

18:16 – food...

19:01 – meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Attendees

19 present: Randy Hemann, Duane Deal, Don & Jan Schlosnagle, Jeff Newland & Gerarda Marquez, Jay McLaren, Mike Carlin, Chris & Julie Gawarecki, Bob Fealey, John Attewell, Michael Currie, Todd Christensan, Josef Chlachula, Mike Quirk, Jerome Taubel, Luka Bajzer, and Brandon Wyman.

Minutes

- August 2025 posted, vanished.
- September 2025 posted.
- October and November 2025 yet to be posted.

Treasurer's report

October 2025

- 1 member renewed: \$20.09.

November 2025

- No activity.

December 2025 (12-31-25)

- 1 person NY, 1 person CA: \$40.18 (sent emails, twice)
- Donations : \$630.00
- ?? RAC : \$39.88
- Web Server ?
- \$670.18 / \$2353.50
- Newsletter -\$50.00
- Balance : \$9727.43.

Club Assets

- Some items are missing from the list. John Attewell has two telescopes to list yet. Juile will send a reminder email.
- John Attewell also brought up a question regarding depreciation. Julie mentioned something about under \$50,000 and 1090s.
- Jerome Taubel had a TMV donation to add to the club assets:

- Takahashi Temma 2 NJP-160 EQ Mount
- Meade Giant Field Tripod w Mount Plate
- Donated by Gail Knopp, Lake City, MN

Register State of Minnesota

- Randy pointed out that every one or two years, the club has to register with the state. He did that back in December. It changes. This time it was a one-year thing. Randy will send/forward the information to Julie.

Calendars

- Julie brought the calendars for people. Some distributed prior to meeting start.
- One calendar noted as saved for Randy.

Bank Change

- Julie noted that Bremer Bank, where the club account(s) are, was bought out by Old National.
- More changes are coming.

Dues Update

- ??? other clubs.
- There will be three levels:
 - Household: \$20 - \$35 +\$15/year.
 - Patron: \$75/year. (\$35 + Dantru (?) – taxes) – Was this the below has one goal, they have more perks. Storage unit. Better equipment. Better storage & cloha (?).
 - Student: \$15/year. (high school ... 25 or younger)
- Estimate now. Try to avoid negative income.
- PayPal, Cash, or Check.

RAC Storage Unit Update

- Goals were to keep under \$130, south location preferred, and easy to access.
- Randy found a location by West Circle Dr, right by Kwik Trip, on a dead-end road.
- Five Star Storage. \$107/month.
 - There was a holiday deal, so the first four months are at \$77.76/month.
- Randy will get the information to Julie.
- It is gated. Our unit is on the first floor, close to the loading dock.
- One would go in about 15 feet and take the first right. Easy in and out.

- Check in/out post.
- Combination lock.
- There is some work to do on a proof-of-concept (or was that point of contact?) and checkout system. Code mentioned at meeting (see Randy).
- Bob Fealey asked if it was climate controlled. Yes.
- Size: 10-ft x 10-ft.
- Use our own shelving. Randy indicated that he has something for shelving.
- Jerome Taubel inquired about using something like QR codes for a checkout system.
 - Duane Deal said something about that being easy to do in Filemaker Pro.
 - Some joke/question about someone having a Blackberry.
 - Duane volunteered to work on creating QR codes and a checkout system to use them.
- Gate access: 5 a.m. – 10 p.m. (Randy to double-check on that).

RAC Elections

- Randy had emails from John (?) and Bill Davidson (?). They are happy to continue in their roles, but open to let others take over.
- No new nominations.
- Luka made a motion to re-elect current officers/roles.
- Jerome seconded the motion. (Jay third?)
- Voice vote: All aye. No one opposed it.
 - Current slate carryover to 2026:

President	Randy Hemann
Vice-president	John Attewell
Treasurer	Julie Gawarecki
Secretary	Brandon Wyman
Webmaster	John Martin
Newsletter Editor	Bill Davidson
 - Current appointments:
 - John Attewell and Joseph Gawarecki suggested Mike Quirk to fill the open NSN Representative position.

Bill Davidson	ALCor (Astronomical League Correspondent)
Josef Chlachula	Star Party Coordinator – Rochester
Duane Deal	Star Party Coordinator – Eagle Bluff
Mike Quirk	Night Sky Network Representative
- Current external positions:

Bill Davidson	NCRAL Vice-Chair
John Attewell	NCRAL's Regional Representative to the AL

Member Communication

- The topic of member communication was brought up.
- Josef and Duane were talking about observing at Eagle Bluff.
- Duane was wondering about a better communication method (go, no go, etc.)
- Mike (?) mentioned Slack. Josef said that we still have the RAC Slack account.
 - The current Slack account is at the free level. It has limited history.
- One-way texts were also mentioned (someone can send, but receivers cannot reply).
 - Mike Carlin indicated this would likely involve some setup with a company like Verizon and need an opt-in/opt-out policy.
- Discord was mentioned as another option.
- Josef, Duane, Luka, and Mike C. agreed to volunteer to investigate this more.

Kirk's Equipment

- More than on list sent earlier.
- 12-inch Dob. Randy claims it has the best view of Andromeda.
- Wedges, bag of chains (counterweight?).
- Binocular chair. Many recognized this as a win from the Nebraska Star Party. Plastic still on it.
- Randy looked up approximate prices on secondhand sites, took an average of 1 to 3 prices ... \$8,000 total value approximated.
- Deep Sky Atlas – Luka claimed dibs.
- Eyepieces, flashlights,
- Members 25% off
- Solar scope, 80-mm. The newest version costs \$5800, so it costs about \$3500 if 25% is taken off at that price.
- The question of a group offer was brought up.
 - Julie pointed out the current club accounts balance is about \$9000.
- Juggling stuff in a duffel bag. That was probably not meant to be included with the astronomy items. Randy said that the family will check with the juggling club.
- Randy indicated that he would have the items on hand, or in storage, for a while.
- We wouldn't want to hang onto all the (unsold) items indefinitely. It was asked if they would take items back at say around the 6-month mark.

Josef – Land Acquisition Idea

- Joseph G - ??? markers – photos – send family ???

- John Baker – Quad Cities Astronomical Society. 24x36 roll-off observatory. P3PG2Zh80F0-YT (?)
- Cannot Bured. Rust River ... no build ...
- H = 1296 W. H = 1284 NE. H = 1290 SE. Triangle parcel: 234-ft north side, 230-ft east side. 531712040929. Graphical Information System. 80th St E.
- Jerome Taubel asked if Josef had checked with the county assessor. He also asked about a driveway. Things to do before approaching the landowner. Questions regarding whether it is included in the 80 acres.
- Realtor friend to talk to realtor for the landowner? Grand writer friend(s)?
- Jerome thinks it is an idea worth pursuing.
- Take more to the next meeting.
- Josef requested a group/team meeting after the meeting to discuss the parcel idea.

Recent/New Activities

RAC Outreach Awards

- Mike Quirk, Dr. Bob Fealey, Mike Carlin, Jay McLaren, Josef Chlachula, and John Attewell: All received NSN certificate and pin for Exceptional Outreach Award. (Photos taken by Joseph Gawarecki).

NEAF

- Northeast Astronomy Forum, Suffern, NY. April 11th – 12th.
- Equipment, solar photography.
- Randy and Jerome indicated that they were planning on going.

NCRAL 2026

- May 15th-17th, Cedar Amateur Astronomers, Cedar Rapids, IA.
- Randy pointed out that the hotel rate is a bit high: \$350/night.
- John Attewell mentioned that there is a “Czech thing” that happens around that same date range, likely driving up the prices.

Observing Note(s)

- John Attewell is two objects away from completing the Messier list (M77, M36).

20:20 - adjourned.



Rochester Astronomy Club

Acknowledgement and Receipt Of Charitable Donation

Rochester Astronomy Club
PO Box 513
Rochester, MN 55906

The **Rochester Astronomy Club (RAC)** is a registered 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is dedicated to promote the enjoyment and education of astronomy and related sciences to its members and the general public.

This form serves as your receipt for goods or services donated to the RAC that include cash, property, services, benefits, or privileges. It also lists goods or services the RAC provides in exchange for contributions or \$250 or more, if applicable. It is understood that both the RAC and donor will use good faith fair market values when estimating these goods and services.

Ownership Transfer Date:	January 5, 2026
Name and address of donor:	Gail Knopp, Lake City, MN 55041 _____
Monetary donation:	\$0.00
Description of non-monetary donation and estimated value :	Takahashi Temma 2 NJP-160 EQ Mount: \$2,500 Meade Giant Field Tripod w Mount Plate: \$500 TOTAL: \$3,000
Value of goods or services received by donor (if > \$75):	N/A

Thank you very much for your gift to the Rochester Astronomy Club. Please visit our website at www.rochesterskies.org to keep up to date on all our activities and see how your contribution will assist our mission of sharing and enjoying astronomy throughout our community.

Sincerely,

Randy Hemann, President
Rochester Astronomy Club