

19:08 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

20 present:

Randy Hemann, Roger Southwick, Dean M. Johnson, Jessy James Hilbauer, Mandy Kli (?), Luak Bajzer, Don Schlosnagle, Jan Schlosnagle, Mike Carlin, Michael Currie, Bill Davidson, Jon Fields, David Meyer, Bob Fealey, Jerome Taubel, Rick Murray, Mike Quirk, Julie Gawarecki, Jeff Newland, Dustin ???, and Brandon Wyman.

Treasurer's Report

- Six new members: \$120. Donations: \$223.
- Insurance: \$320.
- Balance: \$5575.36
- 2 calendars left (Julie was thinking \$8, Randy said \$5).
- NCRAL will be reflected on the next report, around \$1400 to add.

Observing Notes

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News

- Randy noted some new people present: Jessy, Mandy, Jon, and Dave (joined back in October).
- February minutes posted in the forum.
- Randy had Julie talk about the library telescope after the treasurer's report. During the last meeting there were 16 holds waiting on the telescope, now there are 19 holds. There is some concern about disappointment with the long waiting list. More requests seem to come in when patrons see the telescope sitting in the library, waiting on the next person to retrieve it. Patrons seem to be really responsible about bringing it in on time (and there is a higher overdue fee as well). Mike Quirk (?) asked about how much it would be to get another telescope, Julie said it would be about \$320 to \$350. Getting a second one ready should be slightly cheaper, as some of the stuff/parts was not used up from the first one. It would be under \$400. Rick made a motion to buy another telescope, Bob seconded the motion. Bob then made a motion to buy two telescopes. Luka questioned if we really needed to get two right now, seconded the motion to buy one. Mike Carlin asked about the holds, Julie said she has never seen less than ten holds. Dave pointed out that he was number 10, he had the telescope right after Christmas. There was more discussion about whether doing two would be any easier than one at a time, ideas about an intermediate scope (Randy, Julie, Bob, Luka). Jerome wanted confirmation that our club information went with the telescope, Julie said yes. Luka was pointing out that a bigger/intermediate scope could be tried/seen at one of the various outings/events, so he thought a beginner telescope was just fine for the library program. The motion was settled on purchasing one more telescope, raise of hands (none opposed).
- ALCOR expenses. Randy brought up the fact that quite a few representatives for ALCOR (regional and nationally) are from our club, he had an idea to run by the club concerning expenses for attending conferences. Since we have money in our coffers, he was proposing that we support a once a year hotel and conference registration fee for our representatives. We currently do support registration to the ALCOR

at NCRAL. Jon Attewell and Bill Davidson are two of the representatives that have meetings they should be at. Randy also wanted to add in a limit, to pull back covering those fees if we ever had a balance go below say \$3000. Distribution of funds and such would be at the discretion of the executive council. The idea is to support our club members that got "roped in" or volunteered for their posts, and keep amateur astronomy going. So, the proposal would be: money available annually for registration and lodging, does not need to be taken, can be requested, travel and food expenses would NOT be available from the club. Bob asked if there was a particular dollar amount in mind, Jerome mentioned per diem. During the discussion on dollar amounts Luka pointed out that it depends on the location, something like New York City would be more expensive than say Fargo. There were suggestions of \$150 and \$200. Luka said we would not want the representatives to not go due to the lack of funds. Jerome made the motion to have funds available, once a year expense allocation for registration and lodging, to be re-evaluated by the executive council if our funds balance drops below \$3,000. Luka seconded the motion. Dave brought up further discussion regarding the number of people (3 to 4) and the number of nights (3 to 4). Dean mentioned that every NCRAL he has been to so far (missed one) is a Friday and Saturday night event, everybody goes home Sunday. Dean said that ALCON is four days (Jerome clarified 3 nights, 4 days). Dean is the ALCOR representative for NCRAL. Randy clarified that the allocation would be for a maximum of 3 days, still at once a year, one per year. Jerome was thinking that given our current financial state, that would be one year's worth of trips and we would be under \$3,000. Vote was all ayes, no nays. Jerome noted that this is a substantial amount, and it should be recorded in the minutes, approve at the next meeting.

- Dustin gave an update on his observatory, a request from Jerome. Dustin is currently working on the staircase to the observing deck. He hopes to be done with that quick and the move onto the main dome, which needs a shutter. He has a 16-inch SCT ME2 telescope purchased. It will be robotic, going to a screen in the tasting room when done. Jerome asked if it was good to have it done this year. Dustin said yes.
- Randy mentioned upcoming events, Jeff pointed out that ??? is the 17th, Randy was going to check.
- There is some observing event to help out with at Elgin Middle School, 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. Randy was going to get more information on that.
- Explore Scientific event May 27, 28, 29th. Randy plans to go out there, free from what he could tell.
- The new website was briefly looked at. John Martin did not make the meeting, but others gave a summary of how it is in WordPress, news, assigning roles (more than one admin), etc. Hopefully hear more at the next meeting.
- Julie pointed out a happy birthday to Randy.
- Mike Quirk read a letter he via an e-mail from his brother. It was regarding SpaceX, various rocket launches, LaGrange points, etc.
- Michael Currie mentioned and Randy showed some interesting website on what would hopefully be something to show the skeptics on the moon landing. Video found via digg.com was shown. Dean pointed out to Julie that it was a good reason to go for Lunar I and II awards.

RAC Meetings/Calendar

- Apr. 13/14 Dark Sky Weekend
- Apr. 20/21 Dark Sky Weekend
- Apr. 22 Lyrid meteor shower

- Apr. 21 National Astronomy Day
- May 8 RAC meeting - presentation tbd

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- Texas Star Party May 6th-13th.
- Nebraska Star Party August 5th-10th.
- Okie-Tex Star Party October 6th-14th.
- Enchanted Star Party October 16th-20th.

Featured Presentation

New RAC website - x

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20:09 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary