

BBAA Minutes (September 2025 Monthly Meeting)

Date: 09/04/2025 @TCC VA Beach Science Building

In attendance: Gabriel Dandrade, Kirt Kerr, Eddie Parris, Sylvio Canu, Shawn Loescher, Jeremy Mitchell, Ben Loyola, Barry Bryant, Irene Schindler, Jeff Goldstein, Will Kiff, Mike Russo, Jeff Thornton, George Reynolds, Sandy Paxson, Michael Hall.

On Zoom: Rich Roberts, Kevin Brooks, Bruce Powers, Roland Downing, Jonathan Scheetz, Derrick McDonald, Joseph Brown, Steven Bellavia, Bill Reed, Lee Torgerson

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

REPORTS:

Refreshments Committee (George Reynolds): 7:30 pm.

-Coffee and refreshments are available anytime during the meeting.

VP Report (Jeff Goldstein): 7:31 pm

Calendar of events for September:

- 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).
- Astronomy Bootcamp (Sep 26th @7:00 pm).
- Astronomy by the River (Sep 29th @7:15 pm).
- Garden Stars (Sep 30th @8:00 pm).

Calendar of events for October:

- KVRC Astro 101 (Oct 1st @8:00 pm),
- Club Meeting (Oct 2nd @7:30 pm).
- International Observe the Moon Night (Oct 4th @6:00 pm).
- Reign in Science (Oct 11th @10:00 am).
- Cornwatch (Oct 17th and Oct 23rd @sunset).
- Skywatch (Oct 18th at 6:30 pm).
- Staunton River Star Party (Oct 20th-26th).

Treasurer's Report (Rich Roberts): 7:40 pm

- Finances are looking good, and ECSP is fully covered.
- Six new members since last meeting.
- Still waiting on the invoices for Boardwalk Astronomy.
- Treasurer's Report was accepted at 7:45 pm.

Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): 7:45 pm

- Ben Loyola's presentation on asteroids was very informative.
- Minutes were accepted at 7:47 pm.

ALCOR Report and East Coast Star Party (Bruce Powers): 7:47 pm.

-Astronomical League is a consortium of about 23,000 members and 3,000 clubs, as of this month.

-Tools to assist in night sky observing are readily available for use on the website.

-Ben Loyola received some special awards for his work on hunting NEAR-Earth objects down.

-East Coast Star Party starts in two weeks, September 18th-21st. Registration will close on September 12th. Party registration opens at 2:00 and continues until Sunday morning.

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

Nominating Committee (Jeremy Mitchell): 7:58 pm.

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

Observing Reports: 8:01 pm.

-Saturn was visible for the first time this year at Boardwalk Astronomy.

Old Business: 8:03 pm.

-George visited the Central Library to make sure that the telescope program that is there is going smoothly.

-Shawn has ordered the banners. He also is prepping a new printer type to help make this year's ECSP T-shirts. \$250 was moved for shirts for both the star party and general club use.

New Business: 8:13 pm.

-The hot dog machine search has reached its end. Jeremy found one for \$180 for an eighteen-dog capacity machine with a cover. The club had a motion for \$200 that was passed.

-Dew Heater workshop is on the agenda. Four people have signed up so far.

-Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Handbook has been recommended as a potential boon for club members.

Special Program: Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Communication with Spacecraft (Leigh Torgerson): 8:31 pm.

-Leigh has worked with Lockheed-Martin on the SR-71 Blackbird and has worked with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory on projects like the Mars Climate Orbiter and Cassini Probe. He's tested different protocols for radio links for the past 25 years, including interplanetary internet called the Deep Space Network. In space, communications take a while to reach probes and vice versa; on Mars, it can last between 8 and 20 minutes. The DSN has receivers in California, Spain and Australia. Each of these radio dishes has a diameter of 70 meters, an area of about 1 acre, and can point at any place in the sky, at any time thanks to their strategy positions around the globe. The DSN doesn't just communicate with spacecraft though. It can also use the monstrous aperture of its antennas to look for interstellar visitors through radar imaging. Three have been found since 2017, and the DSN network helps to track them. DSN communicates with probes like the

James Webb Telescope, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and even the two Voyager probes.

Next meeting is on October 2nd, 2025.

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