

18:59 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

### **Meeting Attendees**

24 present:

Gerarda Marquez, Jeff Newland, Jerome Taubel, Chris Gawarecki, Julie Gawarecki, Joseph Gawarecki, Mike Quirk, Luka Bajzer, David Meyer, Linda Meyer, Bill Davidson, Bob Fealey, Dean M. Johnson, Jay McLaren, John Attewell, Mike Carlin, Josef Chlachula, John Martin, Don Schlosnagle, Jan Schlosnagle, Nick Wiest, Cindy Wiest, Rick Murray, Randy Hemann, and Brandon Wyman.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Income:

Dues	\$80.00
Donations YTD (13)	\$206.95
Sales - Calendars 3@\$10	\$30.00
Repay from conference funds	
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Amazon Smile Payment	
Sale of donated Orion XT8	
Sales - calendars 23@\$15	\$345.00

Checking balance 11-30-17 \$4205.05

Four people for 2018.

\$78.65 StarBlast telescope expenses.

\$4.91 items not used, returned.

A few calendars left.

Renew membership.

3rd page -- \$1143.53 -- 2017 donations.

Meade telescope, not sure what happened to that.

NCRAL 2017 Final Statement.

Total income:	\$15,497.00
Total expenses:	\$12,434.25
...partial refund:	\$125.00

Need to find out if half goes to NCRAL. John Attewell... used to publish Reflector. Thinking of using some to consolidate web pages, outreach. John is VP of NCRAL this year. Big focus is on avoiding loss of membership.

### **Observing Notes**

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### **Officer Elections/Appointments**

- 2017 elected officers
  - President: Randy Hemann
  - Vice-president: Kirk Severson

- Secretary: Brandon Wyman
- Treasurer: Julie Gawarecki
- Webmaster: Don Schlosnagle
- Newsletter editor: Bill Davidson
- 2017 appointed positions:
  - Alcor Rep: Dean Johnson
  - Night Sky Net Rep.: Kirk Severson
- Randy indicated that Kirk was unable to attend the meeting. When asked if he would accept nominations he said: "I would not run a smear campaign...."
- No resignations or further nominations.
- John moved to close nominations. Dean seconded.
- John moved to accept nominated positions. ??? seconded.
- All ayes, no nays.
- 2018 elected officers:
  - President: Randy Hemann
  - Vice-president: Kirk Severson
  - Secretary: Brandon Wyman
  - Treasurer: Julie Gawarecki
  - Webmasters: Don Schlosnagle
  - Newsletter editor: Bill Davidson
- 2018 appointed positions:
  - ALCOR Rep.: Dean Johnson
  - Night Sky Network Rep.: Kirk Severson
- Dean indicated that he would be ALCOR Representative, get your observations to him for certificates to send out. Randy said that this was a topic to bring back up later this year.

## **News**

- Randy gave a Rochester Astronomy Club recap of 2017.
  - Poor viewing was a common theme.
  - The solar eclipse saved the year.
  - Jim -- Okie-Tex, planning to attend Nebraska this year.
  - Club outreach
- 2018 events:
  - Single weekend this year for Messier Marathon -- March 16/17 (new moon 03/17)
  - Astronomy Day -- April 28th or 29th
  - NCRAL 2018 -- May 4th - 5th.
  - ALCON -- July 11th - 14th, Minneapolis (<https://alcon2018.astroleague.org/>)
    - Jay participating. "Seeing Is Believing" from 2013.
    - Randy suggested a practice presentation at our June meeting. Jay said he could do that.
  - StarBQ 2018.

- Regional and national star parties
  - Texas Star Party -- May 6th - 13th. Get in reservations, pre-registration due by January 19th. Jim has been to it a couple times, right down the road from McDonnell Observatory.
  - Heart of America -- date not posted yet (?)
  - Nebraska Star Party -- August 5th - 10th.
  - Okie-Tex Star Party -- October 6th - 14th.
  - Enchanted Star Party -- October 16th - 20th.
- Outreach Plus 2018.
  - Josef - goal is once a month.
  - Summer - 41st St. soccer fields.
  - Winter - 125LIVE. Very welcoming. People amazed. See things through telescopes. However, light pollution. Next Friday, Mike and Bob will be there, everyone else welcome to attend.
  - Forum post on all dates.
  - Post-Bulletin link to forum.
  - This year, concentrate on website design and electronic media.
- Dues remain at \$20/year. You can now pay online, go to About Us -> Membership -> PayPal (new page). Paying dues online will cost \$20.76 (\$0.30 fixed fee). Josef paid 2018 due this way December 21st. John Martin indicated that they (PayPal) do not take fees out of donations. Jerome suggested bringing that to the front page as a "Join the Club" button, Josef agreed and will be working with Don throughout this year. Chris wondered about a convenience fee, making it \$25 to pay online, but Julie indicated that something like that would make things complicated for her. Julie will get e-mail and other information through PayPal.
- Jim asked about a club t-shirt...Facebook. Rady suggested moving to the required executive meeting, then get details to the club. Our bylaws require a vote if over \$150.
- Planning for 2018 presentations:
  - Planetarium - February.
  - Jack Wiltsie - eclipse.
  - Larry Mascotti - New planetarium in the cities.
  - April - Randy's.
  - Think of other topics.
- Land acquisition study.
  - Jerome had no prepared presentation, just plans to have an open discussion. John Attewell brought up that it would be nice to partner with someone that has something, mentioning that he is a member of the Byron gun club, and they obviously only use the range during the day. Randy said that we have had talks with Gamehaven in the past. John said the gun club is half way between Byron and Kasson, by a river, dark skies, many buildings (at least one heated), gated. The land was donated by someone that heard about the interest in having a gun club. There are 405 members, limited membership, activities in the day. Julie asked if the gun club was a 501(c) or private, John indicated it is private. Josef suggested that maybe John could talk to them about it, John will feel it out. Josef also indicated that we should keep the discussion open, approaching others such as the Minnesota Astronomical Society. Jerome mentioned that approaching others was why he had brought up the LaCrosse astronomy club. We need to promote the fact that we are at least looking, maybe we will also find a benefactor. Jerome

indicated we needed something tangible to start with. Rany reiterated that we need to keep it at a club level, to keep this item on the agenda, and if it becomes official we will need someone to plan, arrange, etc.

- Door Prizes
  - [Going to Mars](#)
  - Celestron NexImage10 (Jan donated from win in Casper)
  - [Edwin Hubble](#)
  - [Lost Moon](#) (Dean has a copy in his library, about Apollo 13 mission)
  - More books.

### **Other News/Notes/Announcements**

- Camera & Smartphone Adapters - presentation by Randy. Randy had a variety of camera and smartphone adapters to show and talk about. He went over various operational characteristics, adjustments, issues, price, etc. The last one shown was a really good one that grabs the eyepiece, made out of hard plastic, lightest, and holds a phone the flattest to the eyepiece (works for solar pictures). Julie thought the club should invest in three or four of those, for outreach events. John Attewell asked who made it, Randy indicated it was made by Orion. Jeff Newland pointed out that Orion has an accessory sale right now. Julie indicated it was \$19.99 right now, motion to buy. Dean second. Randy asked for discussion. Jay made a motion to buy five, Dean second, all ayes. Julie will get right on it.
- Dean had a brief presentation, a show and tell regarding an item two people gave him when he got to work one morning. If there is any astronomical question that comes up, people know to go to Dean. The people giving the item to Dean did not know what it was and could not get it to focus, so they were going to throw it out. Dean described how it had 5, 10, and 15x magnifications. Numbers on a low cylinder. Images inverted. It was an adalon. Dean plans on bringing it to the parking lot for the January 31st lunar eclipse.

20:12 – meeting adjourned. Membership/roster updates, socializing.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary