

# Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, February 15, 2023, Online Meeting

In attendance:

Scott Busby, Equipment Manager  
Bart Billard, Secretary  
Linda Billard, *StarGazer* Editor  
Glenn Faini, President  
Clair Gardener

Glenn Holliday  
Mark McDonagh  
John Maynard, Web Administrator  
Matt Scott, Treasurer

The meeting began at 8:05 p.m. Nine members attended.

## Old Business

- **President's Report**—Glenn Faini reported that the recording of the January presentation by Corey Dallmeyer on his white phosphor night vision equipment was now posted online on our website for people to view.
- **Treasurer's Report**—Matt Scott said last month there were 19 renewals or new members signed up including 1 student and 4 Astronomical League subscriptions. That resulted in \$397.50 coming in. He said the only expenditure was \$275.00 to MSRO. Glenn F. said that at the end of this month he would send out a 30-day notice to members who have not renewed that their membership would expire if they did not pay their dues by the end of March. He said that would change after this time with the proposed revision to our bylaws.
- **Vice President's Report**—Glenn F. gave the report for Myron Wasiuta, who could not attend the meeting. He said there was a star party at Caledon on January 21 with Glenn Holliday and 16 home schoolers. He asked Glenn H. whether there were any other club members participating. Glenn H. recalled there was one new member he had not met and another couple who were not members but said they wanted to join. He could not confirm Glenn F.'s conjecture that the new member might be Dave Henderson but said it could have been. Glenn F. next asked whether anyone went to the January 23 event for Boy Scouts at Greg Szlyk's house. He did not know if it was held, but Linda Billard said Greg sent an email about it and she had reported it in the newsletter she posted at the beginning of this month. The next event was February 8 at Mott's Run, and Glenn had heard a couple of club members went. Finally, star parties were planned for Belmont and Bowling Green on the Saturday following the current meeting. Glenn F. said Corey had said Friday was his alternate date in case of rain. Glenn did not think anyone had asked for an event at Caledon. He said he could not provide any new information about the York County Astronomical Society radio telescope project, and we would have to wait for an update from Myron.
- **Secretary's Report**—Glenn F. asked Bart Billard for a report. He said he thought Bart had uploaded some minutes recently. Bart confirmed uploading minutes for the previous 2 months but said he discovered he still needed to provide a link for the January minutes because that required adding rows in the table for the year 2023 where the links for this year should appear. He said he could do that after the meeting. Glenn asked how far back the minutes posted on our website go. Bart thought they went back at least to when he began recording them.
- ***StarGazer* Report**—Glenn F. noted that the latest *StarGazer* was just posted this month, which led him to guess that Linda would not have anything new to report for a while. She confirmed that.
- **MSRO Report**—Glenn F. said he did not have anything from Myron to report on MSRO.  
At this time, Glenn H. answered the question about the minutes posted on our website, saying the earliest were 2009. Glenn F. asked Bart whether the table was getting unwieldy, and Bart said there were only three lines per year (actually it is two with the year to the left of the months), and it does not require much scrolling.
- **Communications Report**—John Maynard had not joined the meeting, so Glenn F. reported that John had told him that after the last meeting, he had completed another backup and updated WordPress. He also had changed the PayPal link for student membership from \$7.50 to \$5.00, and Glenn thought he had updated Google Analytics as well, completing everything we talked

about at the last meeting regarding our website. Glenn said there was nothing to report about the Groups.io list.

- Club Equipment Inventory—Scott Busby said there was nothing new to report.

## New Business

- Bylaws Review—Glenn F. said that after he had concluded at the January meeting that the change in star parties did not require a bylaws update, it dawned on him that we should look at changing the 3-month grace period for membership dues, which would require a bylaws update. He said he had always thought 3 months was excessive now that most members paid their dues online. He supposed it might have made some sense when we met in person and members brought their checks to the meeting to give to Tim Plunkett. Glenn H. agreed that even in those days, 3 months seemed generous and that this proposed policy change says we don't think they need that long to decide whether they want to renew or drop their membership. Glenn F. did think that a few members might have missed a meeting or two and needed that long to pay their dues in person. He showed the edits in the bylaws. In the section on dues in Article II, he had changed dues are "payable at the January meeting" to "payable in January." He deleted the following sentence about a 3-month grace period. He left the part about new members joining in the fourth quarter being considered members for the following year. In Section 7 of Article III on nonpayment of dues, he changed the language to say members would be dropped from the membership rolls for "annual dues not paid by January 31" instead of dues "90 days or more in arrears." John Maynard joined the meeting late, and Glenn confirmed with him the things he reported earlier in the meeting, and then brought him up to date about the current discussion of the bylaws. Then, after providing an opportunity for further discussion of the bylaws change, he called for an EC vote, having counted six out of eight EC members present. The voice vote passed with no objections. He asked Linda to use the copy he emailed her earlier, saying it only needed the date of the EC approval changed to the date of this meeting. She said she could do it and return him a PDF copy to send out to the club membership in preparation for a vote at the next meeting.
- Upcoming Events—Glenn F. said Corey was planning two outreach events at James River State Park, but he was not sure Corey had come up with dates for them. He said they wanted two dates during the summer. He said there was a Mattaponi district round table scheduled for February 16 and asked Glenn H. whether he was feeling well enough for that. Glenn H. said his cold was still pretty bad, and he was looking for someone to substitute. However, he got the flyers Linda updated printed out and passed them along to some Scout leaders who will take them for others to pick up at the event. He also included some of his business cards with our calendar printed on them. He said the Round Table event got Scout Leaders together, and they had invited various groups with outdoor or scientific or other activities that could be of interest to Scouts.
- International Dark Sky Association (IDA)—Glenn F. had this topic on the agenda for Eileen Kragie to talk about but had to table it because she had not joined the meeting.
- Updated Brochure—Linda was looking for a location on our website for putting a link to the club brochure she had updated. Glenn H. had recently emailed Linda asking about an updated version, and she wound up sending him "the latest and greatest" version. He said there used to be a link on the "About RAC" page. Linda thought "About RAC" would be a good place to put a link to the updated brochure but left open the possibility of having more than one link if someone wanted it.
- Other Items—Glenn F. said we had covered all the items he had on the agenda but he wanted to mention we were up to 44 members so far this year. He guessed we had a dozen to a dozen and a half old members who had not renewed yet. He said he would send out a reminder to them that they needed to renew by the end of March or they would lose access to our Groups.io list. Glenn H. mentioned an item he saw on a new attack on WordPress sites. He said the source was a story *ars TECHNICA* had on Monday, which said 11,000 WordPress sites seemed to have been affected so far. Usually attacks targeted plug-ins, but only partial information had been developed so far, and there was not a fix for it yet. It was fairly benign, using the attacked sites to generate fake ad reads in order for the attackers to get payments from other parties. Glenn H. said there was not an easy way to find out whether our site had been attacked, but he suggested anyone noticing some odd behavior when using a link on our site (like going some place flaky) should let us know because it could be a symptom of this attack. In answer to a question from Glenn F. he

said the information he had so far suggested the backup John made recently occurred before this attack started.

Glenn F. asked John about Terry Barker's help with admin stuff for the website. John said he and Terry wound up configuring a new admin account because Don's account was also used for other websites and Don had asked them to set up the new set of credentials.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. It is planned as an online meeting.