

19:03 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

### **Meeting Attendees**

19 present: Randy Hemann, John Attewell, John Martin, Jim Blackwell, Charles Beckjord, Jay McLaren, Luka Bajzer, Mike Carlin, Bill Davidson, Julie and Joseph Gawarecki, Josef Chlachula, Nova Kane, Vyanka Redenba..., Michael Quirk, Kirk Severson, Karl Shidler, James Benthall, and Brandon Wyman.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Income: Total \$x.xx.
- Expenses: \$?.
- Balance \$?.
- ???.

### **News**

- Review meeting minutes. ???
- NCRAL Election Results:
  - Carl J. Wenning Twin City Amateur Astronomers, Chair (2021-2023)
  - Bill Davidson, Rochester Astronomy Club, Vice-Chair (2021-2023)
  - Roy Gustafson, Popular Astronomy Club, Secretary/Treasurer (2020-2022)
  - Bill Davidson continues as NCRAL Regional Representative.
- Library telescope update. Julie something about the late return of the telescope at the library..???

### **Observing Notes**

- ???.
- John Attewell shared some information about Leslie Peltier.
- Book?  
[https://www.amazon.com/Starlight-Nights-Adventures-Leslie-Peltier-ebook/dp/B00HAR5NJ4/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=leslie+peltier+starlight+nights&qid=1620778936&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Starlight-Nights-Adventures-Leslie-Peltier-ebook/dp/B00HAR5NJ4/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=leslie+peltier+starlight+nights&qid=1620778936&sr=8-2)
- Side-trip failed.
- The Merry-Go Round Observatory. That merry-go round no longer exists, but some people have reconstructed it. Welded armature with weights on it...book describes how he got that perfectly balanced.
- Scientific American did a whole article on this guy.
- Clark 12-inch was given to him by Wesleyan Univ. Harvard Univ. gave him a bunch of telescopes.
- Farmer and a draftsman.
- John A. - Peltier given this ... rented truck, took observatory apart, took to farm, reassembled.
- First light, Vega, all blurry. Marked lens when took them out. Dream that night...
- Wrote a note to a long retired professor ... tightened down tight, chip in the lens... never really worked well after that. In the dream, thought turn the lens around. Turned it around, most crystal clear image of Vega he had ever seen. Alvin-clark had thought to adjust for the thickness of the lens.
- Luka - Jerry Clarklin (???) is selling a 10-inch Alvan Clark telescope for 70 grand:

<https://www.cloudynights.com/classifieds/item/221943-1891-10-alvan-clark-f15-telescope/>. Luka: it is an F-15, so ... (big).

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### **RAC Meetings/Calendar**

- May 14/15 - Astronomy Day. Dark Sky Weekend.
- June 4/5 - Dark Sky Weekend.
- June 8th - RAC meeting. Presentation: TBD.
- June 11/12 - Dark Sky Weekend.
- July 9/10 - Dark Sky Weekend.
- July 13 - RAC meeting. Presentation: TBD.

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

- ???
- Outreach plans. Josef, shared screen. <https://rochesterskies.org/outreach/>: table thing, pink highlights, 2021-05-15...
  - Root River Park, dark sky, sliver of moon, should not interfere too much. Link to Friday May 21st, from 05/15 table. Moon in 1st quarter, in soccer fields. 11/12 and 12/10 red, not decided.
  - 05/15 21:00 - Sun at about 6 degrees, but gets dark enough in the 2 hours.
  - List of COVID-19 requirements. The email has requirements for members attending. Josef asked about the COVID-19 requirements. Good to have it. Randy pointing out about the guidelines changing, advantage for the event is that it is outside, but disadvantage is that it will be dark. Cannot be sure where everyone is, hard to maintain distancing. Vaccination status: might get club input on that, maybe loosen up as time goes by. Randy prefers vaccinated people, due to the dark, difficult to maintain distancing.
  - Randy bought some "fake eyeglasses" from Amazon, don't have to wipe down eyepieces that way. We can wash/clean those, but if limited to 25, probably will not be needed.
  - Josef - will keep that list the same. Facebook link at bottom of page. 77 people responded. 7 say they are going. Same COVID-19 requirements copied to the Facebook event.
  - Joseph Gawarecki asked what the impetus is for the COVID requirements. Why put that out there at all? Why make that a requirement? The governor already has guidelines.... Randy mentioned it being at night, many in the dark doing events, so put that out front. Joseph said that the governor is making changes within a month, but worried about going to "T-off" some people and they will just stop coming. John Attewell pointed out that groups can make up their own guidelines. Randy thought it would put more people at ease seeing that we are keeping it in mind. Jay thought we should keep it up, we can modify it throughout the year. Mike C. asked if there was any feedback from the Facebook page. Mike Q. said that he would rather have the information up front, instead of having people show up and then tell them.
  - Randy shared comments on event details. For #3, mention that a limited number of eye protection will be provided. Randy did get the package today. Randy thinks #5, sharing tracking information, might be a bit much. Mike C. thought it could be changed to indicate it is recommended. Joseph G. suggested calling it contact information, instead of tracking information. Randy also suggested changing visitors to all attendees. Kirk indicated that he was glad to see we are taking it seriously.

- James Benthall (via Zoom chat). Where is the link? I wonder why have it if children can't go? If we (the hobby) needs anyone to attend it's children.
- Nova Kane asked if she would need to bring a device like binoculars or a telescope, or if he could look through someone else's. John Martin said that one would not have to bring a device and can look through someone else's devices.
- Mike C. asked about broadcasting over Zoom. John M. said that there is enough bandwidth, but may not have enough people. John planned to work at the table and direct people around. Mike C. said that he can broadcast something.
- Josef said there were 5 members signed up. Randy will be there, he will bring the UNISTELLAR scope... and something larger. Mike C. pointed out that was the appeal of that, no touch.
- Jay asked who was planning on bringing telescopes. Josef will bring a telescope, but no plans to setup right at first. Josef said that all should probably come about a half hour before to talk and get organized.
- John is going to direct traffic on the road, he doesn't feel safe to set up when not there.
- Mike C. asked about signs and stuff, Randy indicated yes. John said he has signs...lights off...etc. John has to pack up around 11 p.m., starts work by midnight. John will bring a telescope, but doesn't plan on setting it up.
- John asked about broadcasting UNISTELLAR. Randy says no, own network, but maybe someone videoing it could. One can download the Unistellar app for Android or iOS to see it in action (not available for PC).
- Josef link from page: <https://in-the-sky.org/newscal.php?month=5&year=2021&maxdiff=7#datesel>.
- Randy says it will be a discovery time. The weather is not looking great. Take all we learn forward to the following weekend, and the one after that, and ....
- John A. says probably on a shower, from the National Weather Service is low. 8 p.m. forecast is mostly cloudy. Josef said that we need to show up even if it is cloudy, from experience, people will show up.
- Josef pointed out the moon map on the page, he often forgets some. Josef showed internal webpage with who signed up.
- Josef - <http://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-news/observing-news/bright-nova-erupts-in-cassiopeia/>. Mike Q. said it should be really close to The Dragonfly Cluster.
- Michael Quirk - <https://youtube.com/embed/XRCIzZHpFtY?rel=0>. (animation of one of the Mars rover launch). Mike's brother-in-law thought it was neat and shared it with him. Mike C. - said it was Spirit.
- Randy asked about any loose ends? Mike C. had one quick thing to share, selling Orion 120-mm refractor. 2 counterweights. Let it go for about \$400 if anybody in the club, or knows someone that is interested. He needs to make room for more cameras and R2D2 parts. Reach out and let him know..

## Featured Presentation

NONE.

20:28 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary