

20:09 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

14 present: Randy Hemann, Luka Bajzer, Jeff Newland, Roger Southwick, John Meyers, Louis Sorensen, Nicholas Sorensen, Kirk Severson, Shawna Cooper, Dave Gross, Mike Carlin, Julie Gowarecki, Dean M. Johnson, and Brandon Wyman.

Treasurer's Report

Total: \$3,692.06.

Income: \$60 (three new members), UW donation, another donation.

Expenses: \$320 (paid insurance for liability)

News

- There were quite a few new people, so we did a "go around the room" introductions.
- April 23rd Earthfest. Contacted last year ... no idea what solar observing had to do with Earth. Central Park downtown area. Walk around at 4 p.m.
- Mercury transit May 9th. Luka asked about how often that occurs. The last event for it was at RCTC in 2006. It will be a much smaller dot than Venus. Julie asked if it could be seen with the solar filter glasses, Randy indicated that it would be harder to distinguish from a sunspot. Randy will talk to Paul Larson, to get the word out, talk to teachers, for a possible 1.5 hour event at 2-3 schools. Dean plans to be around for the event, he took personal time off. Randy also took the day off. Jerome asked about a "plan B" if it was cloudy, possibly out of town.
- Astronomy Day, May 13th-14th. Jupiter and the moon will be objects that we should be able to see through the buildings downtown. There could possibly be a solar observing event if the night is going to be cloudy. The forum will have a dedicated spot for this and other events.

Observing Notes

- Dean mentioned that he has been watching Mars get brighter and brighter, night by night, on his 5 minute walk to the plant.
- Jeff and Mike were out at Keller. Mike had photos. Jeff mentioned 38 Messier objects.
- John mentioned the moon and Aldebaran, 0.3 degrees apart, a satellite, and an Iridium flare. There is one Iridium flare tonight, and magnitude -3.3 ISS tonight as well.
- Jerome took the Takahashis out, for collimation, and a few pictures.

RAC Meetings/Calendar

- Apr. 23 EarthFest -- Central Park/Downtown
- May 6 / 7 Dark Sky Weekend
- May 9 Mercury Transit, 6:13 a.m. to 1:41 p.m.
- May 10 Club Meeting: TBA
- May 13/14 Astronomy Day -- Peace Plaza?
- June 3 / 4 Dark Sky Weekend
- July 1 / 2 Dark Sky Weekend

- July 8 / 9 Dark Sky Weekend
- July 12 Club Meeting: TBA

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- Randy pointed out that we need meeting ideas, presentations/presenters.
- Jeff asked about the StarBQ. Dean indicated that they could get the house again this year. Kirk mentioned August 5th-6th, Dean agreed, that is the first weekend in August. Randy indicated we could talk about a backup weekend later. Dean thought August 26th-27th would look good for a backup.

Feature Presentations

Deferred to next meeting – “Equatorial Platform Tutorial” – Randy Hemann.

20:41 – meeting adjourned. Observing and equipment review afterwards.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary