

# Rappahannock Astronomy Club

## Minutes, January 19, 2022, Online Meeting

In attendance:

Dave Bentz  
Scott Busby  
Bart & Linda Billard  
Don Clark  
Phillip Carter  
Glenn Faini

Jerry Hubbell  
Mark McDonagh  
Mike Parker  
Steve Heggemann  
Greg Szlyk  
Myron Wasiuta

The meeting began at about 7:15 p.m. Eleven members and a visitor were present.

## Old Business

- President's Report—
- Treasurer's Report—Glenn F. gave the report for Matt Scott. He reported \$87.18 incoming funds and \$1,457.40 expenditures, including \$1,300 for the purchase of the Celestron 8SE telescope and mount from Scott Busby for the club lending library. He said Matt received dues from Sandra Kitchen, Phillip Carter, Dave Bentz, Rolando Pancotti, and Andy Hulon in [December] and additional members in [January].
- Vice President's Report—Glenn F. said Myron Wasiuta had not joined the meeting yet but the most recent star party on December 11 was cancelled owing to weather.
- Secretary's Report—Bart Billard said he had nothing to mention other than posting the December minutes a couple of days ago.
- *StarGazer* Report—Linda Billard said she was starting to put the next newsletter together. She still had some writing to do herself, and she had queried Glenn F., Scott, and Myron about providing some articles. She needed inputs, preferably by next Wednesday (January 26).
- MSRO Report—Jerry said he was doing some catching up on the MSRO status after being busy during the holiday season and going nearly a week without power earlier this month. He was aware of a problem connecting to StationONE and was starting to look into what was going on. He mentioned an MSRO Board meeting was scheduled for the coming Friday, so there would be more to update the club about MSRO next month. He had expected Myron would be joining the meeting because he usually got home by 8 p.m., so he said he would send a text in case Myron forgot. Glenn F. asked how long MSRO was down because of the storm. Jerry said his power was out for 4 days and he thought Myron's was out for 3 days.
- Communications Committee and Cloud Storage Report—Glenn F. said John Maynard told him he could not join the meeting but the only thing he had to report was having received administrative privileges for the website, making him the official webmaster. John had not yet updated Glenn F. about the cloud storage. There was nothing to report on the Facebook page or the Groups.io list.
- Equipment Inventory—Scott Busby described the telescope he had obtained through a private purchase and sold to the club for use in the lending library. He had checked it out and found it in pristine condition apart from some spots on the corrector caused by dew, which he was able to clean off. He said he ordered a polar alignment telescope that the mount lacked but it has been on back order for 2–3 weeks.

## New Business

- Bylaws Review—Glenn F. noted we looked at his proposed changes last meeting but decided that was premature. He showed his two edits plus the page numbering problem he asked Linda to fix. Jerry noted the old revision date should be changed, and Glenn F. agreed, saying he would change the revision date to January 19, 2022, after the Executive Committee (EC) voted to submit the revisions to club members. Also, the ratification dates would be changed after the club member vote next month. Glenn F. then made a motion for the EC to approve the Bylaws as revised and was seconded by Scott. There was no further discussion, so he asked for a voice vote. The vote was all "ayes" and no "nays." Glenn F. said he would send out the Bylaws to the

membership that evening and let them know that they would be able to vote to ratify them at the February 17 meeting. Jerry got clarification from Glenn F. that members would be able to propose additional amendments before voting at the February meeting.

- Star Parties for 2022—Glenn F. said he had changed the website to show the star party dates for this year. He asked Don Clark about populating the Night Sky Network calendar. Don said he would work with John on that so he could become familiar with it. Glenn F. said the next star party date was January 29.
- Other Items—Glenn F. said he had not lined up any presentations but had not yet gotten a chance to check out the link suggested by Linda based on a recommendation from her brother-in-law. She confirmed she thought the website owner sounded like an interesting person who would be willing to do presentations, and that her brother-in-law was an amateur astronomer and a good person at checking things out. Glenn said he would pursue the lead and also mentioned to Greg Szlyk that he hoped he might give us a presentation on his astrophotography experience.

Glenn F. asked whether anyone wanted to talk about new equipment. Mark McDonagh said he had gotten a new Telrad for his 8-inch Dobsonian and *The Year-Round Messier Marathon Field Guide* by Harvard Pennington and was looking forward to installing one and reading the other. That led to discussion about observing and the problems of bugs in the summer or cold in the winter, along with what to wear for the cold. Linda recommended looking for a sale on bib ski pants to supplement long underwear. She thought she got hers at Dick's in April one year. Mark noted he didn't bring stuff like that with him when he came from New York, including "the 10-horse snow blower."

Glenn F. then told Linda he would write about the telescope donation to the school in his President's Corner and would try to write an article on charts. She thought those were good ideas.

Steve Heggemann brought up interest at Lake of the Woods for having a star party held there. He said he was on their youth activity and pool activity committees, and that they would probably get a projector, which would be useful in case of cloudy weather. Jerry offered to work with him because he also lived in Lake of the Woods. They exchanged email addresses.

Myron finally was able to join the meeting. He reported the trees leaning toward the observatory dome were showing no signs of straightening back up and had made the local horizon from StationONE much worse. Although there were many trees down on the property, none of the telescopes were in danger. Both he and a neighbor had a tree hit their houses. Glenn F. and others commented on trees bent over that were not straightening up, and they thought it might be a long wait to get some tree people to come take care of it. Myron had a tree company coming out but expected it to take a week or two. He said the stations were back online except StationTWO that had a bad right ascension cable that was proving hard to get. He was hopeful that Alex Filothodoros had found a supplier in Europe that might have one and could find a way to get it.

Glenn F. said he had separated the presentations from the recent meeting videos and put them in a format that took up less space. He said he had a thought he might put them on his own Google Drive for a while to make them available to members until the club arranged for cloud storage. Linda and Myron talked about him writing an article for the newsletter, possibly about StationFOUR. Dave Bentz mentioned the King George High School astronomy club sponsor who was at the November star party and the poor selection of telescopes they had. He said Mike Parker had donated an 8-inch Dobsonian telescope, and she was ecstatic about it.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, February 17, 2022. It is planned as an online meeting. A Bylaws vote is on the agenda.