

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, January 20, 2021, Online Meeting

In attendance:

David Bentz
Bart & Linda Billard
Don Clark
Glenn Faini

Jerry Hubbell
Troy Major
Rolando Pancotti
Matt Scott

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

Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Matt Scott reported that a payment to Hostek to cover 5 years of website hosting was due. He also said the club received \$5 each for MSRO from 43 full membership dues payments made during the 2020 calendar year.
- Vice President's Event Report—Glenn Faini reported that the star party for this month was a go. He said he was not able to make it and was unsure whether any club members were there.
- Secretary's Report—Bart Billard said he had just completed the December minutes and sent them for review. He would delay posting a bit while waiting for comments and to be sure the website restoration was working.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda Billard said she could wait until next week for the President's Corner from Glenn F. The next newsletter was nearly ready to go out February 1.
- MSRO Status—Jerry Hubbell talked about the 10-inch RC telescope that was about ready for service at Station 2. It would be installed on the recently donated mount that included a Telescope Drive Master.
- Communications Report—Don Clark said a crash had required restoring the website from a backup. He said the restoration left about 6 months of posts wiped out but thought the rest of the website was fine. Linda said she had checked and confirmed that the minutes and newsletter were not up to date since last July. Don said he thought it was safe to reload the missing stuff now. Glenn F. said we need to be careful with other changes until we get newer backups. Don said he had seen the PayPal link work the day of the meeting. Dave Bentz asked about the next star party information and image of the month on the website. Glenn F. said he would do the star party and Linda would do the image of the month.
Glenn F. said there was nothing new to report about the groups.io list. He discussed his email exchange about the club Facebook page that he would no longer be able to administer in 10 days. He planned to transfer the administration to another RAC volunteer and said Myron Wasiuta had indicated he was willing. Jerry recommended asking Myron to make it a Facebook account instead of page.
- Equipment Inventory—Glenn F. noted Scott Busby was not at the meeting, but said Scott had indicated some equipment was now available for loans.

New Business

- Membership Total—Glenn F. reported his count of the total members for 2020 was 43. (It was a coincidence that Matt Scott also recorded 43 dues payments during the year.)
- Zoom Subscription—Glenn F. said the Zoom subscription upgrade was made, and the club could now have unlimited meetings. He said he started this meeting early to allow socializing, but no one connected early this time. He thought he would try starting at 7 next time and allow extra time to chat after the meeting. Glenn F. noted we could now have presentations without interruption and asked people to offer presentation ideas, saying we should try to have more presentations now.
- Bylaws Revision—Glenn F. described the Executive Council (EC) review of the club bylaws and went over proposed changes. He indicated the main ones were about the portion of the membership dues going to MSRO and that officer nominations required the consent of the

nominee. He made a motion, seconded by Linda, that the bylaws revisions be submitted to the club membership so that a vote on approval could be held at the next club meeting. The EC members present voted in favor.

- Possible Expenditures—Glenn F. said he was looking for suggestions about ways to use some of the funds building up in the club treasury to promote interest in astronomy. One idea was a contest with the club purchasing some prizes to hand out. Glenn F. suggested arranging some paid presentations for meetings to get more people interested in joining our Zoom meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. It is planned as an online Zoom meeting.