

19:08 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

36 present:

Randy Hemann, Jeff Newland, David Meyer, Luka Bajzer, Dustin Ebert, Roger Southwick, Rick Murray, Julie Gawarecki, Joseph Gawarecki, Chris Gawarecki, Bill Davidson, Jack Wiltsie, Josef Chlachula, Mike Carlin, Jay McLaren, John Attewell, Ron Purdue, John Martin, Carol Reid, Jace Reid, Michael Currie, Cindy Wiest, Nick Wiest, Noel Taylor, Rebecca Bomgaars, Robert Ayerhart, Waldemar Gies, Karl Shidler, Patty Galbraith, Ben Joslin, Jonathan Thoreson, Jerome Taubel, Bob Fealey, Kirk Severson, Mike Quirk, James Benthall, and Brandon Wyman.

Treasurer's Report

Income: 1 new member (David Meyer) \$20.

Expenses: Dahl copies \$6.44 (RAC brochure for library), eclipse presentation supplies \$190.55, calendars \$273 (30 available, \$15 for members).

Balance: \$4205.05.

Observing Notes

- Jeff Newland was out observing in his front yard on Halloween, around 50-some others had a look through his telescope. The moon was out there to see despite some clouds.
- Bob Fealey was out with binoculars 2 days ago (11/12). Jupiter/Venus conjunction. A sliver of Venus seen before the clouds came in. It was about 20 to 25° above the horizon.
- Mike Carlin had some pictures from the second time Randy got out his big telescope to see Uranus, Neptune, and even Triton. Three more planetary nebulas. NGC 6690, Andromeda (other night, in town). Mike also shared some pictures from a trip to Kitt Peak a couple weeks ago with two friends.
- John Attewell was out just before the last meeting with his wife's coworker's son. He was setup next to the park. They had a look at Jupiter and the rings of Saturn. John had said that they could also see the space station, but then it clouded out. However, when the coworker and son were at the next football game, bright lights, they saw it! The whole crowd could see it as well as she had just pointed it out.

News

- Julie mentioned that there are some additional expenses for the StarBlast library telescope. She needs to get the receipts, 2 copies of the information manual. The additional expenses are not over \$150.
- Julie mentioned that the club typically donates money to the science fairs, \$50 to one and \$100 to the other. A decision one making another donation needs to be made before January. Jay moved to donate money to the science fairs, Jerome seconded. \$150 to be donated to the science fairs, contingent on the one possibly not occurring.
- Just over \$2800 cleared for the NCRAL conference.
- John Martin discussed the public outreach meetings that a member subgroup has been having. The group meets once a month to discuss things we can do. Some high-level findings:
 - Our outreach events need to be more friendly to new people.
 - Advertising needs to be more effective.
 - The website needs more
- Changes to observing events:

- Designated station
- Red LED glow sticks
- Greeter
- Members wear ID badges
- Welcome packet/flyer?
- Advertising:
 - RAC Facebook page “go to” source.
 - RAC forum
 - Post-Bulletin
 - Craigslist
- Advertising - Longer Term
 - Make RAC website the hub/go-to source.
 - “Astronomical events” type of advertisement in Post-Bulletin
- More website ideas:
 - Photo contest? (public & members)
 - Awards for photo contest?
- Josef indicated that he had booked the same room, same place, for the upcoming outreach meeting. For those not at the last meeting, it is basically in the same building as the Blue Duck Kitchen, but you have to enter through the door on the opposite side of the building. Meeting time will be 6 p.m.
- Mike asked about working with Mayo High School for the outreach events. Josef said he had worked with them last year, but it is not a good spot to observe in the winter, one main problem being the bright parking lot lights. Josef also said that the soccer fields are not so great for winter observing, so he has arranged to try observing from the new 125Live facility next to the Rec center. The idea here is that seniors or the public can observe, with the possibility of warming up inside. If the weather is bad, we can do a presentation inside, showing what could be seen if the skies were good for observing.
- Josef also brought up an idea that had gone around, wondering if we could send out invitations to those that are waiting to check out the library telescope. Julie was not sure it could work that way. The library does send them notes when the telescope is ready, and get information on how to use the scope, with links to our site.
- Randy had a reminder that the club would not be meeting next month (December). The holiday meeting will be in January, at Randy’s house.
- Jerome Taubel gave a presentation on astronomy club land acquisition considerations.
 - Pros:
 - A physical place to be: A location identity, a place to go and say it is our place.
 - Purpose built for astronomy: permanent place for club equipment.
 - Controlled private access.
 - Educational/Outreach.
 - Attract new members.
 - Social atmosphere: member participation, actually see people (when not in the dark), social events, community events.
 - Cons:
 - Costs: buying it, running it, keeping it up.
 - Dues may need to increase.
 - Work/maintenance/administration.
 - Minnesota Astronomical Society: They have five sites: Cherry Grove (5 acres, close to Pine Island),

Eagle Lake, Long Lake, Afton,

- Kansas City Astro Society: 40 acres 75 minutes south of Kansas City.
- Des Moines Astronomical Society: 5 acre site, partnered with Jasper county.
- Cedar Amateur Astronomers: partnered with Linn County.
- Other Clubs: gun clubs, archery clubs, Rochester Duplicate Bridge Club.
- Options:
 - Continue to use Eagle Bluff, Keller, RCTC.
 - LaCrosse Astronomical Society.
 - Minnesota Astronomical Society has about 400 members, benefactors, \$70k/year.
 - Jack Wiltsie asked about grants, or a "Daddy Warbucks".
- Some Drive Times.
- Discussion.
- Talk more in January and throughout.

RAC Meetings/Calendar

- November 17/18 Dark Sky Weekend
- December 12 NO club meeting
- December 15/16 Dark Sky Weekend
- December 22/23 Dark Sky Weekend
- January 9 Holiday Club Meeting (alternate date Friday January 12)
- January 12/13 Dark Sky Weekend
- January 19/20 Dark Sky Weekend
- February 13 Club Meeting. Planetarium program (tentative) -- Paul Larson
- February 16/17 Dark Sky Weekend
- March 13 Club Meeting. Jack Wiltsie -- Gravity Testing

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- Carol Reid and son Jace, arrived from Colorado, interested in astronomy. Randy and a few other club members met up with them at an outreach event.
- Dustin Ebert reintroduced himself after 2 years since he has been to a meeting. He mentioned that his observatory at Salem Glenn Winery is still under construction, but he did purchase a telescope and mount recently. The door and the dome are left.
- Dave Meyer also recently joined the club. He said that he sits next to Jeff Newland at work.
- Julie found out that Steve Remick was not doing well. She brought in a card to pass around for members to sign.
- Josef's planned presentation, "Report from the European Week of Astronomy and Space Science" has been tabled.

Featured Presentation

- Josef's presentation tabled to a later meeting.

20:26 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary