

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, December 16, 2020, Online Meeting

In attendance:

David Bentz
Scott Busby
Bart & Linda Billard
Glenn Faini
Claire Gardiner

Jerry Hubbell
Troy Major
Sabrina Maxwell
Matt Scott

The business meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Nine members and a guest were present.

Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Glenn Faini and Matt Scott went over the Treasurer's report printed in the agenda. Matt said 33 paid memberships for 2020 were received during the calendar year, and there were a total of 43 including 2021 dues payments.
- Vice President's Event Report—Glenn F. reported that Caledon approved the star party schedule for 2021.
- Secretary's Report—Bart Billard said he did not have anything to report.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda Billard said she planned to write an article about the presentation to the RAS meeting earlier this month on the Osiris Rex mission to the asteroid Bennu. Dolores Hill, Senior Research Specialist with the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, was the special guest presenter for the evening.
- MSRO Status—Jerry Hubbell said the Explore Scientific Tuesday Global Star Parties (and other online meetings) were giving out gifts of 1 hour of training on MSRO. He explained the RAC membership benefit of time on MSRO and mentioned he thought a lot of the 30 hours for RAC members was still available. Jerry also said they were working on retrofitting a PMC-Eight system to the LX200 mount that had failed.
- Equipment Report—Scott Busby indicated there was a possibility of starting to do a few loans.

New Business

- Executive Council Appointments—Glenn F. moved for the club to accept his nominees for the Executive Council positions. It was seconded by Scott and passed without objections.
- Zoom Subscription—Glenn F. moved to upgrade the club's Zoom capability with a subscription for unlimited meeting duration costing \$149.99 per year. Linda seconded the motion. Jerry said he thought a year was a good term for us. Glenn said he would start meetings early so members could chat for a while once the 40-minute limit was removed. Jerry suggested we could use our PayPal account for payment of the subscription, adding Glenn might need Matt to help with the payment. We voted on the motion, which passed with no objections.
- Other news—Scott brought up a write-up he was working on for Linda to include in the *StarGazer*. Last July Ryan Shorter in Rustberg, VA, found a possible meteorite. He contacted RAC via David Abbou and then Myron, who put him in contact with Scott. They arranged to meet for Scott to check it out. After seeing it, Scott told Ryan he strongly suspected it was a meteorite. Myron suggested Dr. Syed Noor Qadri at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) might be able to do some tests to know for sure. However, problems with budgets and Covid 19 limited what could be done at NRL with a sample of the find that Scott got Ryan to send there. He said it was about 175 grams and 59.76 mm long by 49.2 mm wide by 29.4 mm thick, and was consistent with an iron oxyhedrite or hexahedrite. Scott hoped to get the preliminary data from Qadri. He said it could be the 13th or 15th such fall in Virginia, and the first in Campbell County.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. It is planned as an online Zoom meeting.