

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, May 19, 2021, Online Meeting

In attendance:

Scott Busby
Bart Billard
Glenn Faini
Steve Heggemann

Mark McDonagh
Rolando Pancotti
Matt Scott

The business meeting began at about 7:05 p.m. Seven members were present. During introductions, Steve Heggemann said he was the new member who got the NexStar5 donated recently.

Old Business

- Treasurer's Report—Matt Scott reported one new member added in April and said that so far this month, another joined and one member renewed. The balance increased for the month by \$27.50. There were no expenditures. Matt mentioned that Astronomical League (AL) dues (\$7.50 for club members) were to be paid in June. He said anyone interested in adding AL membership should send him the dues by June 15.
- Vice President's Event Report—Glenn Faini said none of the members who attended the May 8, 2021, star party were present at the meeting for a report.
- Secretary's Report—Bart Billard said he had nothing to report other than getting the April minutes out for comments and posting them.
- Groups.io List—Glenn said one new member had joined the groups.io list and noted Jerry Hubbell had decided to unsubscribe a couple of redundant email addresses.
- Equipment Inventory—Scott Busby said he had one 6-inch Dobsonian telescope out on loan to new member Alan Polsky. He explained Alan had a small 4.5-inch equatorial telescope he was having trouble figuring out, so Scott suggested starting simpler. All he had to do was to show him how to align the spotter with the main scope, and Alan was able to start observing. Scott also said Rolando Pancotti contacted him for a visit to Belmont on a night with no Moon out. It turned out to be a good evening for observing, and Scott worked on "dialing in" his 6-inch refractor (his interim telescope setup while his main telescope was out for repair). He also took some time to really observe M13 visually.

New Business

- Presentations and Speakers and Other New Business—Glenn F. said he had not come up with any speakers and asked whether any members present had tried it. He said he was talking with Nina at Caledon and had hopes of star parties opening up some soon. He would keep the membership posted. Matt asked about interest in the news items he had forwarded about the local regional group of AL (Mid East Region). Glenn F. thought it was a good idea to forward them to members. Mark Rodman asked about aps for iPhone, for example Moonglow. Glenn F. said the ones he mentioned were for Android but some might also be available on iPhones. Scott said he liked SkySafari and Luminos on iPhone. Bart asked whether anyone had managed to see Omega Centauri. He thought it was the right time of the year to see it early in the evening and wondered if someone knew a high spot nearby that might help in seeing it. Scott said he hadn't but expressed interest. Glenn F. asked about what the time and altitude was for its transit. The altitude, about 4 degrees, ruled out his location.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. It is planned as an online Zoom meeting.