

BBAA January 2014 Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2014

The January 2014 meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM at the Virginia Beach Planetarium at Plaza Middle School by new president Jim Tallman.

Those in attendance were:

Nick Anderson, Bob Beuerlein, Tom Flatley, Dean Giangregorio, Mary Giangregorio, Jeff Goldstein, Pete Goulart, Chuck Jagow, Leigh Anne Lagoe, Shawn Loescher, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Bill McLean, Vincent Pendleton, Bill Powers, Bruce Powers, Joey Quinn, George Reynolds, Ron Shaneyfelt, Kevin Swann, Jim Tallman, Paul Tartabini, Bird Taylor, and Michael Webster.

Guests were Bob Feit and Ed Zednick.

The new club officers for 2014 were introduced:

President - Jim Tallman

Vice President - George Reynolds

Treasurer - Chuck Jagow

Secretary - Leigh Anne Lagoe

Jim Tallman expressed interest in having more options for upcoming club meetings including small projects and guest speakers. Next month, we should have planetary weather scientist, Dr. Kunio Sayanagi, from Hampton University as a guest speaker.

Reports:

A motion was made by Chuck Jagow to waive the reading of the previous month's minutes and consensus agreed.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Jagow reported that there is \$1691.80 in the General Fund and \$2371.67 in the Scholarship Fund, for a total of \$4063.47. The club has upcoming expenses for the year estimating about \$1500.

Vice President Report/Outreach Coordinator: George Reynolds reported that we have already received two outreach requests through the Night Sky Network. The outreach requests were for STEM Night at Greenbrier Middle School on February 21st and 4H Space Camp in Wakefield, VA. More details about these events will be posted when they are available.

Calendar discussed at meeting:

1/4 - Nightwatch at Chippokes State Park

1/5 - Jupiter at opposition

1/10 - Garden Stars at Norfolk Botanical Gardens 7:00 PM

1/24 - Skywatch at Northwest River Park

2/21 - (pending details) STEM Night at Greenbrier Middle School

2/22 - (pending details) 4-H Space Camp in Wakefield, VA

ALCOR (Astronomical League Coordinator): Bill McLean recognized Nick Anderson for receiving awards for the Deep Sky Binocular Program, Lunar Program, Planetary Nebula Program, Binocular Messier Program, Solar System Observers Program, as well as the Master Observer Award. Nick Anderson was awarded his pins and certificates from the Astronomical League. Nick reported that he started working on the programs about 2 1/2 years ago and it took him a lot of dedication. Bill McLean discussed the AL observation programs and explained to newcomers how helpful the programs are to becoming a better observer and familiarizing yourself with the night sky.

Observing Reports:

Bill McLean expressed how brilliant Jupiter is right now. He observed the motions of the moons of Jupiter by going out to his telescope every couple of hours to see what movement the moons had made. Chuck Jagow reported he viewed the transit of one of the moons across Jupiter at almost 500x magnification.

Jeff Goldstein and Jim Tallman discussed that Venus is just a sliver of a crescent now, but still incredibly bright.

Bird Taylor suggested viewing the very thin crescent Moon tomorrow (1/3/14).

Observatory will be open at the GAP on 1/3/14.

Quick presentation by Bill McLean:

Bill McLean brought 4 different rocket replicas that he reported to be 1:200 scale. The Mercury Redstone which launched in 1961 was tiny in comparison to the other three: The Mercury Atlas, Gemini's Titan II, and the largest, which dwarfed the others, was Apollo's Saturn V rocket. Bill's quick presentation demonstrated the significant size difference of the rockets over only a 7 year period.

Old Business:

No reports for old business.

New Business:

Jim Tallman announced a new online tool, Night Sky Network, that we have begun to use to help manage the club and enhance our outreach capabilities. It is a national and regional network of amateur astronomers. If there are people in the area looking for a club, or organizations seeking astronomers for outreach, they will be able to search and find BBAA. The website offers a calendar, event tracking, a way for individual members to keep track of their own outreach hours, as well as countless other benefits. Members will start receiving emails that they've been registered in the network. The club will still be able to use the Yahoo group as a discussion forum, but outreach events and meetings will be tracked by the Night Sky Network.

Scale-Model Pocket Solar System:

President Jim Tallman had a project for creating a scale-model pocket solar system, accompanied by a power point presentation with instructions. Each person in attendance received a long strip of register tape measuring the length of their “wingspan” from hand to hand. The long strip of paper represented the distance from the Sun to the Kuiper Belt/Pluto. With a series of folds and marks (Uranus being in the center, and the small rocky planets making up only about two inches of the end closest to the Sun) it was demonstrated just how much space there is between the objects in our solar system.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM, followed by a brief introduction of newcomers, the door prize drawing, and the a planetarium presentation.

Door Prize Drawings:

Winners of the Holiday Peanuts: Bird Taylor, Shawn Loescher, and Leigh Anne Lagoe

Winner of an issue of Sky & Telescope Magazine: Matt McLaughlin

Winner of a Rocket-shaped Lens Cleaner: Bruce Powers

Planetarium Presentation with Chuck Dibbs:

The planetarium show was titled Undiscovered Worlds: The Search Beyond Our Sun. The show focused on the discovery of exoplanets in recent years, the wildly different worlds that they are, how we discovered them, and how close we may be to finding an exoplanet similar to Earth.