

Rappahannock Astronomy Club 2011 Annual Report

Membership: 35 members as of December 2011

Officers: President: Michael Masters Vice-President: Joseph Francis
Treasurer: Tim Plunkett Secretary: Bart Billard

Significant Activities:

- Achieved full ownership of **raclub.org** domain and Yahoo **rac_group**
- Developed email aliases for club officers and points of contact
- Published formal basis for **RAClub.org** Yahoo and **rac_group** use patterns
- Became Associate Member of JPL's Night Sky Network
- Began public outreach relationship with Lake Anna State Park
- Planned meeting programs for 2012
- Planned star party schedule for 2012; dates at Caledon, Westmoreland & Lake Anna
- Planned 2012 public outreach star party at historic Stratford Hall
- Developed Sun fact sheet & H-alpha telescope explanation for solar observing programs
- Developed outline notes and written introduction for use at public outreach star parties
- Elected 2012 officers; President: Jerry Hubbell, Vice-President: Glenn Holliday, Treasurer: Tim Plunkett, Secretary: Bart Billard

Club Operations:

- Affiliate Astronomical League
- Associate Member JPL Night Sky Network
- Web site **www.RAClub.org**
- Yahoo group **Rac_Group** (register at http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/rac_group/)

Club Meetings, Programs & Speakers:

January 12	CRRL Headquarters	"Building a Home Observatory" Dave Bentz
February 9	CRRL Headquarters	"The Kepler Mission" Bart Billard
March 9	CRRL Headquarters	"How to Set Up and Use RAC Loaner Scopes"
April 13	CRRL Salem Church	"Landing on a Sunspot" Brenda Conway
May 11	CRRL Salem Church	"Effects of Vacuum on Materials" Leigh Gettier
June 8	CRRL Headquarters	"Introducing Astronomy at Star Parties" Glenn Holliday
July 13	CRRL Headquarters	"About Light Pollution" Scott Busby
August 27	Caledon Natural Area	Club picnic, no program
September 14	CRRL Headquarters	"The Evolution of Stars" Joe Francis
October 4	CRRL Headquarters	"NASA Mercury Mission Update" Brenda Conway
November 9	CRRL Headquarters	Club election meeting, no program
December 14	CRRL Headquarters	"Pluto" Glenn Holliday

2011 RAC Award Winners:

Scott Busby	Distinguish Service Award
Tim Plunkett	Extended Service Award
Don Clark	2011 Service Award

Star Parties:

8 Jan Caledon (cancelled, weather)	30 July Caledon (cancelled, weather)
29 Jan Caledon (cancelled, weather)	27 Aug Belmont Held (club picnic)
5 Feb Belmont (cancelled, weather)	3 Sept Westmoreland (cancelled, weather)
5 March Caledon (cancelled, weather)	24 Sept Caledon (cancelled, weather)
2 April Caledon (cancelled, weather)	1 Oct Stratford Hall (cancelled, weather)
30 April Caledon Held	22 Oct Caledon Held
7 May Belmont (cancelled †)	29 Oct Lake Anna (cancelled, weather)
28 May Caledon (cancelled, weather)	19 Nov Caledon (cancelled, weather)
4 June backup Caledon (cancelled, weather)	26 Nov backup Caledon (cancelled, weather)
25 June Westmoreland (cancelled, weather)	17 Dec Caledon (cancelled, weather)
2 July Caledon (cancelled, weather)	
23 July Westmoreland (cancelled, weather)	

† cancelled because primary party was held

Outreach Events:

8-9 Apr Scout Leader Clinic (G. Holliday)	23 July Westmoreland (cancelled, weather)
25 Apr Cub Scouts (David Abbou)	3 Sept Westmoreland (cancelled, weather)
10 May Cub Scouts (David Abbou)	10 Sept Hartwood Days (G. Holliday)
13 June Conway Space Day (Masters, Clark)	1 Oct Stratford Hall (cancelled, weather)
14 Jun Workshop Camp Pamunkey (Holliday)	24 Oct Park Ridge Elementary (D. Abbou)
25 June Westmoreland (cancelled, weather)	29 Oct Lake Anna (cancelled, weather)

Purchases:

- Food supplies for club picnic & pizza dinner
- Gifts for club raffle
- Gifts for annual member recognition awards

Donations:

- Many issues Sky & Telescope and Astronomy magazines donated by U. Oesterwinter
- Orion Star Shoot Web Cam donated by Jerry Hubbell

Donations and Volunteers:

We wish to thank the many RAC members who donated time, resources, services, materials and funds to club projects in 2010. Many made their time available for club outreach activities, school educational activities and community awareness. Others who attended the August club picnic and the November club pizza dinner donated food, drinks or other supplies, helping to make these events a success. To each member, RAC is indebted. The following individuals are especially recognized for their community participation.

Glenn Holliday	Astronomy Scout Tutoring and Community Public Outreach
David Abbou	School/Scout Educational Programs & Free Lance-Star Column
Scott Busby	Community Light Pollution Awareness
Brenda Conway	Solar Astronomy School Educational Programs

Submitted by Michael Masters
President, RAC, December 2011