

# Rappahannock Astronomy Club

## Minutes, October 14, 2009, Meeting

In attendance:

- Barton Billard
- James Baker
- Scott Busby
- Don Clark
- Matthew Genack
- Glenn Holiday
- Tim Plunkett
- Debbie Sandler
- Jerry Taylor
- Robert and Shayla Taylor

President Scott Busby opened the meeting shortly before 7:30 p.m. with introductions around the room. Seven members and four visitors were present.

## Treasurer's Report

Tim Plunkett gave the report for September 30, 2009. The Club has 27 paid members as of the end of September. Tim mentioned that at the November meeting the Club elects officers and the Club pays for pizza for the members attending.

## Business Meeting

Star party report—The Club star party dates suffered a streak of washouts. Big Meadows September 19 was first, although Bart and Linda were there Friday and Saturday for a previously planned stay and Matt Genack went Saturday. Some viewing was possible in the evenings with scattered to broken cloud cover. Early Saturday morning saw a brief period of very fine viewing. Unfortunately, conditions deteriorated later Saturday evening as predicted. The following weekend, originally planned for Westmoreland, was changed to Caledon. Construction of a new Westmoreland visitor center has made the area used in the past unavailable. In any case, weather forced cancellation again. Earlier Glenn and Mike went to Westmoreland on September 25th for an outreach event planned with Annette Bareford. Weather was again uncooperative. Glenn said he contacted Ms. Bareford when it was clear that stargazing would not be possible. She asked him to do the alternative program he offered, so he and Mike Masters went to the park and gave an introductory astronomy talk (Mike) and provided storytelling (Glenn).

## New Business

Award presentation—Glenn Holiday was presented with a distinguished service award for his work as Scouting committee member leading outreach events and merit badge assistance for Scouts. He was presented with a certificate and a Star Atlas 2000. James Bingham, who was not present, was also recognized for his contribution to the Club as website manager.

Nominations—Scott Busby said he was unable to continue next year as president. He offered in nomination Mike Masters as president, Joe Francis as vice president, Tim Plunkett as treasurer, and Bart Billard as secretary. All the nominations were approved by a show of hands. Scott said Mike has agreed to the nomination but he was unable to contact Joe.

Telescope donation for Club equipment—Bob and Shayla Taylor presented the Club with a Celestron telescope and some mounting parts.

After completion of the business meeting, there was a brief period for open discussion or questions, and Bart Billard showed an assembled Galileoscope and the unassembled kit, demonstrating some of the assembly steps.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2009, 7:30 p.m., at the Pizza Hut, 1224 Powhatan St., Fredericksburg.

Submitted by Bart Billard, Secretary