

BBAA Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2010

The May meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM in Room JC-13 of the TCC Science Building, Virginia Beach campus, by president Mark Gerlach.

Those in attendance were Neill Alford, Bruce Bodner, Ken Broun, Bryan Condrey, Courtney Flonta, Tony Flonta, Mike Galvas, José Gelpí, Mark Gerlach, Jeff Goldstein, Chuck Jagow, Karen Jagow, Curt Lambert, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, John Norman, Kevin Rasso, George Reynolds, Rob Schonk, Shelton Williams, and Joshua Wooley.

Reports: None were asked for.

The treasurer passed me a note stating that there is \$3,836.03 in the General Fund and \$3,228.07 in the Scholarship Fund, for a total of \$7,064.10.

Old Business: The annual BBAA Family Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 17* at Northwest River Park. Georgie June usually coordinates with the park, but was not at the meeting. She will be asked to contact the park and confirm. *

We need to find a location for the June meeting and the August meeting, since TCC will not be available. Pres. Mark Gerlach will contact Chuck Dibbs and Dr. Carlos Salgado about hosting those meetings at the VBCPS Planetarium and NSU Planetarium, respectively.

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the BBAA hosting of the VAAS conference in 2011. Possible dates and locations were suggested. One possibility is the TCC planetarium. Held on a Saturday in the Fall, Prof. Kenny Broun said a mid-October date would be best for him. It was determined that Saturday 22 October is the weekend closest to the New Moon. Tentative observing sites were discussed; Coinjock, Northwest River Park, Cornland Park, and the soccer complex off Centerville Turnpike north of NWRP. Someone said the complex is owned by the City of Chesapeake, so we would need to contact the city for access and permission to use it. Possible speakers would need to be lined up. "Bird" Taylor had in the past suggested getting someone through the NASA Speakers' Bureau. Our own Michelle Shinn would make a good speaker. John Norman mentioned some potential speakers from NEAF, which he recently attended. John said most do not ask for an honorarium, but would need the club to pay for their transportation and room and board. John will give a list of speakers to Chuck Jagow, chairman of the VAAS planning committee. He mentioned the possible use of "frequent flyer miles" to help pay for the trips, if someone has a lot of miles accumulated.

Possible activities during the VAAS conference include vendors, such as MRO Computers and Astronomy, Hands on Optics in Maryland, Company 7, and Jeff Norwood's Camera Concepts. It was decided that the key is to set a definite date, then plan everything around it: location, speakers, vendors, and observing site.

Scholarship Report: Scholarship Committee Chairman Ben Loyola reported that so far 3 applications have been received: two from Virginia Beach and one from Chesapeake schools.

Vice President Courtney Flonta reminded the membership that a Cub Scout activity is scheduled on the same Friday as the East Coast Star Party, and we need to cover it with someone who is not going to ECSP.

Bryan Condrey and John Norman presented a brief slide show of their recent attendance at NEAF, the North East Astronomy Forum and Telescope Show. John told the group a little about “Astronomers Without Borders”, who go to third world countries for astronomy outreach. John also mentioned that if anyone wants any kind of electronic gadget, one should send him an email. He and Bryan can make most anything.

New Business: The topic of possible patches or decals with the BBAA logo on them was mentioned. Mark Gerlach and Ben Loyola were the principle interested parties.

The meeting was adjourned early at 8:35 PM.

*NOTE: A day or two after the meeting it was learned that all the picnic shelters at NWRP are booked for Saturday, July 17, so the date for the BBAA Picnic was changed to SUNDAY, July 18, 11 AM to 3 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Reynolds
Secretary