

18:35 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

24 present:

Randy Hemann, Lynne Hemann, Rick Murray, Dione Murray, Jay McLaren, Don & Jan Schlosnagle, Noel Taylor, Josef Chlacula, Mike Carlin, Barb Hanning, Jeff Newland, Alan Cameron, Bill Davidson, Dave Gross, Mike Quirk, Steve Remick, Chris Gawarecki, Julie Gawarecki, Joseph Gawarecki, Kirk Severson, Dean M. Johnson, John Attewell..

Treasurer's Report

1 new member 2016/2017 - \$40 - 39 members.

Calendar sales.

Post office box fee (chose 6 month instead of 12, nicer weather, pay full year in June).

StarBQ port-a-potty.

\$200 transfer out of checking, two accounts now, one for NCRAL.

\$330.95 - supplies and scope for library project.

Gateway Science Fair \$100 check cleared.

Balance \$2,857.72.

Roster print out to review tonight.

12 calendars.

Randy asked about anticipated expenses. Julie mentioned insurance renewal in March, pay in February, about \$320.

Observing Notes

- Randy asked if anyone had seen the comet. It was 6th magnitude, now 7th magnitude. Mars and Venus alignment. Randy got glow, looking over the city. It will be underneath Hercules by February 11th
- Brandon mentioned seeing the Venus, Moon, and Mars arrangement. ? asked about Venus at its brightest. Randy indicated conjunction, maybe pick up the crescent if one has 20/15 vision. John indicated that Astronomy calendar shows Venus at its brightest in a couple months.

Officer Elections/Appointments

- 2016 elected officers
 - President: Randy Hemann
 - Vice-president: Kirk Severson
 - Secretary: Brandon Wyman
 - Treasurer: Julie Gawarecki
 - Webmasters: Don Schlosnagle / John Attewell
 - Newsletter editor: Bill Davidson
- 2016 appointed positions:
 - Alcor Rep: Dean Johnson

- Night Sky Net Rep.: Kirk Severson
- John Attewell moved to nominate all six (elected officers for re-election).
- No other volunteers or nominations.
- Don Schlosnagle second.
- All ayes, no nays.
- 2017 elected officers:
 - President: Randy Hemann
 - Vice-president: Kirk Severson
 - Secretary: Brandon Wyman
 - Treasurer: Julie Gawarecki
 - Webmasters: Don Schlosnagle / John Attewell
 - Newsletter editor: Bill Davidson

News

- Jim mentioned the Okie-Tex star party. There was a big give away. Some were asking where the Minnesota group was. "Did you bring my pop?" Jim mentioned that that guy did not make it this year, but someone will bring pop next year.
- Randy gave a Rochester Astronomy Club recap of 2016.
 - a. "Canopus Trails"
 - b. "Open discussion"
 - c. Outdoor session
 - d. "Chasing the Mercury Transit"
 - e. "Uranus vs. Neptune"
 - ...
- 2017 events:
 - Messier Marathon: March 25/26/13 or April 1st/2nd.
 - NCRAL 2017
 - Astronomy Day is April 29th.
 - Solar Eclipse is August 21st.
 - StarBQ - will look for a date on this
 - Outreach events - look more into these after NCRAL
 - Videometeors (?)
 - ...
- More discussion about the eclipse plans and comments that various members had. Jan Schlosnagle indicated confirmation of motel registration. Casper Wyoming is expecting 80,000 visitors. John - last 2 campgrounds outside Omaha. Randy - Farburry, Nebraska, motel rates are astronomical now. Jay noted \$2400/room for Carney, Nebraska.
- NCRAL 2017 - April 21st/22nd (and 23rd). John mentioned the website that is being setup with Josef: ncral2017.rochesterskies.org. There have been meetings every two weeks for the past few months to work out the details. The arrangements are more complicated than at first thought, mostly due to the venue (Eagle Bluff Learning Center). There are some phenomenal speakers lined up. The theme is: Astronomical

Observing. There are 31 rooms, bathroom and shower for each. The event is scheduled over a dark sky weekend. Two committee struggles were the registration form and how to construct a budget (don't get stuck again). There are two more club meetings between now and the conference. The numbers for attendance need to be in by the end of February (cannot wait until the last minute for setup). Cancellation fees get prohibitive.

- NCRAL 2017 registration. Josef went over the web site setup for the conference reservations. There are two options: 1) print out and send check, and 2) Continue to PayPal. You will get a registration number. \$60 conference fee (still not 100% known at this point). 2 night minimum for bunkroom/lodging. 25 people minimum. There was a free and 3rd/4th option that needed some changes that Randy pointed out. The meal package is four meals, \$75 total. John was thinking that 40 people on average attend the conference(s). Randy pointed out that the normal NCRAL was a bit different last year.... Julie spoke with Charlotte Dupree on the phone and got a positive response. Kirk mentioned February 24th as the (final/end) date. Bill will have a link in the newsletter to be sent out this month. Kirk pointed out that the counter for the page did not look like it had an accurate hits count (34,xxx?). Josef pointed out that we need to reach an agreement on the form in one or two weeks, max. Kirk asked for a feeling as to how many of our own team members would attend, 16 hands counted. John was assuming one person per club, there are 40 clubs, but some are defunct. We get to 24 with 8 to 9 speakers. Julie indicated that one club sends five, so that would be 39 to 40. John indicated that someone needs to entertain the idea of visiting LaCross, Owatonna, ... club meetings, probably discuss at the next committee meeting.
- (some) NCRAL 2017 speakers:
 - "Too far away" - Greatest Instrument Ever Made - Wilson ... Keck telescope.
 - NCRAL webmaster - "Lifelong Bucket List"
- NCRAL 2017 prizes: Randy has a list of donors for Dean.
- Chris Gawarecki asked about having a link from our regular site to the NCRAL site (when ready). John asked about if someone knew an artist to do a logo, the conference motto? Randy had a concept to share (Look, Learn, Lodge), but it needs to be two tone for shirt. He will get it finished up to allow for shirt screening.

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- Dave is selling his refractor, Orion AstroView 120ST, F/5, 5-inch. Asking \$450. He cannot buy a new one until this one is sold.
- Alan Cameron has two telescopes to sell ... give to club (?). Randy indicated could do fair market value, for the club library.
 - 2002 Meade 125m ETX GoTo
 - 2008 Orion SkyQuest 8-inch Dob.
- Jim asked how many scopes are there in our loaner program. Six (?)
 - Explore Scientific - solar viewing
 - Or...
 - Josef has Meade LX200GPS (no longer Newland)
 - Randy has ...
 - ?
 - Triaxis ... Randy has, needs to get information to Julie.
- Jim also noted that he went to the Rochester Public Library to look for the reflector there. It was not there

yet, but apparently will be soon.

- Julie mentioned \$19 from Amazon Smile, 10 calendars left.

19:56 – meeting adjourned. Membership/roster updates.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary