

# Rappahannock Astronomy Club

## Minutes, May 20, 2020, Online Meeting

In attendance:

Jim Browder  
Scott Busby  
Bart & Linda Billard  
Don Clark  
Glenn Faini

Joe Fordham  
Jerry Hubbell  
Rolando Pancotti  
Matt Scott  
Guests: Adam, Zachary, and Noah Zwierko

The meeting began 7:00 p.m. Ten members and three guests were present. No presentation was planned. Glenn Faini mentioned the need for presentations at upcoming meetings, saying the only dates not in need of presentations are the picnic and officer election meetings. Jerry Hubbell said he was involved with upcoming meetings of the AAS and SAS. He said that the SAS meeting included June 1 as a day free of registration fees (other days had a token fee) and that Scott Roberts was involved as a vendor. Jerry said AAS recently opened its membership to amateurs and he would be giving a 5-minute poster session online.

## Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Matt Scott said there was one member who joined in April and there were three more who joined afterward, along with an Astronomical League (AL) renewal. He was asking for AL dues by the June club meeting, in time for the payment to AL due July 1. Matt reported AL was still working on recent problems, including loss of the League's webmaster.
- Vice President's Event Report—Glenn F. said he was waiting to see whether the State Parks open in time for the June star party.
- Secretary's report—Bart Billard had nothing to report.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda said she would probably start on the next issue in mid-June.
- MSRO Status—Jerry reported that the MSRO Science, Inc. board of directors meeting was held the previous week. He also talked about getting Station 3 up and running and improving the network configuration linking the stations. Glenn F. asked about the Dobsonian telescope inquiry that he forwarded to club members. Scott Busby had offered some advice but said the club was not accepting donations for the equipment inventory now. Jerry said Myron's offer for a trade was accepted and that Myron might have already picked it up. Myron's offer included a credit for the donation for tax purposes.
- Communications Committee report—Don Clark said Jitsi, which he had suggested as a Zoom alternative in a recent email, has no time limit but doesn't give a video background capability. He suggested it could be a backup for online meetings. Glenn F. asked about the video background Jerry had. Jerry said he was using ChromaCam application that works with the camera instead of the meeting application. He thought it could work as well with Jitsi.

Glenn F. said Groups.io was working well. He thought there could be a couple of new club members who had not joined yet. He mentioned the group was configured to notify members of the club Executive Council (EC) when new members joined. An EC member could turn off the notification, if desired.
- Club Equipment Inventory—Scott said the situation was unchanged with the club equipment.

## New Business

- Other New Business—Bart mentioned his suggestion in the latest newsletter that the recent American Physical Society public lecture on the Event Horizon Telescope was available online and might make a good meeting program. Glenn F. asked whether Comet C/2020 F8 Swan was visible lately. Scott confirmed it was pretty low in the sky but might be visible soon. He brought up the subject of the Yerkes Observatory. One of the things he mentioned was that his visit there turned out to be about a week before it closed. He said it now appeared visits would again be possible in the future. Glenn F. asked about the supernova in M61. Bart said he believed he saw Myron getting images with various filters recently. Glenn F. and Jim Browder discussed our two

clubs sharing meetings. They decided each should invite their members to send a request to the other for an invitation, if interested. Jim indicated the Richmond club had about 65 members.

- Upcoming Events—Glenn F. mentioned the May star party was cancelled. The June meeting and star party dates were June 17 and June 20, respectively. Jerry volunteered to give a presentation for the June meeting. Glenn F. said he planned to avoid using Zoom’s waiting room feature for the next meeting invitation.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. It is currently planned as an online Zoom meeting.