

BBAA January 3, 2013 meeting minutes

The Meeting at Plaza Middle School was called to order by president Courtney Flonta at 7:31 PM

Those in attendance were:

Nick Anderson, Robert Beuerlein, Tom Flatley, Courtney Flonta, Mark Gerlach, Dean Giangregorio, Mary Giangregorio, Jeff Goldstein, Bill Holmes, Chuck Jagow, Thomas Jarvis, Robyn Korn, Bill Mclean, Cynthia Meigel, David Meigel, Katelyn Neese, Bill Powers, Joey Quinn, Andrew Reisenweber, George Reynolds, Mat Snellings, Kevin Swann, Jason Tackett, Paul Tartabini and Bird Taylor.

New Guests: Mark Gerlach brought a boy named Thomas, Jason Tackett from Hampton, David Meigel from VA beach and Andrew Reisenweber.

Treasurer's report:

\$2569.46 general fund
\$2543.92 Scholarship fund
\$5113.38 Total

2/3 of members have paid dues.

All officers must now have their signatures on file at BB&T near Volvo & Greenbrier rds. Secretary & VP still must do.

Secretary's report: Reading of last month's minutes was waived (& seconded.)

Outreaches:

York River State Park may move observing from Friday to Saturday if cloudy.

Garden Stars (at Norfolk Botanical Gardens) needs minimum 5 to be registered by the Wednesday prior.

Cathy from the Chesapeake Parks dept wants an event similar to Garden Stars & may charge per person.

Calendar:

January 4 Friday, Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, Equestrian area, 5PM

January 9 Wednesday, bring a scope to Jones Magnet Middle School Planetarium (1819 Nickerson Blvd), 7PM

January 12 Saturday, Nightwatch @ Chippokes, 5PM

January 17 Thursday through February 7, "Quest" @ Old Donation Center for Gifted & Talented school, 1:30-2:45PM

January 18 Friday, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens, 7PM

February 1 Friday, Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, Equestrian area, 5PM

February 7 Thursday, monthly meeting @ TCC-VA beach campus, 7:30PM

February 9 Saturday, Nightwatch @ Chippokes, 5PM

February 15 Friday, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens, 7PM

Old business:

The Dome POD transportation issue has become an Eagle Scout project which will raise \$500 for required hardware.

Scholarship:

Scholarship committee met & set the scholarship to \$1500.

May/June timeframe others can assist the scholarship process.

New business:

ALCOR

All BBAA Members, through the Astronomy League (AL), get issued a quarterly magazine "Reflector."

AL observing programs are on www.astroleague.org

Bill Mclean awarded Jim Tallman with AL's Venus Transit award (11 BBAA members have already completed) and Nick Anderson with the Caldwell award.

Tom Flatley is doing the Galileo pin & he recommends a Jupiter moon software app.

General News:

Jeff Goldstein's 60mm refractor was donated to the Giangregorio couple.

Mark Gerlach is selling a scope donated to BBAA. See him for details.

A solar scope is very good for sun spots & prominences. It is very active right now.

Jim Tallman motioned a committee be formed to explore club enhancements. It was seconded. The president volunteered among others. Recommended work shops are: dew heaters, solar filters & use of, collimation, equatorial mounts, astrophotography & astronomy software. One example is, one hour prior to the start of a monthly Skywatch, folks can come early to get help learning to set up their scope.

Recommended work shops are: dew heaters, solar filters & use of, columnation, equatorial mounts, astro-photography & astronomy software. One eg is: one hr prior 'Skywatch', come for help setting up a scope.

President Courtney asked everyone in the meeting to briefly introduce themselves. Some highlights:

Nick Anderson is a physics major at VA Tech & plans to be a professional astronomer.

Robyn Korn uses Astro-binoculars the most.

Jeff Goldstein has 20X100 Astro-binoculars.

Mat Snellings has a POD & is great because of no setup time.

Katelyn Neese (a senior at Granby High) wants to be an Astro-physicist.

Courtney Flonta goal is to have a doctorate in chemistry-physics

Newsletter editor Paul Tartabini requested postings, including any member's writings.

Web Forum rules were not discussed at the officers meeting due to time constraints, so they were discussed at this meeting. There were some complaints concerning non-astronomy related arguments & discussions. Most of the discussion centered around the need for more than one moderator to share the responsibilities. Bird Taylor suggested opening up the BBAA group up to everyone (not just forum members) so teachers can make requests for seminars. One problem mentioned with regard to having a moderated forum is that the moderators will have to read the forum often to avoid non-member/member postings sitting in the queue. Also, someone may have a question about a meeting/outing later that day that won't be seen until approved by a moderator. This discussion will need to be continued.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44PM