

19:03 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

17 present: John Martin, Randy Hemann, Josef Chlachula, Bob Fealey, Jeff Newland, Julie Gawarecki, Charles Beckjord, Colin Graves, Jay McLaren, Zhizhang Yang, Bill Davidson, Kirk Severson, Larry Mascotti, Luka Bajzer, Mike Carlin, Mike Quirk, and Brandon Wyman.

Treasurer's Report

- Brief summary of report from November 2021. Something made things look a bit funny, fixed in December.
- December 2021 report:
 - Income: Total \$489.72.
 - \$19.86 - new membership. Something with PayPal needs adjustment.
 - \$350.00 - calendar sales.
 - \$119.86 - renewed members.
 - Expenses: \$39.45 (purchase for 2022 Astronomy calendars).
 - Net Income: \$450.27
 - Balance \$9,906.85.
 - \$9,856.85 Ending checking balance as of 12-31-21
 - \$100 Second checking account balance.
 - -\$50 newsletter fund.
- Colin had a question about membership. He sent a check back in November, did not see it clear. Julie thinks it probably arrived at the P.O. Box just after she last checked it in December. Julie will check the box again soon, if it is there, membership should be reflected in the January report.
- Josef did his membership renewal through PayPal. He suggested bumping it up a few cents, there suggested that maybe we just bump it to \$21 if renewing online through PayPal, to have a buffer.
 - Jay McLaren made a motion to increase dues for online pay to \$21, Brandon Wyman seconded.
 - Vote: All ayes (no one opposed). Motion passes.
 - Julie will include an explanation for the change to \$21 in the email she sends.
- Randy said that it was a good time, the beginning of the year, to spend some time going over the assets (included in following pages to the Treasurer's report).
 - Solar filter (Chlachula). Refresher on what that is. It was meant to go with the Meade LX200GPS that Josef also has. It is a 10-inch diameter filter. Julie will make updates to clarify.
 - Related discussion on borrowing items (Bob wanted filter, Colin interested in Orion XT8 scope). Whoever is handing off an item to another member should let Julie know who they are sending it off to.
 - Telescope & accessories for solar viewing (Hemann). Randy will send an email that is more descriptive as to what that and other things are.
 - Orion XT8 telescope. Randy will need to check if Rebecca still has that. (Colin interested in borrowing this telescope). Randy will get back to Colin, told him to just email the club, Randy

gets those emails that go to the club.

- Telescope(s) in restoration. Jay McLaren asked, not seen on the list. Randy has a mirror and pier in his storage. Jeff Newland (?) asked about another telescope, Kirk mentioned the Dynascope. Randy indicated he would have to check notes on the Dynascope, but he thinks he has the mirrors, but the tube may need to be located (past member had it).
- Triaxis scope. Another item not on the list. Randy said he also has this in his storage. Luka asked about the size, it is an 8-inch.
- Kirk Severson mentioned having some telescopes from Duane, from RCTC. There was a 6 or 8-inch he loaned out.
- Randy has a 6-inch Buschnell as well.
- Signage. Randy has 1 or 2 signs in his garage. John Martin has one left, others were given to John Attewell. Josef has the signs from John Attewell, picked them up before he left.
- Phone mounts. Mike Quirk mentioned having one of the phone mounts, thought there were 5 total. Josef has a phone mount. Mike Carlin has a phone mount.
- PA system. Randy has this.
- Night Sky Network (NSN) items. Mike Quirk mentioned having some searching for water materials. Those were from the NSN collection Kirk Severson has. Mike Carlin also has a NSN packet/item. Kirk indicated he will write up an inventory of what he has for Julie.
- Donations. Bob asked how one would donate something to the club inventory. Randy said to just get it noted on the list.

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News

- Review meeting minutes. Brandon did not get meeting minutes posted. Watch the forum for updates.
- Library telescope update. Julie indicated she had not been in touch with the library lately. Randy said that was okay, we can bring it up again in a later meeting.
- Outreach program. Josef indicated that the last two events were canceled due to cloudy weather. He said it was nice to see the support from Oxbow Park. Josef also pointed out that the lady responsible for the county parks is on the email list for the replies sent from Oxbow Park. The cancellation process went well, 5 on a Zoom call, took a screenshot, sent in an email reply. Josef is hoping that sooner or later, we have a winter observing outreach event. The new road/directions were also brought up, there is a new road 105, so the best way is from #14, then Byron #5, 105 moved a bit, but Lonnie said they have new signs put up now. Randy asked about the new facility, no, that is not up yet, still doing events for the old facility.

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- Josef mentioned helping a friend list an 8-inch telescope for sale, during the conversation with Colin regarding interest in checking out a telescope prior to purchasing one. Contact Josef if interested in the ad he posted. The telescope was a barely used gift.

Officer Elections/Appointments

- RH - We do have to elect officers and do appointments.... John Attewell is willing to continue duties as vice-president. Anyone that would like to continue....

- Julie indicated she was willing to continue. John Martin is willing to continue.... Brandon Wyman is willing to continue.... Bill Davidson is willing to continue.
- Current officers:
 - i. Randy Hemann President
 - ii. John Attewell Vice-President
 - iii. Julie Gawarecki Treasure
 - iv. Brandon Wyman Secretary
 - v. John Martin Webmaster
 - vi. Bill Davidson Newsletter editor
- Current appointments:
 - i. Dean Johnson AlCor rep, Star Party Coordinator- Eagle Bluff
 - ii. Luka Bazjer Star Party Coordinator - Rochester
 - iii. Kirk Severson Night Sky Network rep
- Randy said that Dean would like to keep his position. There was a question on having a 4th appointment listed, Outreach Program Coordinator. Luka said he was not really active in what he was listed as, but would like to do more. Randy indicated that what Luka is listed under is mainly what Josef's position transformed into, that will be updated to reflect Josef Chlachula as the Outreach Program Coordinator.
- Randy asked if Kirk was still interested in his position. Kirk was still interested, but does not seem to get out much anymore. Kirk did mention that there are pins to be awarded, from last year. Randy would like to keep Kirk as the Night Sky Network representative.
- Randy is willing to keep his post (president).
- No further nominations, suggestions, or objections heard.
- Colin Graves moved to approve the list as it stands. ??? second the motion. All ayes, no one opposed.
- RH - Appointments will be adjusted as discussed.

Observing Notes

- Josef - was trying to see comet ... did not see it...
- Colin - went out for Geminids...saw about 6, 2 really good.
- Luka - out for some sunspots a couple times. One supposedly visible at 1x...son could see it...but not Luka.
- Bob - sun is getting very active, routinely look at it with StarBlast. Bob also took some pics of Orion, Dumbbell, and Jupiter.
- Brandon - mentioned that between Jamestown and Bismarck, really flat, saw Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter all in a line across the sky while driving. Next rest area, no pic, Venus gone. Bob said that as of the 8th of January, Venus went through inferior conjunction, so it will be in the morning sky now.
- Kirk - ??? could not get scope to ecliptic... handheld got moon and Orion.
- Charles Beckjord - out late December to see Orion as it cleared the trees, that was beautiful.
- Randy - ... late November ... small church group and girl scouts outreach....pics to share later. A belt to earn ... show "Big Dipper", how stars point to other stars ... just that little bit. It was a pretty warm night, clouds came in from the north, all that was left as it started was Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter, then soon after the clouds covered that. They went inside for questions. The 12 girls there had so many questions. Randy did not get out until about 8 p.m., so 20 minutes turned into two and a half hours.
- Mike Carlin - office at work...people ask astronomy questions...very cloudy lately.... Mike came up with this idea, in a chat application used at work, there is an #off-topic area, so he started an Astronomy Trivia

Tuesday. One can drop hints if they know the answer, but don't cheat (look things up on Internet). He said it was interesting to see the responses. He started this about 3 or 4 weeks ago.

- Luka - What is today's piece of trivia?
- Mike - let me bring it up: What constellation is this (pic of Orion)? Quite a few answers. There are also bonus questions: Who killed him? Some people did get the constellation correct. He also got 3 people that got the bonus question correct.

RAC Meetings/Calendar

- Randy indicated there is nothing listed for the Heart of America 2022 star party, yet.
- Bill Davidson and Randy discussed the NCRAL 2022 conference (May 13th - 14th). Right now, it looks like Randy may have a conflict, but if it ends up doable, he plans to attend. Randy pointed out that a lot of conferences are rare still at this point, the contracts with the venues (hotels) are geared towards cancellations. Randy suggested waiting until "the last second" before making a decision.
- Randy and John briefly discussed ALCON 2022 (<https://alcon2022.org/>). John indicated it is set to take place in Albuquerque, more details/updates to come later.
- Randy is still planning for an outdoor meeting in April, hanging out in his driveway, mini-party, hopefully. He said that we will likely be Zooming until April.
- Major regional star parties for 2022
 - Texas Star Party, May 24th - June 1st. (<https://texasstarparty.org/>)
 - Rocky Mountain Star Stare, June 22nd - 26th. (<https://rmss.org/>)
 - Nebraska Star Party, July 24th - 29th. (<https://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>)
 - Okie-Tex Star Party, September 23rd - October 1st. (<http://www.okie-tex.com/>)
 - Heart of America Star Party, date TBD. (<https://askc.org/index.php/events/hoasp>)
- Club Calendar:
 - January 28th,29th - Dark Sky Weekend
 - February 4th,5th - Dark Sky Weekend
 - February 8th - RAC Meeting, "Luminous" film presentation.
 - February 25th,26th - Dark Sky Weekend
 - March 4th,5th - Dark Sky Weekend

Featured Presentation

Presentation: None. Discuss the special film presentation to the Rochester Astronomy Club.

- "Luminous" on February 8th.
- <https://vimeo.com/621649510>
- Josef gave some background on how he found this. It is related to him being born in Czechoslovakia, and being a member of the (club? society?). Every year there is a conference on variable stars.
- Josef did not go to the conference last year, but ... there was a ... film presentation... sent an email, received a reply a few days or weeks later, from the film director.
- It is a film about astronomy, science... Preview/trailer: <https://luminous-film.com/trailer>
- We are signed up for a discussion, with a viewing of the full 90-minute film, a sneak preview of sorts.

- Larry Molnar (star of the film). Sam Smartt is director/producer.
- An email will be sent to the club members, at least a week prior to the meeting. Be on the lookout for this email, it will have important registration instructions, information on troubleshooting sessions, etc.
- There will be a Zoom meeting prior to the showing, then the 90-minute video separate from Zoom, followed by a post-viewing Q&A/discussion in Zoom.
- Randy mentioned a business part to this. There is a \$150 fee. Colin (?) made a motion to approve the \$150 fee for this sneak preview meeting, Jay seconded the motion. All ayes, no nays, motion carried, \$150 officially allocated.
- Josef, Randy, and Bill have some invoice address tidbits to clear up.
- Red Nova, mentioned in some of the materials Josef was sharing. Bob Fealey asked what that was. Josef said he will send a link to a Sky & Telescope article from about 5 years ago, in the email for the registration information.
- Some Q&A on attendance options. Apparently there was some option to see this in a theater, but obviously the club does not want to do that right now. There was also clarification on this being for club members only (Randy had a reminder that club members are families).

20:38 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary