

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, November 9, 2011, Meeting

In attendance:

- Barton & Linda Billard
- Don Clark
- George Clarke
- Brenda Conway
- Joe Fordham
- Joe & Sherry Francis
- Leigh Gettier
- Glenn Holliday
- Jerry Hubbell
- Dan Lien
- Mike Masters
- Tim Plunkett
- Javier & Ruby Valverde

President Mike Masters began the meeting at 7 p.m. after pizza was served. Sixteen members were present.

Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Mike had started presenting the report for October just before Tim arrived. Two new members joined in October, one of whom also opted to include dues to join the Astronomical League. Dues this late in the year are applied to 2012, but counting these two, the Club has 33 members. The expenditure for the month was \$55.00 for Astronomical League dues, including \$7.50 per member for those opting for an individual membership plus \$10.00 for the Club. The individual dues were paid out from additional dues paid for that purpose. Because this is the first year under the optional Astronomical League individual membership arrangement, Tim questioned whether it was appropriate for the Club to pay the additional \$10.00. We discussed how the new arrangement was chosen and agreed that the vote in favor had been explicit that that portion of the Astronomical League dues would be borne by the Club.
- Status of Club Loaner Equipment—Glenn had the Solar Telescope out and brought it with him to the meeting. He suggested Brenda might be a good choice as custodian for it because she had used it a number of times for school events. They planned to discuss transferring custodianship before leaving.
- Star Parties, Events, and Meetings—The Club finally had another successful star party on October 22. Glenn gave a brief report. The seeing was excellent for viewing Jupiter. The Lake Anna outreach scheduled the next Saturday was another casualty of the unfavorable weather. Mike spoke with the Lake Anna contact afterward. She suggested a Power Point presentation on an astronomy topic that Park interpreters could use in lieu of viewing in case of bad weather would be appreciated. Mike explained the Club's limited size would not make this possible unless a member could volunteer to do it. She also asked about using astronomy images from the Club website in promoting the events at the Park. Mike explained to her that the individual members who made the images would have to give their permission. The next star party at Caledon Natural Area is November 19 with a November 26 backup date. The December date is the 17th with no backup (because it would be Christmas Eve). The Heart of Virginia Star Party is November 18–20. Glenn is coordinating for those interested. The next Club meeting is December 14. The program was to be on Radio Astronomy by Dan Lien, but he will be unable to attend the meeting. Glenn volunteered to move his presentation date up as a substitute.
- Draft 2012 star party schedule—Mike said that the draft star party schedule was sent on September 17 to Caledon, Westmoreland, and Lake Anna.
- Election of officers for 2012—Nominees for Club officers for 2012, including Tim Plunkett for Treasurer and Bart Billard for Secretary were chosen at the last meeting. However, Mike reported that three of the four nominees for the offices of President and Vice President were unable to accept the nomination. Jerry Hubbell was willing to run for President instead of Vice President, and Glenn Holliday was willing to run for Vice President. Mike asked for nominations from the floor, and Leigh

Gettier moved with George Clarke seconding to nominate Glenn Holliday for Vice President. The voice vote was in favor. George moved and Joe Fordham seconded Jerry Hubbell for President. A voice vote approved the nomination. The slate of candidates, Jerry Hubbell for President, Glenn Holliday for Vice President, Tim Plunkett for Treasurer, and Bart Billard for Secretary, was then approved on a voice vote.

New Business/News Items

- Joe Francis submitted the receipt for the pizza purchase in the amount of \$82.40. Javier Valverde moved, with a second by Leigh Gettier for the Club to reimburse Joe for the pizza. The motion was approved on a voice vote, and Tim said he was prepared with the checkbook.
- The meeting then adjourned for members to chat and enjoy what was left of the pizza and other treats contributed. Myron Wasiutta stopped by and described his successful attempt at spotting the asteroid 2005 YU55 near its closest approach to Earth (a distance less than that of the Moon) the previous evening.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 14, 2011, at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library Headquarters, 1201 Caroline St., in Fredericksburg. Introductions will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by Bart Billard, Secretary