

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, June 16, 2021, Online Meeting

In attendance:

Scott Busby
Bart & Linda Billard
Don Clark
Glenn Faini
Glenn Holiday

John Maynard
Mark McDonagh
Mike Parker
Matt Scott

The business meeting began at about 7:05 p.m. Ten members were present. We discussed who attended the June 5 star party and were able to list David and Jean Hunt, Linda and Bart Billard, Glenn Faini (without telescope and left early), John Maynard with his wife and son, Claire Gardiner, Rolando Pancotti, and Steve Heggeman.

Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Matt Scott reported two new members signed up and one member renewed in May. Total incoming and outgoing funds were \$80 and \$0, respectively. He made a last call for adding or renewing Astronomical League (AL) dues before the deadline for him to submit them to AL Friday after the meeting.
- Vice President's Report—Glenn F. said 11 members and family were at the star party. Bart said David Hunt was sorting out getting his new telescope to focus. He had to take out one spacer and then another until the spacing was 2 inches less than what the manual led him to try. He was finally able to get stars in focus.
- Secretary's Report—Bart said he discovered he had minutes he had not posted. There was a change to the club website putting all the past minutes links on a page of their own, and he found there were two versions of the page after his first attempts to check the new links (outside of the WordPress editor's preview) did not find them. Editing the second version of the page resolved the issue.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda said she had little to report but would be starting up on the next issue in about 2 weeks.
- Club Website—Don Clark reported that he had established redundant web site backups, including one to his own computer.
- Groups.io List—Glenn F. said the Groups.io list was still running smoothly, and he had nothing in particular to report.
- Equipment Inventory—Scott Busby said he still had one telescope out on loan, the 8-inch Dobsonian that Alan Polsky was trying.

New Business

- Presentations and Speakers and Other New Business—Glenn F. said Myron Wasiuta had someone willing to give us a presentation but they had not yet worked out a date.
- Star Parties Are Public Again! —Glenn F. said star parties are public again. He suggested scouting groups could attend them again. Glenn Holliday said he was talking with two scout group leaders but had not established dates. Glenn F. said the July and August star party dates were chosen for first quarter Moon observing. He said they would be good for people who could not stay late. He also asked for opinions on whether to do a picnic this year. Scott recommended showing some enthusiasm about having a picnic would be the best way to make it work. Glenn H. said there had been an unfavorable change in the pricing for renting the pavilion after Caledon became a State Park. Glenn F. added he was concerned about work by Dominion near Caledon that could involve installing some street lights. He also mentioned the increase of traffic along Rte. 218. Scott Busby said he was not averse to allowing members of the public to come to Belmont for star parties, but he mentioned some drawbacks to outreach there.
- Should We Return to Public Meetings? —Glenn F. asked Linda about how her other groups were approaching meetings in person. She said one had scheduled its first meeting at one of the

libraries, and the person in the group who arranged it got up very early to go to the CRRL website for a slot when they first became available for the month. Don offered to check into it, saying he had been the one to contact someone at the library when we last arranged to go back for monthly meetings in one of their rooms. Glenn F. said he would check with the Smoot Library, which he thought was allowing reservations for more than 1 month at a time. He was not sure how well the location would work for club members. Mark McDonagh suggested checking into the CRRL branch off of Route 17 near where he lived. This library, however, is under the same reservation system as all other CRRL facilities.

- Website Links—We discussed recent requests for RAC to link to other astronomy-related websites, which we had been reluctant to do. There was agreement we should prepare a form letter response. Glenn F. said Linda had suggested we add a link to the Richmond club and said he thought it was a good idea to do so.
- Next Star Party—The star party for next month was scheduled for July 17. Should we start a little earlier? Glenn H. thought the usual arrival before dark would probably be enough, but Glenn F. thought he should include some mention in the website post that people wanting to come early need not worry about not being able to see something interesting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. It is planned as an online Zoom meeting.