

# Rappahannock Astronomy Club

## Minutes, August 24, 2019, Meeting

In attendance:

Bart and Linda Billard

Scott Busby

Don Clark

Glenn and Colleen Faini

Joe and Sherry Francis

Glenn and Marian Holliday

Jerry, Michelle, Autumn, and Jed Hubbell

Ryan Lewis, with wife and daughters

Walter and Carmen Legg and children

Troy Major

Curtis Martin

Tim Plunkett

Ryan and Taylor Rapoza

Tom Watson

Jose Gomez-Vidal

The picnic began at about 5 p.m. with preparations to start the grills. Twenty members as well as some visitors for the star party were present.

## Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—The report included \$107.00 funds received and no expenditures. The total count of members for the year was 45.
- Vice President's Event Report—Glenn Holliday said the Embrey Mills event was moved to the first week in September and that he could provide more information on the event to anyone interested. He said turnout was good for the July star party at Caledon. Glenn Faini and Tim Plunkett represented RAC. Glenn H. also mentioned the request for a star party and Moon program at Kenmore on September 14. The information was sent to the rac\_group Yahoo mailing list. He said he had a conflict with a Scouting event that night. Caledon was switching us to Friday night in October because of another event on Saturday, so the next Caledon dates would be September 21 and October 25.
- Secretary's Report—Bart Billard said he had recently posted the June and July minutes on the club website.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda Billard said the latest issue was put posted on the website on the first of this month and the next newsletter was more than 2 months away.
- Mark Slade Remote Observatory (MSRO) update—Jerry Hubbell said MSRO was named for the late Mark Slade and started out with a Commission for administrative purposes. The observatory was first put in service in 2016. Some equipment had since been changed out, and the Commission got some support from Explore Scientific and some other companies with loaned or discounted equipment. For the last 3 months the Commission worked on incorporating as a nonprofit to provide educational and research opportunities, training, and outreach, and to present talks at NEAF and NEIAC (or other venues). Jerry described the current instruments, a 165-mm ED APO refractor with a piggy-backed 102-mm ED APO refractor and dome of the main observatory station, and explained how the station could be operated remotely over an Internet connection.
- Communications Committee Report—Don Clark said he had nothing new to report. Scott Busby had nothing to report on the club Yahoo group.
- Club Equipment Inventory—Scott B. reported the club NexStar 5-inch SCT on loan to Bart the last 2 months was being returned at the picnic. He said the 6-inch Dobsonian was still loaned to Curtis Martin. Then he went over the other equipment in his inventory.

## New Business

- Change in Jerry Hubbell's Role with Incorporation of MSRO Science, Inc.—Glenn F. said he concluded that with the change of MSRO from a commission to a corporation, Jerry's position in the RAC Executive Council should be revised. He moved that the club accept his reappointment

of Jerry to the Executive Council as the MSRO Science, Inc. Vice President. Linda seconded, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

- Upcoming Events—Glenn Holliday went over the schedule. Embrey Mill, discussed earlier, was scheduled for September 7. October 5 was scheduled for a Meet the Moon night (contact David Abbou). The October star party at Caledon was moved to Friday, October 25. November 16 was the date for a Stratford Hall outreach.
- Reimbursement for Pavilion Fee and Picnic Supplies—Glenn H. noted past club picnics he recalled were at Myron Wasiuta's house, then at the Caledon pavilion, then at Scott B.'s house and now back at the pavilion. This was the first time in some years we had paid for the pavilion. His expenses were \$154.93, including \$63.18 for the pavilion. Glenn F. moved that the club reimburse his expenses of \$154.93, and Linda seconded. Jerry proposed to add free membership for Glenn H. next year for his efforts. The motion passed with none opposed.
- Nonprofit Status—Glenn H. moved to start the process of getting nonprofit status with Jerry's help. Someone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- Wrap-up Items—Glenn F. reminded everyone that the September meeting would be back at the Headquarters Library in the new room downstairs by the elevator. Glenn H. thanked people who contributed food. Ryan Lewis described contacting Glenn H. about a youth group camping event in Prince William County that happened to conflict with a prior commitment Glenn H. had. Ryan made a point of thanking him for taking the time to help with preparing materials for the event.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at the Headquarters Library on Caroline Street, downtown Fredericksburg. We will be in room L2, downstairs near the elevator.