

19:07 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

29 present:

Randy Hemann, Neil Wimmer, William Blazert (?), Julie Gawarecki, John Martin, Dustin Ebert, Todd Christensan, Noel Taylor, Bill Davidson, Mike Carlin, John Attewell, Josef Chlachula, Ron Purdue, Jeff Newland, Michael Currie, Rebecca Bomgaars, Daniela Stam, Robert Ayerhart, Karl Shidler, Larry Mascotti, William Birzetz, Keri Parsons, Chelsea Ketchum, Saabiriin Abdi, Roman Dilaveri, Ebeling Xoe, Luka Bajzer, Kirk & Nora Severson, and Brandon Wyman.

Treasurer's Report

- 1 new member: \$xx.
- Donations: \$xx.
- Amazon Smile: \$15.xx
- Expenses: \$.
- Balance: \$6679.85

Observing Notes

- Last weekend Mike saw the brightest meteor, about 4 seconds, blue trail. Out at Eagle Bluff: Andromeda, Pleiades, NGC 6552 (a good night).
- John Attewell "nailed Neptune" from his backyard in town. He had to star hop to find it, binoculars and telescope (8-inch Newtonian reflector), took about 3 hours, no goto stars for the electronics. It was very blue, he had never seen it before, old telescope was a 4-1/4".
- Josef was thankful for the posting about Eagle Bluff. The youngest astronomer there was Nora, with Kirk. Mike Quirk, Gordon, about five to six people were there. Josef did some planet observing (Mars), and some star hopping for Messier objects, then had to go home around midnight. Gordon mentioned seeing a comet (21E?), Josef thought he found that this morning, close to Auriga, but then realized he was probably looking at M37. Josef posted an article on the website.
- Randy was out Sunday morning, looking for the comet, but it was too late, the sky was brightening. He was out again around 2 a.m. this morning, using just 10x40 Canon binoculars ("not much glass"), found M37, then a star (HR2046?), and then was able to see the comet. It is supposed to be right by M35 by this weekend. Randy said it would be good to get a video of that progression.
- Julie mentioned the dark sky night for August. The smoke made it not worth it to go to Eagle Bluff or Keller, so, just drug the 10-inch across the street to see Jupiter and Saturn. She thought it was the most spectacular views ever, dropped in Barlow and it was incredible. Mars was not much to look at, due to the dust storm. Randy indicated that it was a still night, so the transparency did not matter as much.

News

- Library telescope update. Julie mentioned that a recent search of the catalog did not find the telescope. The last patron to borrow it had not returned it. The second telescope is close to being ready to be in circulation. The library wants to replace the lost one, they will replace it. Julie did not like the moon map that we had, it did not look right, so she sent an e-mail. Yes, it is wrong, flipped the wrong way, so work is

being done on a new version to replace it. Julie will need to get a link for ordering the telescope to the library, they have to order it. The telescopes are registered at LibraryTelescope.org (Austin apparently has one).

- Public observing this Friday at Watson Soccer fields, starting at 8 p.m. Trying for a couple more events for Space Week.
- Trying to set up solar observing for National Astronomy Day, check/post to the website.
- Bill Davidson talked about a 6-inch F/10 telescope that he had which had been in the process of going to the city dump until he rescued it. The clock drive is not working, but not sure how severe the problem is. Someone suggested the Mayo High School science department. It turned out that Randy had one just like it, Criterion RV, a number one seller back in the 1960s, for about \$360. Randy said that there is a restoration site for them. Randy also said that it is a well balanced telescope. Randy asked Bill if he had the original eyepieces, yes, one in there, useable.
- John Attewell mentioned that the NCRAL president was putting together a mailing list. If you did not get the e-mail or did not respond, John was passing around a sign-up sheet for that, for the newsletter. This would be a newsletter for our region, Bill mentioned that there are nine regions.
- Josef mentioned that he had applied for the webinars (NSN) and application was approved. John Martin's was approved as well.
- Josef mentioned that there had been a talk with Randy about the library publishing our events on their calendar. No, they cannot do that unless we are both involved, something such as a class for young astronomers. Josef thinks we need a way to capture younger astronomers, so talk to him or send e-mails if you are interested in helping with that idea.

RAC Meetings/Calendar

- September 14th/15th.....Dark Sky Weekend
- October 5th/6th.....Dark Sky Weekend
- October 8th.....RAC meeting - presentation TBD.
- October 12th/13th..... Dark Sky Weekend
- October 13th.....National Astronomy Day
- November 2nd/3rd.....Dark Sky Weekend
- November 9th/10th.....Dark Sky Weekend
- November 13th.....RAC meeting - presentation TBD.

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- Okie-Tex Star Party October 6th-14th.
- Enchanted Star Party October 16th-20th.

Featured Presentation

“From the Ground Up: Building Four World-Class Observatories” - John Attewell

- John toured four observatories by August. None really planned, just took opportunities.
- The first was Lowell in February (first time there was back in 2012).
- The second was Kitt Peak.
- The third was Mt. Palomar.
- The fourth was Yerkes (he grew up 30 miles from there). Closing in October.

- Randy agreed with John on the importance of George Ellery Hale, the chemical nature of astronomy. Randy indicated that it was sad how his life ended, he was institutionalized just before his death.

20:36 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary