

# Rappahannock Astronomy Club

## Minutes, July 17, 2019, Meeting

In attendance:

David Bentz  
Bart and Linda Billard  
Scott Busby  
Don Clark  
Glenn Faini

Glenn Holliday  
Chris Law  
Rolando Pancotti  
Tim Plunkett

The meeting began at about 7 p.m. Nine members and a visitor were present.

## Program

To mark the 50th anniversary this month of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon, Glenn Faini led a discussion of “Apollo, Skylab, and Viking in the News.” He noted that the date of the current meeting was also the 44th anniversary of the Apollo–Soyuz linkup. Glenn F. said he was in elementary school at the time of the Moon landing and that neither he nor his father could remember watching on television. He could remember the Apollo missions after 12 and 13. Glenn Holliday said July 17 was also the 50th anniversary of the first color television broadcast from space (from Apollo 11).

Glenn F. said he remembered a classmate in third grade bringing in pictures and literature about current NASA programs for “Show and Tell.” He said he was then inspired to write to NASA asking for pictures and other materials. Show and Tell was the practice at the time, so he decided to use that format for the program at the current meeting. He passed around the materials he received from NASA, including brochures on the Kennedy Space Center, a report on Mariners Six and Seven, some “NASA Facts” about space flight, and information about Apollo 15. He mentioned the astronauts named the Apollo 9 lunar module “Spider,” and Apollo 10 astronauts named the lunar and command modules “Snoopy” and “Charlie Brown.” We also talked a little about the PBS retrospective show “Chasing the Moon.” Bart Billard said the show skipped over the missions between Apollo 8 and Apollo 11, and he wondered whether it was because of the module names the astronauts chose.

Glenn F. passed around a number of news items, including a montage of original newspaper clippings (some entire pages) from the *New York Daily News* and the *New York Times* on Skylab and Apollo–Soyuz. Scott Busby mentioned that NASA provides all the images from the Apollo program for download. Don Clark mentioned that some lunar samples from the Apollo missions were sealed away for 50 years in anticipation of development of improved technologies for analysis. We talked about lunar samples on public display. Someone said one, perhaps in Australia, was displayed so that visitors could touch it. Linda Billard mentioned one is mounted in a stained-glass window at the National Cathedral.

## Old Business

- Treasurer’s Report—Glenn F. supplemented Tim Plunkett’s report to include \$20 he collected for patches at the June meeting Tim was unable to attend. He took the opportunity to give Tim the \$20. A little later on in the meeting, Scott B. purchased two patches. Don Clark and Dave Bentz purchased one each.
- Vice President’s Event Report—Glenn H. said he thought the club had decided to change the picnic date to October, so he needed to change the reservation with Caledon to August. He said the June 29 star party was cancelled because of weather. The next star party date would be July 27. Glenn H. said he got some email from Embrey Mill about an event on Friday, but the Embrey Mill contact did not remember who she thought was going to support it. Glenn had checked and found David Abbou was not aware of it. Someone suggested Mark Burns might be the one. Later in the meeting Glenn H. got a response from Mark saying it wasn’t him. There was a Porter Library event on July 15, and Linda said David Abbou had provided her a report on that event for the upcoming *StarGazer*. It featured a “science café.” There was not a large attendance, but it

was an interesting event. Glenn H. said he was not aware of any club members attending the Astronomy on the National Mall event. We discussed the time (5 p.m.) for the club picnic on August 24 and star party arrival (7:30 to 8:30 p.m.).

- CRRL Meeting Room Change—Don Clark said we now officially would have room L2 in September. He said the room is currently called L5.
- Secretary's Report—Bart said he had sent the draft of his June meeting minutes out for comment and was about due to post them on the website.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda said the next issue was ready except for an article she hoped to get from Lauren and Bart's notes for the current meeting.
- Communications Committee Report—Don Clark reconfirmed he was planning to switch hosts for the website in August, from Hostek to Hawkhost.com. Scott B. had nothing to report on the club Yahoo group.
- Club Equipment Inventory—Scott B. reported his inventory was complete and two kits were out on loan (both extended another month). He discussed the loan policy document he was preparing. It lists the borrower's responsibility along with the equipment manager's responsibility. He uses a checkout sheet that also lists the borrower's responsibility. Scott B. said he would tailor a package for the abilities of the person wanting to borrow something. He wanted the Executive Council to look at what he had drawn up. Linda suggested updating the club website to say we had this program in place. Glenn F. said he would paste Scott's loan policy document into the format he was using and forward it to the Executive Council for comment.
- Bylaws Update—Glenn F. asked for comments on the Bylaws update submitted by the Executive Council last month. There were no comments, so he moved to ratify them, seconded by Linda and others. The vote was in favor with none opposed. Glenn F. said he would replace the old version on the club website, and Scott B. said he would take care of the one on rac\_group. Linda said she would provide the PDF for Glenn F.

## New Business

- Image License Inquiry—Glenn F. discussed the recent message about use of an image of Herschel's telescope on the website. He said one lesson was that we should be thorough about citing sources of anything we use.
- Nonprofit Status—Glenn F. said MSRO was pursuing nonprofit status to help in seeking research grants. He said he was concluding it would be a good idea for the club. Tim said he had what the club sent in to be a tax-exempt organization when it was the Triangulum club. Scott B. said we probably decided not to redo the application because of the burden of reporting requirements. Linda suggested tabling the discussion for a time when Myron Wasiuta and Jerry Hubbell would be present to talk about the process and requirements.
- Policy and Use Patterns Documents—Glenn F. said he believed it would be time to put the revised versions up on the website, at least once the current revision was sent around for comments.
- CRRL Meeting Room Change—This topic came up earlier during discussion of Old Business.
- Upcoming Events—Embrey Mill was discussed earlier. A Milky Way Workshop was scheduled for August 3 at Stratford Hall. It requires an admission fee to attend and learn about photographing the Milky Way. The club picnic was scheduled for August 24. Scott B. reminded Glenn F. to get members to give a count of family members attending and ask for volunteers to pick up or provide various supplies. Glenn F. said he would make a list to send out with items to volunteer for. October 5 was scheduled for a Meet the Moon night (contact David Abbou) and November 16 was the date for a Stratford Hall outreach. Glenn H. concluded we should strike the alternate star party dates for the July star party and August picnic star party at Caledon.
- RAC Embroidered Gear—Glenn F. said he had 10 patches left out of the order of 25.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Saturday, August 24, 2019, at Caledon for the club picnic at 5 p.m.