

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, November 18, 2020, Online Meeting

In attendance:

Bart & Linda Billard
Glenn Faini
Claire Gardiner
Glenn Holliday
Jerry Hubbell

Mike Parker
Boris Sarasota
Matt Scott
Bill Setzer

The business meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with introductions. Eight members and two guests were present. Boris Sarasota said he had some experience using the 30-inch telescope at Fan Mountain for photometry of Saturn's satellites. Claire Gardiner mentioned she lived in Stafford and had done some astrophotography. Mike Parker said he had done some visual astronomy for 20–30 years and had had an 8-inch and an 18-inch Dobsonian. Glenn Faini introduced members of the Executive Council. When he was introduced as MSRO vice president, Jerry Hubbell mentioned having been a past RAC president for 3 years.

Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Matt Scott reported receiving several dues payments from members renewing and new members. He had no expenditures to report for October. The total number of paid memberships for 2020 was 31, and there were 9 paid memberships for 2021. Glenn F. mentioned paying his 2021 dues at the beginning of this month, so the latter number would increase next month.
- Vice President's Event Report—
- Secretary's Report—Bart Billard said he just had posting of last month's minutes to report.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda Billard said an issue of the *StarGazer* was just delivered at the beginning of the month, and there was not yet anything to report on the next issue.
- MSRO Status—Jerry explained the availability of MSRO for club members, posting the link in the chat window. He said RAC donations helped with the construction and operation and that \$5.00 of each dues payment was earmarked for MSRO support. He described the three telescopes operational at the observatory's three stations. Station 1 has a 6.5-inch apochromatic refractor, and Station 2 has a Meade 12-inch SCT on a new mount recently donated to MSRO. On Station 3, Jerry said he recently replaced the 4-inch refractor with an 8-inch Ritchey Chretien telescope on the CGE mount with a PMC-Eight upgrade.
- Communications Committee Report—Glenn F. said Groups.io was still working well. He mentioned that because of the members-only restriction, he would be sending out a reminder to members to renew their membership for 2021 within the 3-month grace period to avoid being dropped from the list.
- Officer Nominations—Glenn F. asked Bart to confirm the list of officer nominations made at the October meeting. The current officers, Glenn Faini. (President), Bart Billard (Secretary), and Matt Scott (Treasurer) were nominated again, and Scott Busby was nominated for the vacant Vice President position. Glenn F. invited additional nominations from the members present, but none were offered.

New Business

- 2021 Officer Elections—Glenn F. decided to ask for a show of hands of all members who favored electing all four nominees for their respective offices. That worked well with Zoom Gallery view, and the nominees were elected with no votes against. (Note: Scott Busby, who was not present for nominations or the election, informed Glenn F. a few days after the meeting that he declined the nomination.)
- Pic Rights Inquiry—Glenn F. summarized the earlier demands sent to RAC by Pic Rights about an image used in a club presentation.

- Meeting Location—Glenn F. said he had received notification that the Library would allow some in-person meetings by reservation of meeting rooms a month ahead of the meeting. He had forwarded the update to EC members, noting that the process for reservations might make it difficult to meet in the same room or even be sure of getting a meeting room each month. The feedback he got indicated a reluctance to try meeting in person for now.
- Zoom Subscription—Glenn F. brought up the suggestion that RAC should pay for a Zoom subscription to allow meetings to run longer than 40 minutes without having to break off and start up again when the free 40 minutes run out. Claire Gardiner noted subscribing for a year costs \$150, saving some over the \$15/month cost. Jerry mentioned that Michael Aitken had access to an unlimited subscription and would offer to arrange for us to use it. We decided to table the discussion until Glenn F. could sort out the options. The subject would be raised again at the next meeting. Our 40 minutes for this meeting was running out and there was not enough interest in starting another 40-minute session, so the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. It is currently planned as an online Zoom meeting.