

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, November 19, 2014, Meeting

In attendance:

- Terry Barker
- Bart & Linda Billard
- Don Clark
- Ron Henke
- Glenn Holliday
- Jerry Hubbell
- Scott Lansdale
- Tim Plunkett
- Lauren Nicholson

After most members present had had time to socialize and enjoy the pizza dinner, President Jerry Hubbell called the business meeting to order shortly after 8 p.m. Ten members were present.

Old Business

- **Treasurer's Report**—Tim Plunkett presented the reports for September and October. His September report included two dues payments and one expenditure to reimburse Don Clark for club website fees. There were no changes in the balance for October. The total paid memberships for the year stands at 27. Don said that next year, the club domain name will be up for renewal. Jerry suggested that membership information that Tim has available should be provided to club officers to facilitate keeping the meeting sign-in sheets up to date and to allow the President to communicate with the membership. Tim said his list includes current and past members, but current members could be identified from the latest Treasurer's Report. Don suggested a tool provided on the Night Sky Network for club treasurers' record keeping might be useful for maintaining the list. Some other suggestions were to put the information into a spreadsheet or database.
- **Election of Club Officers**—Jerry offered members an opportunity to make additional nominations from the floor. He listed the nominations made at the October meeting: Ron Henke for President, Scott Lansdale for Vice President, Bart Billard for Secretary, and Tim Plunkett for Treasurer. No new nominations were offered. The vote was made with ballots, which were counted by Terry Barker. The nominees were elected unanimously.

Star Parties, Events, and Meetings—October's star party at Caledon was successful. Glenn Holliday said five members attended and three couples came to visit.

The Northumberland outreach on the Saturday before the club meeting was also successful. Jane Towner presented us with a thank you note, including a donation of \$100 to the club. She also gave us her Stellarscope, a planetarium-style viewing device that can be configured for a range of North or South latitudes and adjusted to show what is visible in the sky for any date and time combination. Bart brought it to the meeting with him and passed it around.

We discussed having reciprocated with a donation to Northumberland Preservation, Inc. (NPI) earlier this year, and Ron made a motion to do so again with a donation to NPI of \$100 to be sent in January or February. Terry seconded, and the motion was passed.

- **Loaner Equipment**—We discussed the responsibility for coordinating the loaner equipment, which would pass to Scott as the new Vice President in January. The equipment is listed on the website, but not which item is checked out to whom. Jerry noted that we were in need of ideas for reducing our inventory of equipment that is getting little or no use and trying to identify some potential acquisitions that would be more useful. Ron noted that the mount that goes with the 4-1/2-inch club telescope he has checked out is not working properly, and it slips in elevation. (It is one of two such mounts we purchased about 3 years ago.) Someone also reminded us the Vernon Scope that was donated to the club recently also needs some work on the tripod. Jerry said he would like to have members with club loaner equipment bring it to the next meeting for an inventory.

New Business and Astronomy News

- **2015 Star Party Schedule**—Glenn said he had not seen a reply from Caledon on the proposed 2015 schedule and noted that Sammy had been promoted to a position in Richmond. That left Nina, the

manager, needing to find a replacement for Sammy or respond to the schedule herself in the meantime. Glenn said he would try to talk to her at the star party on Saturday.

- **Beginners' Coordinator Link Needed on Website**—Ron asked to have his name added to the website contacts list as the Beginners' Coordinator so that it would no longer be a blank link.
- Ron proposed suggesting to David Abbou the idea of doing an interview with the outgoing club President in one of his columns.
- **Other News**—Terry brought his computer to show us three NASA visualization tools available for download: NASA's Eyes on Earth, NASA's Eyes on the Solar System, and NASA's Eyes on Exoplanets. The second features animations of NASA missions, including Cassini. All three have options for viewing in 3D, if glasses are available.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center.