

19:00 - meeting started (Randy Hemann, needed to leave, Mike, Joseph, and Kirk cover)

### **Meeting Attendees**

25 (30?) present: Karl Shidler, Julie Gawarecki, Bob Fealey, Laura Schultz-Rogers, Nick Rogers, Rick Murray, Luka Bajzer, James Bajzer, Bill Davidson, Larry Mascotti, Jay McLaren, Noel Taylor, Jack Wiltsie, Carter McKenzie, Dennis Robertson, Dan Strain, Jeff Newland, William Birzetis, James Benthall, Earle Kyle, Michael Quirk, John Attewell, Kirk Severson, Randy Hemann, and Brandon Wyman.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- 38 paid members plus 5 from last year. One with an odd amount.
- Income: \$139.96 (one person at \$20.72 instead of \$20.76). \$1310.75 (excess from NCRAL 2017).
- Expenses: \$312.51 (bulk of StarBlast), \$96.00 (P.O. box), \$9.08 (brochures...Salem Glenn)
- Balance: \$7,418.36 (plus separate PayPal account that sits with \$100).
- Julie & Josef to look into the PayPal membership part of the webpage. It should be prefilled at the bottom with the correct amount.
- Julie finally closed the NCRAL account(s).

### **Observing Notes**

- The meteor? Bill Davidson, Randy's wife, and two others saw it. Bill said that it was very bright, very intense, greenish, 8:41 PM, all the way across the sky. ??? saw it, 5 to 10 seconds, while driving south from Minneapolis. Bill said it was towards the east horizon.
- Mike was with Jeff, a great first hour, then Minnesota happened.
- Mike was out at Eagle Bluff, Saturday with Julie, Jeff, Randy, Jerome, Jim, and some guys from LaCrosse. A picture of the Eagle Nebula was shared, Keller versus Eagle Bluff is a major difference. "The Vale" a year ago compared to Eagle Bluff. Comet, 30 minutes compressed into a short mp4 video (mag 10.4).
- John Attewell was out with his new telescope May 26th, first light. He could not get it to line up right, tried to find Jupiter, ended up doing things by hand the rest of the night. The Celestron manual(s) had lots of repeats, three manuals for all of it, none of which said anything about locking clutches, it worked perfectly after that. Over six days he knocked M4, M5, M8, and M80 off the Messier list. It is an 8-inch Newtonian on an equatorial mount. Three times the money on the mount, and John says that is the secret to a good experience. The mount, Celestron Advanced VX, is really quiet. Mike asked if that was an \$800 mount, John said yes, it comes with the tripod. John pointed out that he has been working on the Messier list with his old telescope for ten years, got 20 Messier objects, and now he has 4 in the last 6 days with the new setup.

### **News**

- March meeting minutes up in the forum. April, May, and June to do.
- Julie mentioned sending in an application for one library telescope per region. Bill mentioned some information about telescopes for public use, from being the Astronomical League representative for the region. Julie indicated it was just the telescope and eyepieces, 30 to 60 days to be in the library, no date on getting it, yet. Bill said he would talk to them tomorrow. Julie also mentioned that the library had some concerns on pick-ups when it is raining, we might want to look into a cover for the telescope for when

people are taking it from the library to their vehicle. Orion does have a padded case, for the telescope that is the next step larger. Julie thought she could maybe talk to the library staff about using a plastic bag or something like that.

- Outreach meeting/events update from Josef. There were two events, Friday June 26th at 10 p.m. and Saturday June 27th at Salem Glenn. Josef thanked all that came to the event(s). The Friday event was so-so, most of the public learned about it from the Facebook page. Mars was up around midnight, the clouds rolled in soon after. For the Salem Glenn event, people had called due to lightning on the horizon. Some people came to that event from Austin, Jeff pointed out that the Austin observatory was open, and clear skies there. Josef could not do two stars, only one star. Viewing was reasonable around midnight, Jupiter was under the moon, no Mars. Jeff said there were 9 people. Josef and Jeff were there with telescopes, Julie and Andy were there without telescopes. Josef said that we need to keep the Friday events. Next Friday, July 20th, is the next event at the soccer fields. Josef and many others will be at ALCON starting this Thursday, so no outreach meeting planned, show up for the event next Friday. Julie said the full moon is on the 27th, Josef indicates three planets in addition to the moon, the new website helps to communicate that information. Josef also gave a thanks to Bill for posting about the event(s) on Twitter.
- ALCON. Josef, Larry, Bill, Luka, Randy, and John Martin. Mike and Julie thought Jerome was going. It was pointed out that two members that are not retired are going.
- Nebraska Star Party. No members apparently planned on going. Jon Attewell indicated that he has relatives close to that area. He plans on doing his own observing, the skies down there are amazing.
- Rick Murray (?) mentioned that Ashfall (?) is close to the Nebraska Star Party location, about 70 to 80 miles away. A fantastic exhibit of fossils, a great backup plan if the skies are cloudy. Jon Attewell agreed that it is well worth the trip.
- Mike had to make a mention that Julie has some really nice binoculars. He had looked with them last Saturday. Julie indicated that they are 10x50s, \$170, Nikon Action Extreme.

### **RAC Meetings/Calendar**

- July 11-14 ALCON in Minneapolis
- July 13/14 Dark Sky Weekend
- August 10/11 Dark Sky Weekend
- August 12/13 Perseid Meteor Shower:  
<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/perseid.html>
- August 14 RAC meeting. Jack Wiltsie: Part II: Experiments Done During the Great Solar Eclipse of 2017 (tentative) -- Jack indicated that this presentation will not be happening, something about December 11th, he will need to talk to Randy about postponing it.
- September 7/8 dark Sky Weekend.
- September 11 RACK meeting. Presentation TBD.
- September 14/15 Dark Sky Weekend

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

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

- Jerome was not present for any updates on land sites. Jon Attewell missed the gun club board meeting, so postponed talking to them. Josef mentioned that Randy had an idea to buy a dark sky meter, to check possible sites. Bob and Julie talked about the Root River Park, County Road 1 south, a relatively new park, not developed yet, and a parcel next to that which might be worth looking into (some have already been checking into it a little bit). Luka suggested there be a forum post on this with pictures and links, it was agreed that a new thread in the forum should be started for this.

### **Featured Presentation**

“Solar System Scholars For Dollar\$...A Granpsie and grandchildren activity...” - Larry Mascotti

- Observing camp Larry came up with for his grandchildren. He has five grandkids.
- June 15th - completed trip project. Angle Inlet, MN to Key West, FL (walking, treadmill, ...)
- The Planet Song YouTube video.
- Solar hot dog cooker from Pringles can.
- YouTube video with 3 meter mirror that can focus sun and melt rocks.
- The Parker Solar Probe.
- Planet-science.com
- The Origins of Creativity, by Edward O. Wilson.
- July 12, 2017 YouTube video(s) on Google's DeepMind AI just teaching itself to walk.
- MinutePhysics - Is it better to walk or run in the rain?
- 1 earth mile = 2 million miles (some scale conversion Larry used).

20:44 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary