriel waived the minutes to give more time for his presentation. Motion was made and accepted at 7:49 pm.

7:49 pm: ALCOR Report (Bruce Powers).

-ECSP schedule is now live! Will be given out at the sign-in tent upon arrival. Spaghetti dinner will be provided this time.

-All BBAA members get a subscription to Reflector magazine as part of the Night Sky Network. Once again, the March reflector magazine will be digital only.

-AL live event is happening March 7th.

-Astronomy Day is May 12.

-ALCOR report was accepted at 7:59 pm.

7:59 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 scholarship deadline is May 1st. A couple weeks afterwards, the scholarship winners will be decided.

-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.

8:03 pm: Refreshments committee (George Reynolds):

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

8:18 pm: Old Business:

-T-Shirts are for sale at present! T-shirts, golf shirts, and jackets are available in a range of sizes.

8:18 pm: New Business:

-An astronomical league committee is in the works to assist Bruce with outreach and observing program awards.

8:21 pm: Observing Reports

-Jeremy assisted a family with a new telescope Friday night.

-George last week, along with Jeff and Roland, attended a STEM night with Jeff's StarSense. George ended up taping pictures of planets to a wall and using a telescope while indoors.

-Hubble's Variable Nebula in Monoceros.

-Jonathan had fun at Cornland park two times ago.

-J900 in Gemini.

-Jeff was able to photograph all the planets at Lambert's Point, including Mercury and Saturn.

Special Program (The Messier Catalog and Marathon by Gabriel Dandrade - 8:29 pm):

Gabriel's presentation was on the Messier catalog and running a Messier marathon. He discussed a brief history of the Messier catalog and Charles Messier, including some of the catalog's secrets, before moving along into discussing a Messier Marathon, where astronomers attempt to observe all 110 targets in the catalog in a single night. He gave plenty of tips and dos and don'ts, including picking the right location, time, equipment, and the order of targets to view. He also linked two websites that others in the club could go to as reference and to get additional information on. Some key takeaways were that Messier was a comet hunter, not a deep-sky watcher, even though history favored that, that M74 is the ideal starting off-point for a Messier marathon, that mid-late March is the right time of year, and that a good star atlas is essential in certain areas, especially in Virgo!

Next meeting is April 3, 2025.

Meeting was adjourned at **9:10 pm.**