RAC minutes

January 13, 2023

1904 Summit Dr NE

7:05 to 9:10 pm

Attendees: John Attewell, Mike Benson, Jay McLaren, Don & Jan Schlosnagle, Jerome Taubel, Luka Bazjer, Josh Kruger, Chris and Julie Gawarecki, Jeff Newland, Mike Quirk, Bill Davidson, Randy & Lynne Hemann, Bob Feeley,

The meeting begun with introductions of all present and we proceeded directly into the presentations.

Josh Kruger presented astronomical gear he would like to donate or sell.

* Astrotech AT80ED 80 mm refractor donation to the club. It has some internal debris issues to address but otherwise is in good mechanical working order. Bob and Jay will take it home and try first attempts at cleaning it up.
* Skywatcher alt/az mount head. In very good shape. $100.
* Baader Hyperion Mark IV 8-24 zoom eyepiece with 1.25- and 2-inch adapters and Hyperion Zoom Barlow 2.25x. Listed new on High Point Scientific at 419. Will sell for $350.
* Oberwerks 5000 Tripod/Head with quick release plate and carrying bag. Originally $310. Will sell for $150. Jerome Taubel will take home to see if it fits his equipment.

Contact Josh via email for any questions.

Mike Benson presented his journey into astrophotography rapidly accelerated by winning some free software (Pixelmator) and a free trial to Telescope Live. He showed how different formats can be acquired or requested through Telescope Live for processing. He will bring back more results as he continues his quest to improve his astrophotography skills.

Mike also recommended the book “The Visible Universe” by Bracken and Whitby of which he brought a copy to view.

Business:

Treasurer Reports from October 2022 through December were reviewed by Julie.

Some minor repairs are being addressed by one of our library scopes.

We will put together another SkyBlast 4.5 scope estimate to donate to the Spring Grove library in memory of Dean Johnson. The final cost will be reviewed at next month’s meeting.

We voted to approve our current standing donations to the local science fairs. Julie will contact science fair officials to be sure of their ongoing interest.

Results of election of officers:

* + - * Randy Hemann President
      * John Attewell Vice-President
      * Julie Gawarecki Treasurer
      * Brandon Wyman Secretary
      * John Martin Webmaster
      * Bill Davidson Newsletter editor

Results of appointments:

AlCor Rep Bill Davidson

Star Party Communicator – Eagle Bluff John Attewell

Outreach Coordinator Josef Chlachula

Night Sky Network rep Kirk Severson

Observing Notes:

Bob and Randy showed pictures and videos of interest. Luka showed a link to an ultra-long exposure of the Andromeda Galaxy showing new nebulosities never before seen. <https://www.reddit.com/r/Astronomy/comments/107h07l/i_helped_to_discover_this_never_before_seen/?utm_medium=android_app&utm_source=share>

Jeff discussed his recent observing activities.

Randy reviewed some emerging supply issues for big dob owners.

Randy reviewed 2023 regional star party dates and upcoming local state park requests. Forestville has us penned in for August 12. Julie noted us participating April 29 Sola Fide observatory in Austin. Luka noted there may be a large native Indian/astronomy celebration in Jasper, MN this summer. Also, a reminder to check our website calendar for upcoming local outreach events.

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