

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, November 20, 2019, Meeting

In attendance:

Jean Benson
Bart and Linda Billard
Scott Busby
Don Clark
Glenn Faini

Glenn Holliday
Jerry Hubbell
Curtis Martin
Tim Plunkett
Matt Scott

The meeting began as we were finishing our pizzas, about 7:25 p.m. Eleven members were present.

Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Tim Plunkett's report showed one new member's payment of \$5 prorated 2019 dues plus \$20 for 2020 dues. This brought the number of dues-paying members (not counting family members) to 40 for 2019. Curtis Martin asked whether payments were due on the anniversary of joining. Glenn Faini explained they are supposed to be paid in the first 3 months of the new year.
- 2020 Star Party Schedule—Glenn F. showed his revised star party schedule for next year. He explained the June, July, and August dates were adjusted to the weekend near the first quarter Moon to allow showing views of the Moon early in the evening. He also said we would try having Scott Busby's star party on the same night as some Caledon dates for some members who are too far away from Caledon.
- Vice President's Event Report—Glenn Holliday said there was no Caledon star party last month. He said he got a call about Stratford Hall cancelling our outreach date because of "conflicts." The caller was not Jon Bachmann. The person also said the 2020 schedule at Stratford hall was already full, and she wanted to talk about us having an event in 2021. Glenn H. said our next star party at Caledon was scheduled for Saturday after the meeting, but the weather forecast was not favorable.
- Secretary's Report—Bart Billard said he had posted the October minutes on the club website.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda Billard said the latest issue was just posted at the beginning of the month and things would be quiet for a while. Jerry Hubbell mentioned the need to work on the index to include more recent issues. He suggested the index should be posted on the website.
- Mark Slade Remote Observatory (MSRO) update—Jerry said the second quarterly Board of Directors' meeting was held last week. It focused on discussing the Business Plan. In response to a question by Glenn F., Jerry said the meeting did not get to the Bylaws. He noted that the first version of the website was up and running. There was a need to talk about how the MSRO material on the RAC website should be updated. Jerry said Myron Wasiuta was going to be involved with that. Jerry described training and work on a relationship with Explore Scientific involving it. He said RAC has a credit for ten 3-hour sessions that members can apply to the club president to use. The credit recognizes funds provided by RAC as an early show of support along with the additional \$5 in dues collected for MSRO starting in 2016. There was discussion about when the extra dues collected were last transferred to MSRO. Tim Plunkett said he wrote the check in March but he would have to check what dates it covered. This discussion resulted in a realization we would need to address what should be designated for MSRO when dues are prorated later in the year.
- Communications Committee Report—Don Clark said he was looking into getting an updated theme next year. He said it would get rid of the left sidebar menus (they are not responsive or can be moved to the bottom for mobile devices).
- Yahoo—Scott B. said we could start calling it Yahoo Mail with the ability to share files going away soon. He said there were still some files that members might want to download before they go away. Scott said he had pulled the logo artwork files. Don said photos were done through Flickr.

- Club Equipment Inventory—Scott B. said he added a 10-inch Dobsonian donated by Don to the inventory. He asked Don about the purpose of a part of the base, but Don was not sure about it. They concluded Scott B. would have to send Don a picture. Scott explained that when someone wants to borrow equipment, he wanted to help choose something suitable to that person's experience. Jerry suggested he could see whether Explore Scientific could donate a couple of eyepieces to the club. He and Scott B. discussed the large number of eyepieces already in the inventory and concluded maybe a couple of 2-inch wide-field eyepieces would work. Scott B. was not sure of the need right away but agreed to let Jerry know if the need arises.
- March Motion to Disperse the Club Library—Glenn F. noted the motion had not been acted on and asked for suggestions of when Tim should bring the books and documents to a meeting. We discussed making it a program about reading material. February was chosen as an open date needing such a program.

New Business

- Membership Survey Results—Jerry said the survey topic was originally about 501(c) 3 status for the club but was broadened. Glenn F. showed the results he sent out but said he had not had time to boil it down for the meeting. He said the response rate was about 25 percent, and Jerry said that was a very good response. We discussed needing to be more responsive when new members join. Glenn F. said he wanted to start sending a welcome email. Jerry suggested the club might want to implement a way to pay dues on our website.
- Officer Election—Glenn F. asked Bart to report the nominations made in October. Bart said Glenn Faini was nominated for President, Bart Billard for Secretary, and Matt Scott for Treasurer. There was no nomination for Vice President. Scott B. talked about his experience of the benefits of being an officer and nominated Curtis Martin. Curtis declined, saying he needed another year of membership under his belt before considering being an officer. Glenn F. read the duties of the Vice President. He concluded he could fill in for now until we find a candidate. Glenn H. moved to close the nominations. We voted in favor of the candidates with no opposition. Tim and Matt need to get together to get Matt set up to take over the Treasurer's duties. Also, Matt needs to be given signature authority for the club bank account.
- New Copyright Legislation and PicRights Scam—Glenn H. discussed some news reports on a bill in Congress for copyright enforcement. There was concern it could make it easier to "troll" copyrights. Glenn F said he got another email, this time addressed to him personally, asking him to "prove" the club's noncommercial status. Glenn H. mentioned that our troll claimed they would not email noncommercial entities. Jerry commented that if you look on the lawyer's website, he defines non-profits as a commercial service so he does not consider that a mitigating factor. He also said that it doesn't really matter because "fair use" is about usage not whether the entity is commercial or non-commercial/non-profit.
- Reimbursement for Pizza and Sodas Provided by Glenn Holliday—Bart reminded everyone we needed to reimburse Glenn H. for the food and drinks he picked up for the meeting. Glenn H. made a motion for reimbursement, seconded by Bart. It was passed on a voice vote.

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