

# Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, August 18, 2021, Online Meeting

In attendance:

Scott Busby  
Bart & Linda Billard  
Glenn Faini  
Claire Gardener

Steve Heggermann  
Glenn Holliday  
Matt Scott  
Myron Wasiuta

The business meeting began at about 7:05 p.m. Nine members were present.

## Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Matt Scott reported one new member signed up in July, accounting for \$20.00 incoming funds. He said so far two new members signed up this month, one full member and one student member. Glenn Faini said the full member was Elgun Huseyno and that the two took us to a new high for club members.
- Vice President's Report—Glenn F. said the club picnic had 11 attendees—9 members and 2 friends or family. He said the rain held off for the picnic, but there was no star party. Claire Gardiner said she was deluged as she got back to Fredericksburg. Steve Heggermann said he had to pull off of Route 3 for 5 minutes. Glenn F. said the October 30 star party was being cancelled because of a conflict with a Halloween event at Caledon.
- Secretary's Report—Bart Billard said he had nothing to report.
- MSRO Report—Myron Wasiuta said StationONE and StationTWO were operational, but StationTHREE was offline because of a mount anomaly. He said it jumped in right ascension, and he could hear something, perhaps a pulley, associated with the jumps. StationFOUR was being made ready for operation. It would have a light box for flats along with an opaque filter for darks. Myron said he was working with Jerry Hubbell on the control of the roof to get it to open the right amount. He was ordering a computer about the size of a few decks of cards to operate the station. He hoped to use StationFOUR in place of StationTHREE until the mount problem was resolved. He mentioned the work on observing novae. There were now three novae they were observing, and they could use more help with data analysis from anyone who would like to learn about it.
- Facebook Page—Myron said he had not posted a lot on the MSRO Facebook page because he was seeing little activity.
- Equipment Inventory—Scott Busby said Curtis Martin, who had been a member in the past, was considering a telescope purchase. Scott helped him select an Orion XT10. When Scott showed Curtis the club XT10, they found it out of collimation. It was out so much that Scott needed Myron's help to collimate it.

## New Business

- Presentations and Speakers—Glenn F. said he had two presentations being scheduled for future meetings. Ashley W. Stroupe (Jet Propulsion Lab) would present on Mars rovers in September. He was still working with Sue Ann Heatherly (Green Bank Observatory) to find a suitable date for her presentation.
- Widewater Park Outreach Request—Glenn F. said Widewater Park in Stafford was interested in a club outreach. He said he would email members to see whether we had enough interested. He said it has good dark skies and suggested the possibility of having it as an alternative site or maybe switching locations if it were convenient for enough members. Scott Busby suggested contacting David Abbou about participating in the outreach.
- Officer Nominations —Glenn F. noted that officer nominations were scheduled for the October meeting. The officer elections would be held in November. He encouraged member to consider running for one of the officer positions, especially for the vacant Vice President position.
- Zoom Data Space Issue—Glenn F. said the space available for storing Zoom meeting recordings was limited to only one or two meetings' worth. Last month included an MSRO Science board

meeting right after the club meeting. Bart downloaded the MSRO meeting data to an MSRO computer to make room.

- Celestron Super C8 Plus Donation to MSRO—Myron showed the 8-inch Celestron Glenn received and donated to MSRO. He said it had the super-accurate Byers drive and came with Drive Corrector (manual autoguiding). However, it was not a go-to telescope. Myron said he would use it for outreach and for portable occultation timing.
- Other Items—Linda said the next newsletter was due at the end of October. She said she was seeking ideas for articles. Steve thanked Myron for giving him a tour of MSRO. Glenn F. said the next star party date was September 4, and the next meeting date was September 15.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. It is the Club picnic and may include a program or business meeting.