

BBAA Meeting Minutes 2/2/2012

The February, 2012 meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm in classroom JC-12 at TCC by President Courtney Flonta. Those in attendance were Neill Alford, Dean Brauer, Kenny Broun, Dale Carey, Chuck Dibbs, Tom Flatley, Courtney Flonta, Ted Forte, Mark Gerlach, Dino Giangregorio, Mary Giangregorio, Chuck Jagow, Larry Korn, Robyn Korn, Curt Lambert, Bobby Lawson, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Bill Mclean, Shannon Moore, George Reynolds, Bernie Strohmeier, Anne Marie Studds, Kevin Swann, Matt Swingle, Jim Tallman, Paul Tartabini, Bird Taylor, Larry Wade and Kevin Weiner.

Treasurer's report: \$2731.13 general fund, \$2717.12 scholarship fund, \$5448.25 total.

Secretary's report: The reading of January's minutes was waived, as they are posted on the BBAA web site.

Bill Mclean "ALCOR" (Astronomical League CORrespondent) representative discussed Nick Anderson had been observing many things. Note name change: Messier club has now become Messier program.

New Member joining tonight is Dean Brauer. He attended a Mt Trashmore event.

Visitors & Guests: Visitor Bobby Lawson attended NWRP event. Guests Anne Marie Studds & Shannon Moore are Mt Trashmore Parks & Recreation representatives.

Old Business:

Interim newsletter editor is Paul Tartabini for March & April.

Webmaster position is still available.

Jim Tallman is the new POC for North West River State Park with Chuck Jagow as alternate.

Mr Gerlach mentioned the below outreaches

Schedule:

February 3 Friday, NO Garden Stars 7 pm – no people signed up.

February 7 Tuesday, Butts Rd Primary School Science Night 6:30-8pm

February 8 Wednesday, Lake Taylor High (Norfolk) Science Night.

February 17 Friday, Skywatch (NWRP)

February 25 Saturday, Chippokes

March 1 Thursday, next BBAA monthly meeting @ TCC

March 1 Thursday, Greenbrier Intermediate School (behind the mall) Science Night. Georgie will bring scope & Chuck Jagow will try to bring a scope also.

March 12 Monday, Deep Creek Elementary School Science Night.

April 6 Friday Mt Trashmore star party

April 11 Wednesday, (or possibly 12th) Yuri's Night @ Virginia Air & Space Center, Hampton.

Honoring 1961 first space flight and 1981 first space shuttle flight. There will be a costume contest & any astronomy rep with a scope gets in free. Alcohol & hors d'oeuvres will be available.

April 28 Saturday, Astronomy Day

May 1 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy (VA Beach boardwalk)

June 5 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy (VA Beach boardwalk)

June 5 Tuesday, Venus Sun Transit 5:03pm until Sunset. Will not happen again for over a century. TCC scope will be operational for this event.

July 3 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy (VA Beach boardwalk)

East Coast Star Party is May 11, 12 & 13

New Business:

A motion by Jim Tallman to grant Ted Forte honorary lifetime membership. The motion was seconded.

For the June 5 Venus sun transit it was recommended to use a #14 welding glass. One location to purchase is National Welding Supply. You can also use a 12" piece of white light filter

Dino Giangregorio questioned Garden Stars visibility and created new poster prototypes. He suggested placing them as soon as you walk into Baker Hall (the main entrance.) He motioned that 2 or 3 be given to Botanical Gardens to advertise Garden Stars. The motion was seconded. President Flonta mentioned she entered BBAA there (when it was \$5 entry fee) and goes whenever she can. Entry fee now is \$18/person for non-members. The marketing is geared to adults vice children. We would like to see it open up to a family event again. Their web site has nothing about Garden Stars & it was cancelled 3 times last summer. The problem began when inattentive parents let their 4 year old wander around who subsequently fell into a pond & became injured. But now the event is in the garden vice the pool area. A committee of Mr. Giangregorio, Mr. Reynolds & Mclean was formed to lead a new promotional effort.

Mr. Giangregorio also enlarged the BBAA \$1,000 scholarship check to place at outings for promotional purposes.

Mt Trashmore star party April 6. The question was asked by Mr. Gerlach, "are we interested in doing this?" All answered "yes." Parking near the scopes is good & the golf card can help you bring a scope in if you're late. Scopes should arrive between 2:30-6:30pm. The event lasts from dark (7:51pm) until 11pm. A solar scope will be available after 3pm.

Amy Gardner sent an email to Mr. Swann to be read at the next meeting. It said goodbye to everyone, she will miss them. Her husband suddenly got a job in Raleigh, NC so they moved. She started in BBAA at the age of 12.

Officers were asked to get some type of recognition or plaque for our past newsletter editor Erica Smith for her many faithful years of service.

Presentation 1 was by Mr. Carey on sun spots. They occur in 12 year cycles. The last good cycle was 2004 & 2005. It is now good again for this year & next. He used white light filter & hydrogen-alpha for prominences. His notes were a circle (for drawing the spot configuration) with date & time beneath. There is an astronomy league pin for observing sun spots. In 2004 or 2005 BBAA had a white light filter making party where balsa wood was steamed to mold to one's scope.

He also emphasized not to miss the Venus-sun transit June 5. It will not happen again until 12/11/2117!

Presentation 2 was by Mr. Weiner on astronomy software:

"Sky Tools 3 Pro" is the cleanest & most up-to-date database. It is great for planning & logging. Various factors can be changed, for eg, humidity & clouds. It can drive your telescope & can do planetarium shows. Mr. Forte & Mr. Blackwell use this program.

"Starry Night Pro Plus 6" is very showy and has excellent zoom features, for eg, a kid can fly through space.

"The Sky X Pro" major observatories use. It also has an extended database available on a 2 gig hard drive.

Scholarship update: Ben Loyola is the Chairman of the scholarship committee. 2012 amount was set to \$1,500. The 1st week of May is the entry deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm