

19:02 – meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

20 present: Randy Hemann, Jim Blackwell, Josef Chlachula, Mike Carlin, John Martin, Michael Currie, Mike Benson, Rob Reid, Mike Quirk, John Attewell, Jay McLaren, Darla Root, Jan Schlosnagle, Don Schlosnagle, Kirk Severson, Luka Bajzer (and son), and Brandon Wyman.

Treasurer's Report

- Julie unable to attend. Randy did not have a copy of the report. Review at next meeting.

News

- **Review meeting minutes.** Check forum for updates.
- **New member welcome.** Darla Root. Originally from Ohio, most recently from Colorado (south of Denver). Day 38 in Rochester. Looking to learn astronomy from the members.
- **NCRAL 2025 meeting update: John Attewell.** There is a committee that has a meeting the second Sunday of every month. The conference is planned for April 26th-27th. It will take place in Minneapolis. The plans include a Friday night observing at the Eagle Lake Observatory, thanks to the MAS, one of their many observing sites, this one being the closest and largest. John will keep the club informed of updates.
- **Okie-Tex Star Party review. Randy** talked about attending the star party with his wife, Jerome Taubel and his wife, and Bob Fealey. Randy shared a video, showing the valley they were in, the 50 to 80 foot high bluffs that surround the camp/viewing site, and an arachnid (tarantula). Photos from the new building with A/C where “they feed you well” (improvement from circus tent there 7 years ago). Randy also shared video from an excursion to Capulin Volcano National Monument. Bob had his sky meter along, 21.2. There was a trace of smoke in the air. Randy indicated that he, Bob, and Jerome had a pretty good planetary nebula viewing method worked out: find in Unistellar, then Bob find with his telescope attached to his computer and get a picture, then a trip to Randy's Dob, next. It worked great. Randy said the had cell service with 1 to 2 bars, via two AT&T towers (5 miles and 2 miles away). There were also towers every 50 feet that were providing WiFi internet. The last time Randy was there they had to drive for 2 hours to get a signal for internet. There were also cords out on the field, allowing people to plug in their telescopes (not to be used for RVs, AC, etc.). There was a video presentation on dark skies, which Randy plans to track down to present at a future RAC meeting. The showers and bathrooms were updated since the visit 7 years ago. All the days there were sunny, mostly in the 80s during the day and down to the 50s overnight. Randy was one of those staying awake the latest, around 3 a.m. There was one night that was really windy, no observing. One of the nearby observers had a 25-inch Dob, a “young, eccentric, electronics guy” that Randy actually left a tablet with, to be repaired. The travel time to get there varied. Jerome and his wife made the trip in 2 days, while Randy and his wife took 3 days to get there. Randy and the group left before it was over. The last 2 to 3 days of the star party went a bit downhill with a norovirus outbreak of some sorts. Randy had an email to reply to for some epidemiology questions. Randy also still had some chapped lips from the wind and dryness. Last year was a rain out. This year was good, no mosquitoes, a few insects, and a few arachnids.

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- Mike Benson mentioned a really good book that he has started reading: Galaxies by Or Graur. He read about it in a BBC article. It goes over the many types of galaxies (dwarf, peculiar, etc.). Easily understandable. Published in 2024 (recent).

Observing Notes

- John Attewell is up to his 68th Messier object recorded. He asked if others noticed all the satellites. Every single image John had captured a satellite.
- Mike Currie mentioned lots of northern lights.
- Josef was out at 5:30 in the morning some days ago to get some pictures of Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS. He said that every single frame he captured had satellites. He published a picture (in the forum?).
- Randy projected the night sky in Sky Safari, to show the comet position around 7 pm. over the next few days. October 14th – 16th may be the best days.
- Kirk Severson was out scouting various sites for viewing. He made it out to Salem Glenn Winery. There was some discussion about having a watch party out there on Sunday, October 13th. It was not clear if that should be open to the public, or just club members. Randy and Kirk were to discuss the idea after the meeting. Randy will send out an email.

RAC Meetings/Calendar

- Club Calendar:
 - October 11th Public Outreach, Watson Soccer Field
 - November 12th Monthly Club Meeting

Featured Presentation

Presentation: *James Webb Telescope*, Ben Joslin.

- 1968: OAO. 1971: Russian Orion 1.
- Hubble launched April 24th, 1990. 44 feet. 24,000 pounds. John Attewell pointed out that the backup is in Cape Kennedy, bigger than a bus.
- The next telescope, after Hubble, had plans started in 1989 (before Hubble launched). Approved in 1996. Named James Webb Telescope in 2002.
- Mirrors: Hubble 2.4 meters, James Webb Telescope 6.5 meters (secondary is 74 centimeters).
- James Webb Telescope mirrors are beryllium coated in gold.
- It took 17 years, \$10 billion to make the James Webb Telescope.
- Mirrors made 2004-2011. Cameras added 2006. Testing 2019. Fold/unfold/repeat 2020.
- Launched December 25th, 2021, from Guyana. Reached position at L2 on January 24th, 2022.
- First pictures released July 12th, 2022.
- Lots of images, composite images, and image comparisons with Hubble and others.
- Randy was at 1st annual astronomy week at Glacier National Park. Speaker worked on JWT. 2 years from submitting plan to getting observation time.

20:39 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman – Rochester Astronomy Club secretary