

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Minutes, April 20, 2022, Online Meeting

In attendance:

Scott Busby
Bart & Linda Billard
Glenn Faini
Claire Gardiner

Steve Heggemann
Mark McDonagh
Rolando Pancotti
Matthew Scott

The meeting began at about 8:11 p.m. Nine members attended.

Old Business

- **President's Report**—Glenn Faini said that the grace period for membership renewal ended at the end of March, so on April 1 he removed members who had not renewed from the Groups.io email list. He said 23 members had not renewed from the list. He thought that was probably a typical rate of turnover. Glenn F. said we have had 11 or 12 new members join this year. With renewals, our membership was up to 46 now compared with 65 at the end of last year. He also reported a motion to purchase a refillable VISA card for maintaining cloud storage met the \$100 limit so the Executive Council could vote on it, and it was passed.
- **Treasurer's Report**—Matt Scott said we had seven new members or renewals last month, along with one Astronomical League (AL) renewal, resulting in \$147.50 incoming funds. There were no expenditures. He said so far this month there had been no new members joining. He said he had sent John Maynard a \$100 check for purchasing a prepaid VISA card to cover cloud storage charges. He hoped John had received it and purchased a card so we could go ahead with the cloud storage. Glenn F. mentioned some confusion about the name of a new member, that Matt was unable to check on during the meeting. Glenn thought a Felicia Banks joined via PayPal, but then he received an email from a different Felicia with a different email address asking about the club. So far, he had not had a response to his reply.
- **Secretary's Report**—Bart Billard reported that he had uploaded the minutes of the last meeting earlier in the week, He had intended to let John, as the new webmaster, know to be sure John was aware he did that each month.
- **StarGazer Report**—Linda Billard said she was still looking for inputs and had some promised. She said she could wait up to a week more for articles, but would like Glenn's President's Corner sooner to fit it in where it belongs.
- **Communications Committee Report**—Glenn F. noted John was not at this meeting. He expected to get the presentations he had saved up once the cloud storage was set up. He also planned to have the meeting recordings for a while, so they could be stored a little longer than 1 month, but he was not sure how long they were needed. Bart confirmed that he did review the videos of the meetings when doing his minutes, and Glenn said he knew some members have watched them, so he thought it would be good to have them available for a few weeks. He said he had nothing to report on the webmaster transition or Groups.io.
- **Equipment Inventory**—Scott Busby reported that Steve Walk had checked out the 90-mm Vernon Scope. The loan was recently extended another 30 days. Scott said the weather had not been great.

New Business

- **Presentation Videos**—Glenn F. listed the four presentation videos he was looking forward to making available on cloud storage. They were the October 2020 presentation by Dr. Levy, the September 2021 presentation on the Green Bank Observatory, the October 2021 presentation on Mars Rovers, and the December 2021 presentation on Galaxies by David Eicher.
- **Next Star Party**—Glenn's last item was that April 30 was the next date scheduled for a star party
- **Other Items**—When Glenn F. asked for other topics, Scott described a local "Next Door" website for his area. He said it was part of a nationwide system, but this one covered an area centered on Orange Spring Road near him with a radius that included parts of Louisa, Orange, and

Spotsylvania counties. He was thinking of posting an invitation to Belmont for people in the area to visit and find out about amateur astronomy. He said he was contemplating focusing on families that were homeschooling their children, whether they were elementary, junior high, or high school. He thought some might get interested and join RAC, in which case he could loan them club equipment to help with the learning process. Scott was still trying to work out details, and he and Glenn F. got into a discussion about requirements for home schooling based on Glenn's experience homeschooling his son in Maryland.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. It is planned as an online meeting.