

BBAA Minutes (August 2025 Monthly Meeting)

Date: 08/07/2025 @TCC VA Beach Science Building

In attendance: Gabriel Dandrade, Jeff Goldstein, Michael Hall, Eddie Parris, Thomas Sershon, Ben Loyola, Tre Parker, Kirt Kerr, James Sorenson, Jonathan Scheetz, Will Kiff, Irene Schindler, Bruce Powers, Mike Russo, Mike Chesson, Eric Fadely, George Reynolds, Sylvio Canu, Samuel Buckner, Jason Levick, Jacob Daniel, Shawn Loescher, Bill Rust, Soham Pattnair, Thalak Pattnair, Jeff Thornton, David Shouldice, Jeremy Mitchell, Kent Blackwell, Robert Hitt, Justin Mason, Richard Thiemann, Tim Flatley. **On Zoom :** Rich Roberts, Roland Downing, Joseph Brown, Rachel

7:30 pm: The BBAA August 2025 meeting was called to order by Jeremy Mitchell.

REPORTS:

VP Report (Jeff Goldstein): 7:31 pm

Calendar of events for August:

- Saturday Sun Day (Aug 2nd @10:00 pm).
- Boardwalk Astronomy (Aug 5th @6:00 pm).
- Club Meeting (Aug 7th @7:30 pm).
- Skywatch (Aug 16th @8:00 pm).
- Cornwatch (Aug 15th and Aug 22nd @7:15 pm).
- Nightwatch (Aug 23rd @7:30 pm).
- Garden Stars (Aug 28th @8:30 pm).

Calendar of events for September:

- Astronomy by the River (Sep 1st @7:15 pm).
- Boardwalk Astronomy (Sep 2nd @6:00 pm).
- Kempsville Rec Center Astro 101 (Sep 3rd @8:00 pm).
- Club Meeting (Sep 4th @7:30 pm).

- Saturday Sun Day (Sep 6th @10:00 am).
- Skywatch (Sep 13 @7:00 pm).
- Cornwatch (Sep 12th and Sep 19th @7:15 pm).
- East Coast Star Party (Sep 18th-21st @2:00 pm).
- Chamberlin Stargazing (Sep 25th @7:30 pm).
- Garden Stars (Sep 30th @8:00 pm).

-The Chamberlin event is "Fly me to the moon" themed. It's on Fort Monroe in Hampton.

Treasurer's Report (Rich Roberts): 7:35 pm

-Currently have plenty of money, even though we just cashed out for the scholarship check, picnic and some East Coast Star Party raffle prizes. All major expenses for the year are paid though, however.

-Treasurer's Report was accepted at 7:42 pm.

Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): 7:42 pm

-Picnic was highly successful, thanks to Jeremy for learning to grill on charcoal on the fly. Otherwise, not much to report until old business comes up.

-Minutes were accepted at 7:44 pm.

ALCOR Report and East Coast Star Party (Bruce Powers): 8:01 pm.

-Ben Loyola completed the asteroid observing program, while Jonathan Scheetz completed the Lunar Observing program.

-Everyone who joins the club gets the Reflector magazine printed and handed out to them. You also get access to many observing programs and special conferences across the nation, with the last one occurring in Bryce Canyon.

-Jonathan also completed the globular cluster observing program, and was rewarded with a certificate and pin.

-East Coast Star Party is next month, Sep 18-21. Bruce handed out flyers for everyone who wasn't familiar.

-\$60 registration is due by Sep 12th.

-Public Observing is happening that Friday, for anyone who only wants to attend for one night.

-There are a bunch of fun prizes to give out, including small telescopes.

Scholarship Committee (Ben Loyola): Nothing to report right now.

Nominating Committee (Jeremy Mitchell): 8:09 pm.

-Elections are coming up in November. Treasurer and Vice President positions are up for grabs.

Refreshments Committee (George Reynolds): 8:10 pm.

-Coffee and refreshments are available anytime during the meeting.

Observing Reports: 8:12 pm.

-Gabriel Dandrade saw the Titan shadow transit on August 3rd.

-Rich went out to Highland County to do some dark sky observing during the New Moon.

-The last Cornland, Kent brought out his 14-inch and saw the supernova in NGC 7331.

-The meteor shower in Windsor was highly productive, with at least 7 meteors spotted. The rocket from Kennedy, carrying Starlink, was also spotted.

Old Business: 8:18 pm.

-International Observe the Moon night is coming October 4th. NASA puts it on every night. ODU is trying to bring it back, but a football game might cause it to put it off. Instead, they might help fund BBAA with door prizes, and currently Chesapeake Planetarium will likely act as the host spot.

-Jeff reached out to the West Neck educators club to potentially act as guest speaker or have someone else do that.

-The library telescope program is still WIP. It is being tabled for the following month.

-Surf Rider has been chosen as the venue for the holiday luncheon in December.

New Business: 8:23 pm.

-There has been some proposals to buy banners for the club that can be displayed at events like Boardwalk Astronomy. In addition, we also proposed buying a hot dog machine to satisfy Kent's bottomless stomach at East Coast Star Party. Shawn is looking into this, that we might get a banner for cheap. The budget was about \$90 for a rectangular banner. The teardrop banners sell for about \$350 each, double what they were before. Hopefully the ones half the size would be cheaper. The club moved to allocate a max of \$500 for a set of these banners.

-The hot dog machine is still ongoing, and has been tabled for next meeting.

Special Program: Asteroids (Presented by Ben Loyola). 8:34 pm.

-Ben's been observing asteroids for decades now. His presentation started talking about asteroids, and the various families of asteroids that orbit around the Sun, such as the main belt, the Trojan asteroids, the Kuiper Belt, etc. It also covered comets and meteoroids briefly. He then displayed a couple animations of the known near Earth asteroids that have been discovered between 1999 and 2018. Thousands more are discovered per week. The goal of observers looking for asteroids is to identify enough data points to determine the exact orbital plane and period of these objects. Multiple observatories contribute to the finding of these objects, from small privately-owned centers to massive government-funded facilities. The main technique involves imaging a 3x3 grid of sky and then blinking a minimum of four images to identify any discrepancies with both the star charts. It was a very tedious, hands-on experience that took hours to do back in the early 2000s. Today, the process is more automated and is much easier to log planetoids like asteroids. However, taking long images to capture the super faint asteroids introduces other variables like noise. Taking plenty of dark frames as well as plenty of images are crucial for ensuring a sharp enough images. It was a very informative presentation and definitely sparked some conversations about asteroid hunting among the attendees tonight.

Next meeting is on September 4th, 2025.

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