

# Rappahannock Astronomy Club

## Minutes, November 14, 2018, Meeting

In attendance:

Jean Benson  
Bart and Linda Billard  
Don Clark  
Glenn Faini  
Glenn Holliday  
Jerry Hubbell

Scott Lansdale  
Tim Plunkett  
Ryan Rapoza and daughter  
Matt Scott  
Tom Watson

The meeting began with pizza shortly after 7:00 p.m. Thirteen members were present. The business meeting began about 7:30.

## Old Business

- MSRO Update—Jerry Hubbell explained the extra Internet access expenses Myron Wasiuta pays on his home Internet access to provide access for MSRO as well. Myron had upgraded to Comcast from the Verizon service he used previously in order to get sufficient bandwidth. Jerry said he thought a good use for some of the extra dues would be to donate something, say \$100 to MSRO to help cover that maintenance expense. Tim Plunkett said he believed the club dues had been \$20 for the last 2 years. There was discussion of wording for a motion that Jerry wanted to make. Tim suggested moving to donate 25 percent of the dues collected at the \$20 rate. Jerry moved that Tim look into the amount that percentage would be through 2018 from the time the dues went to \$20. Scott seconded and suggested the donation should be to the MSRO Commission rather than the observatory. Jerry agreed with the suggestion. The motion passed with none opposed.
- *Stargazer* Update—Linda said the latest *Stargazer* went out after the last club meeting (at the beginning of this month).
- Communications—Don said he put an example of how calendars could be added to the club website on a test page and showed it on the screen. There was a club events calendar and a separate astronomy calendar. He was sending a link so members could look to help decide what they like. There was a discussion of linking from Facebook. The club calendar example used Google, and Glenn Holliday said that people who use Google Calendar themselves could have the RAC calendar events show up in their calendar. Tom Watson asked whether the club might want a simple table form of calendar. It would be simple to set up but would not have features like sending out reminders. Glenn Holliday noted we already have such static calendars, one for meetings and one for events. Don concluded he should just keep Google Calendar, because the alternative involved paying for WordPress plug-ins in order to make the calendar responsive or for reminders to be sent out.

## New Business

- MSRO Training Sessions—Jerry said the follow-up session for people who have taken the first session had not yet been scheduled. He also reported Explore Scientific had a live webcast about MSRO on Saturday, and they would plan to do another.
- Planned Events—David Abbou's Embrey Mill outreach appeared to finally be on for the coming Saturday. Those interested in participating could email David. No Caledon star party was scheduled for December. Glenn Faini asked about the club picnic schedule for next year. Glenn Holliday said it was scheduled for the October star party date at Caledon. Jerry pointed out it would be the meeting for nominating officers.
- Astronomy News Item—Glenn Holliday said he saw a story about a possible super Earth exoplanet orbiting Barnard's Star.

- Officer Nominations and Elections—Bart Billard said the minutes for October recorded nominations of Tim Plunkett for Treasurer and himself for secretary. Glenn Holliday noted Linda nominated him for “his choice” of President or Vice President and said he was willing to accept either nomination, depending on what office another potential nominee would prefer. Glenn Faini said he was interested in a nomination for President. Linda and Tim seconded. Several members seconded Glenn Holliday’s nomination for Vice President. The officer nominees were approved by acclamation.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at the Headquarters Library on Caroline Street, downtown Fredericksburg. Bart and Jerry will talk about TESS, i.e. the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite We will be in room 2.