

## BBAA Minutes (March 2026 Monthly Meeting)

Date: 03/05/2026 @TCC Virginia Beach

**In attendance:** Jeremy Mory, Sylvio Canu, Bruce Powers, Dennis Rowley, Barry Bryant, Ed Marciano, George Reynolds, Jeff Goldstein, Jeremy Mitchell, Will Kiff, Kent Blackwell, Mark Russo, Bill Reed, Matt McLaughlin, Chris Ward, Mark Wilson, Nolan Kok, Andrew Kok, Jonathan Scheetz, Michael Hall, Joseph Brown, David Shouldice, Miko Clendenin, Javier Garcon. **On Zoom:** Gabriel Dandrade, Rich Roberts, Ben Loyola, Roland Downing, Kevin Brooks

**7:34 pm:** The BBAA February 2026 meeting was called to order by Jeremy Mitchell (meeting was slightly delayed).

### **Refreshments Committee (George Reynolds): 7:35 pm**

Refreshments are plentiful and are available any time during the meeting, except to those in Zoom land.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Treasurer's Report (Rich Roberts): 7:37 pm**

Club loss money last month due to raffle prizes for East Coast Star Party.

Delinquent members were dropped for not paying their dues. Club members were dropped from over 200 to about 160.

Treasurer's Report was accepted at 7:39 pm.

### **VP Report (Jeff Goldstein): 7:40 pm.**

Calendar of events for March:

Club Meeting (Mar 5<sup>th</sup> @7:30 pm).

Total Lunar Eclipse (Mar 3rd @2:44 am); was canceled due to weather.

Cornwatch (Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, Mar 20<sup>th</sup>, Mar 27<sup>th</sup> @6:00 pm).

BVES Star Party (Mar 9<sup>th</sup> @5:30 pm).

Surry ES Astro Classes (Mar 10<sup>th</sup> @5:30 pm).

Skywatch (Mar 14<sup>th</sup> @5:30 pm).

Staunton River Star Party (Mar 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> @2:00 pm).

Churchland Primary (Mar 19<sup>th</sup> @5:30 pm).

Nightwatch (Mar 21<sup>st</sup> @5:00 pm).

Garden Stars (Mar 24<sup>th</sup> @7:00 pm).

Astronomy 101 KVRG (Mar 25<sup>th</sup> @7:00 pm).

Stream Night at Birdneck Elementary (Mar 26<sup>th</sup> @5:30 pm).

Saturday Sun Day (Mar 28<sup>th</sup> @10:00 am).

Planetarium Shows (Mar 13<sup>th</sup> @7:00 pm, Mar 21<sup>st</sup> @2:00 pm and 7:00 pm, Mar 28<sup>th</sup> @2:00 pm and 7:00 pm).

Calendar of events for April:

Science in Sci-fi (Apr 1<sup>st</sup> @6:30 pm).

Club Meeting (Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> @7:30 pm).

Cornwatch (Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> @6:30 pm).

DCE Steam Day (Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> @8:00 pm).

Skywatch (April 11<sup>th</sup> @6:30 pm).

East Coast Star Party (Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> @2:00 pm).

Planetarium Shows (Not yet scheduled).

### **Secretary's Report (Gabriel Dandrade): 7:54 pm**

-Jeremy did last meeting's presentation, which he presented on the various star and object catalogs in the sky. Pretty fun meeting, everything went well despite some absences.

### **Scholarship Committee (Ben Loyola): 7:55 pm.**

The Nick Anderson scholarship has sadly been defunded as the city has run out of funding to support it. The club is still moving to do the two main scholarships along with Georgie June. The deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup> to apply if you're a high school senior. All three scholarships are being awarded in the beginning of June.

### **ALCOR Report and East Coast Star Party (Bruce Powers): 7:56 pm.**

-It's highly rewarding to become a member of the Astronomical League, as you get access to observing programs, Reflector magazine, and astronomy-related news. You automatically become a member when you join the club.

-Jonathan Scheetz and Jeremy Mitchell received the 2025 Observe the Moon reward. Jeremy also won the Huygens observing program award. They were accepted and acknowledged at the meeting. Jeremy discussed the details of the Huygens award, on how he observed the shadow transit of Titan, and how its not that difficult to obtain one.

-Steve Bellavia, who was unfortunately credited with his old astronomy club, had two pictures in the magazine taken by him.

-The East Coast Star Party is coming next month, April 16-19, at Chippokes Plantation State Park. Registration is now open to anyone. It's been scheduled to avoid the Staunton River Star Party, being held this month on March 16-22. The schedule was handed out at the meeting tonight to help attendees get ready.

-Bruce was able to go ham with raffle prizes for this year's star party, including another Orion carrier telescope, some binoculars, and a Celestron power pack.

### **Observing Reports: 8:06 pm.**

-Kent Blackwell went on a cruise, saw a new pair of binoculars, and bought them. On the cruise, he spotted the green flash, with Venus and Mercury on either side of the Sun as it set. He then advocated for cruise ships to emphasize observing the sky more, since they travel through the middle of the ocean where the sky is pitch-dark.

-Jeff and Jeremy were discussing where to watch the lunar eclipse for about an hour, only for the weather to swoop in and say no.

### **Old Business: 8:19 pm.**

-Georgie June raffle prize will be drawn at the April BBAA meeting. It will be a SeeStar and a Nagler eyepiece.

-RASC handbooks; most have been delivered, but there are a couple still waiting to be delivered.

-Jeff still has a few ID cards to hand out.

### **New Business: 8:21 pm.**

-ECSP shirts are being funded by the club, they help fund Bruce's raffle prize endeavors. They're available for preorder right now and can be included with the order packet when you register. Shawn requested a budget of just under \$200, but Jeremy requested to bump it up to \$250. Jeff moved to bump that total up to \$500 to allow for more shirts for Boardwalk Astronomy. This motion was passed at 8:31 pm.

-Club merch on the website is still being finalized, but Jeremy is open for contact and can find out more for you. There are a ton of different options and if enough demand arises, there will be a batch order.

### **Special Program: Observing Programs (Bruce Powers): 8:36 pm.**

-Tonight's presentation was about the Astronomical League's Observing programs, presented by our ALCOR coordinator Bruce. The presentation he used was provided by the Astronomical League itself, and so he started by teaching everyone how to navigate the website. He talked about the Astronomical League itself, talking about how active it is, how many members have access to it, and all of the seminars and blogs and challenges going on at any given time. He mentioned tips on how to do observing challenges, mini events that are usually associated with an object passing through the solar system or a current NASA mission, and how they're a less demanding alternative to the observing programs. Of course, the main focus of his presentation was on the observing programs themselves, and the many, many kinds available to club members. He discussed the techniques of successfully completing the programs, as well as variables like experience, equipment being used, observing locations, and imaging and visual observing. The Master Observer Progression is the best place to start in the opinion of the Astronomical League. This is a progression where one completes a certain number of observing programs and receives a level of completion in the AL. There are tiers for naked eye, binoculars, telescopes and astrophotography. Bruce also discussed the resources like star charts that are also available to anyone who is interested. Finally, he covered some of the objects, meteor showers, planets, and other fun targets visible in the coming month.

Next meeting is on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

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

