

BBAA Meeting Minutes 4/5/2012

The April, 2012 meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm in classroom JC-12 at TCC by Vice President Mark Gerlach. Those in attendance were Kenny Broun, Tom Flatley, James Friesen, Floyd Friesen, Mark Gerlach, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Bill McLean, George Reynolds, Bernie Strohmeyer and Kevin Swann.

The delayed start was due to skyatnightmagazine.com's crossword puzzle discussion preceding the meeting.

Treasurer's report: \$2543.23 general fund, \$2719.92 scholarship fund, \$5263.15 total.

30 people have not paid their dues yet. It is possibly due to the change in start date – of which those members dues were pro-rated. He will email reminders.

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

A newsletter editor is needed for May & beyond.

Webmaster position is still available.

Visitors & Guests: Visitors Floyd Friesen (retired Navy pilot) & Jim Friesen (LAN installer). Attended Garden Stars event.

Schedule:

April 6 Friday Mt Trashmore star party

April 14 Saturday, 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. Setup from 5 to 6pm on the 3rd floor observing deck. Alcohol & hors d'oeuvres will be available.

April 13 Friday, Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park

April 17 Tuesday, Girl Scouts @ Plaza Middle School Planetarium

April 21 Saturday, Nightwatch @ Chippokes

April 27 Friday, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens

April 28 Saturday, Astronomy Day @ VA beach Central Library. Setup before 10:00am

May 1 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy @ VA Beach boardwalk

May 3 Thursday, monthly meeting @ TCC

May 11, 12 & 13, East Coast Star Party @ Hampton Lodge Campground, Coinjock, NC

May 11 Friday, Skywatch – may be cancelled due to East Coast Star Party

May 19 Saturday, Nightwatch @ Chippokes

May 25 Friday, Night Hike @ Northwest River State Park

May 30 Wednesday, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens

June 5 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy @ VA Beach boardwalk

June 5 Tuesday, Venus Sun Transit 5:03pm until Sunset. Will not happen again until 12/11/2117!

TCC scope will be operational for this event.

July 3 Tuesday, Boardwalk Astronomy @ VA Beach boardwalk

There is a 4 day astronomy league convention in Chicago that Tom Flatley may be able to attend 1 day.

Old Business:

Mt Trashmore star party April 6. Parking near the scopes is good & the golf cart 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.

New Business:

Chippokes POC Jennica Walter would like a presentation this summer at the conference shelter (near the mansion) with electric & seating with possible observations (weather permitting.) She asked about the etiquette required. There have cabins & campers are present Friday & Saturday. Friday already has a program & Saturday they have canoeing from 6-9pm. It is 1.5 hr drive and 2 or 3 people usually show up for the Nightwatch event. Proposed primary date 5/26 with alternate 6/30.

Princess Anne Library, Redmill Commons (near Nemo Recreation Center) also requests a presentation along the lines of the possible Chippokes one. The hours are Monday thru Thursday until 7pm. Best viewing and therefore proposed dates would be June 26-28, July 24-26 & August 22-23, 27-28.

The newsletter link will be emailed to all members once completed.

People have asked "what are the benefits of joining BBAA?" We need to put this information out in addition to what our dues money pays for.

Benefits are clearly spelled out on our brochure.

Dues pay for: Reflector newsletter quarterly subscription, Liability insurance, Astronomical league dues, Dark Sky association membership, permits, picnic food, printing brochures/hand-outs.

Ted Forte asked in email if we need a public affairs officer (PAO). Jim Tallman & Dale Carey were interested. This discussion was tabled until next meeting due to low attendance.

Ben Loyola asked about having some type of continuity of officer's list when the position changes hands. For eg, Matt McLaughlin stated he sent out welcome letters to new members. Kenny Broun made the 1st motion to start a list of monthly duties for each position. George Reynolds seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Ben Loyola also mentioned that small & large organizations have paid secretary positions. It would be for approximately 5 hrs/month at an estimated cost of \$50. They would also go through the calendar & remind us of approaching events.

Ben Loyola also asked if we should increase our advertising of events. The Vice President position is our outreach coordinator.

NOTE: do not to miss the Venus-sun transit June 5. It will not happen again until 12/11/2117!

Observers report:

Cape Henry Collegiate event - Courtney Flonta & Mark Gerlach attended but was rained out.

Deep Creek Elementary event – Jim Tallman, Courtney Flonta & Mark Gerlach attended. It was a good night. Venus & Jupiter were observed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm