

19:05 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

### **Meeting Attendees**

18 (24?) present:

Randy Hemann, John Martin, David Meyer, Karl Shidler, Jerome Taubel, Bob Fealey, Mike Carlin, Josef Chlachula, John Attewell, Kirk Severson, Jeff Newland, Rebecca Bomgaars, Julie Gawarecki, Joseph Gawarecki, James Benthall, Ben Joslin, Luka Bajzer, *Bill Davidson*, *Jay McLaren*, *Dustin Ebert*, and Brandon Wyman.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- 48 members.
- Income: Dues \$20.00.
- Expenses: Calendars ordered...\$15.
- Balance: \$6699.85 (\$100 in second checking).
- Randy mentioned a new notice from Amazon on special coming up.

### **Observing Notes**

- Josef, Randy, John Martin, and Mike Carlin talked about an observing session with lots of people in the lot. Mike Carlin sent some pictures to Randy, for more talk and pictures after the presentation.
- Bob Fealey indicated that the best time for him was 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. a couple of weeks ago. It was also clear this weekend.
- Jerome talked about the SpaceX launch. Bob pointed out that it was the first to have the return vehicles land on land, a west coast launch. Mike Carlin talked about a gyro that is involved.

### **News**

- Review meeting minutes. March 2018 up, May 2018 up, June 2018 in progress.
- Library telescope update. Julie indicated that they are closer to being done with the new telescope. She is finalizing the new moon map. There is deeper moon stuff on the web that one can print off. An email was received from the library, the other telescope was returned. Apparently the patron that had checked it out had some kind of medical issue, resulting in some communication problems with the library. The library has already paid to replace that telescope, so now we will end up with three of them. Luka mentioned that he had seen someone checking it out. Jerome asked about feedback from the users, asking if a survey was put in there. Mike Carlin suggested that a QR code could be put on there, directing users to a web page survey. John Martin said that yes, we could do such a web page. Luka asked about a demo video, Julie indicated that the New Hampshire astronomy club group may have one that we can point to.
- November 9/10 Minnesota Naturalists' Association conference at Eagle Bluff. Randy mentioned that if people are around on these dates, feel free to help out, nothing official planned. One can look up on the web to get a feel for what this association does.
- Randy also mentioned that some 6-7-8th grade teachers wanted an event in February.
- RAC Outreach Meeting Report. Astronomy Day (fall) is this weekend. John indicated Friday the 12th has an event planned at the soccer field, but not sure on Saturday. The Peace Plaza did not get back to John, so it is up to the people with solar scopes, maybe something to show at the soccer field. Ben Joslin

mentioned looking at the sun last week, not a lot of solar flares. Randy recommended watching the website for any Astronomy Day updates.

- Mini-reports/Show-and-tell. Mike Carlin had something to share, a response to a challenge from Randy. Comet 21P video (<http://jnmcarlin.com/mike/2018/09/17/>). M35 is 42 arcseconds, about the size of the moon. 2:00 a.m. - 4:30 a.m.
- John mentioned to check NSN, check on local club events, “crash” an event.
- Radio City in Twin Cities closing, December ??, discounts. They have some telescope stuff.
- Next month’s meeting, Jack has a presentation planned.
- Other reports saved for next months meeting.
- No club meeting in December.

### **RAC Meetings/Calendar**

- 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 - Jack Wiltsie: “Experiments of the Great Solar Eclipse of 2017”
- December 11th.....NO RAC MEETING in December.

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

- Enchanted Star Party October 16th-20th.

### **Featured Presentation**

“Tips for Touring Major Observatories” - John Attewell

- Part II of observatory lecture.
- Research before you go. Call ahead. Check on maintenance, refitting, etc. One observatory had an 18-month refit start 2 days after he was there.
- Group tours?
- Contact a local astronomy club. One observatory had a local club nearby that had a club meeting, 100 to 200 members, two nights before. Mt. Palomar, missed deep desert, deep sky observing.
- Other astronomical facilities? Kitt Peak, University of Arizona, mirror facility had tours of the mirror grinding that John missed.
- Ask about dome tour dates and times when you call.
- Ask about special tours, possibly get to tag along. John mentioned a Discovery Channel telescope 5 miles from Lowell.
- Yerkes closed October 1st. This was the last observatory created for the convenience of astronomers, not for the seeing conditions. Losing volunteer docents, walking encyclopedias.
- Getting there. Most observatories at the top of mountains now. Before you leave, get gas.
- Take a jacket. San Diego, desert 90 degrees Fahrenheit, top of mountain 60 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Take you dramamine. Lots of switchbacks on the way up, most paved though, to keep dust off the telescopes.
- Do NOT take pictures on the way up, take them on the way down. You do not want to end up late on the way up.

- Keep in mind that many observatories have wilderness area around them. Bear proof garbage cans. Snakes!
- Facilities. Most observatories have visitor centers, but you probably need to pack food (cafeterias for astronomers working at observatory). Jay did mention a Kitt Peak overnight program with a sign-up for a meal, box lunch, breakfast...10 years ago.
- Get there ahead of time, get your tickets, THEN time for museums, pictures, etc. Be prepared for better questions during the tour.
- Go to the gift shop AFTER the tour.
- John thought that Kitt Peak had the nicest visitor center.
- Tips on photography. Wide angle lens, panorama mode on cell phones, take video on cell phone, macro lens (close-ups of vignets, etc.), and polarizing lens (things in glass cases).
- Post tour: beautiful mountain view photos, gift shop, stop a lot coming down.
- Take a lot of water, it can be really dry at higher altitudes.
- Cell phone reception ... NO.
- Jay and Mike talked about wifi, Mike recommended putting your cell phone in airplane mode.
- Karl Shidler recommended checking you car manual before going somewhere that needs you to turn your headlight off.
- After the presentation, Randy commented on how when he was at Mt. Wilson, there were no birds chirping, one of the quietest places he has been.

20:39 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary