

19:06 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

26 present: Randy Hemann, Julie Gawarecki, Luka Bajzer, Jeff Newland, Mike Carlin, Ron Purdue, Josef Chlachula, Jerome Taubel, Jack Wiltsie, Jay McLaren, Patty Galbraith, James Benthall, Tyesh Bagul, Aaron Johnson, Dave Gross, Michael Currie, Rebecca Bomgaars, Roger Southwick, Lynn Peterson, Kelly Peterson, Dan Strain, Robert Ayerhart, Rick Murray, John Attewell, Kirk Severson, and Brandon Wyman.

Treasurers Report

Total: \$3,180.29.

Income: \$90.00 (Calendars), \$105 (donations).

Expenses: \$82.00 (PO Box fee).

13 new members, 1 carry over, total of 14.

Five calendars left.

News

- Outreach reports. Josef is planning on doing a Boy Scouts outreach on March 19th. Randy pointed out that there is a meeting before that, so there should be some updates on who can help, etc.
- Rochester school's Science Fair. This weekend.
- GATEway Science Fair. February 20th. The last half hour is public time, but Julie indicated that they can take club members around.
- Messier Marathon. New moon, just wrong spot. We will likely not get all 110 objects. The date will depend on the weather, cloudiness, cold, etc. Wing it.
- NCRAL (ncral2016.org). Twin City Amateur ... southern tier of our region. About a 6 and a half hour drive. Randy plans on going. Sun is the theme, eclipse, There is a Facebook page that has some videos. www.TCAA.us.

Observing Notes

- No one spoke up about being out the past month.

RAC Meetings/Calendar

- Feb. 12 Rochester school's Science Fair
- Feb. 12/13 Dark Sky Weekend
- Mar. 4 / 5 Dark Sky Weekend
- Mar. 8 Club Meeting: TBD.
- Mar. 11/12 Dark Sky Weekend
- Apr. 1 / 2 Dark Sky Weekend
- Apr. 8 / 9 Dark Sky Weekend
- Apr. 12 Club Meeting: Outdoor meeting, Hemann house.
- May 6 / 7 Dark Sky Weekend
- May 10 Club Meeting: TBD

- May 13/14 Astronomy Day
- June 3 / 4 Dark Sky Weekend

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- There are still some open slots for meetings. April 12th will be at Randy's house.

Feature Presentations

"Canopus Trails" – Josef Chlachula & Jerome Taubel.

- Apparently everything started by Randy.
- Jerome sold his 15 passenger van. His Ford Ranger (Explorer?) would not fit all his gear.
- Randy's Televue trailer ... kitchen out front ... national search started. Jerome needed a 14 foot trailer (Randy's is 16 feet, too big for the Ford Explorer). After six months of searching, one of two in the nation found, in Florida, never sold before. Fruitland Park, Florida, LONG drive, so Jerome needed a partner.
- Jerome also wanted to try to arrive during a star party, Chiefland Star Party.
- Josef became Jerome's traveling partner (Luka had originally volunteered). Josef did not have vacation time though, but was able to work out an agreement with his manager to work remotely.
- Josef researched what to look for in the southern sky. He came up with one, Canopus, as he recalled the "Canopus sensor" on the 1964 Mariner 4, which resulted in some misorientation several times. Nowadays there is something similar to the "Canopus sensor", but it is far more advanced. It is a bright star, very far away from the ecliptic/planets/sun. It is the second brightest star, after Sirius, named after the navigator for the king of Sparta.
- They made a stop in St. Louis, unfortunately the park was under construction, but it should be nice when it is done in two years. Josef pointed out that they also spent the last of their cash, \$7, on parking.
- They also made a stop at the Federal Reserve Bank.
- Jerome indicated that they tried to get to Chattanooga before dark as Josef has a friend there, where they could get some dinner, some sleep, and move on. The drive was steep and windy, and miserable. They saw quite a few accidents, and an unbelievable amount of truck traffic. The highways were really smooth though, no frost.
- They were four hours late leaving from the trailer pick up and off to Chiefland. The observing site started when one guy from south Florida bought a spot in northern Florida and then sold off parcels of land to other astronomers. 9.4082 N, 82.8606 W. There were some problems, which resulted in the star party stopping, this year was the second year with the restarted star party. There are no other star parties in November.
- It was 90 degrees during the day, 40 degrees at night. The site is about a quarter of the way in from the ocean, on the gulf side, about 50 miles inland, 6 miles from Chiefland.
- Chiefland has a population of about 6 - 7,000, so it had a Walmart and such. Josef found a public library with wi-fi, to work remotely, but then discovered that the McDonald's wi-fi was faster.
- The organizer for the star party, Carl, was really welcoming, he really wanted Jerome and Josef to come down.
- The site has 40-amp power, and ... fire ants. Don't keep food in your tent, and do not drive over the mounds. 200 registered attendees.
- There was a stop at Chiefland Tire & Auto, as no spare tire had come with the trailer.

- One person at the star party had a big telescope, in a one to two year old Tundra, which he had drilled through the truck bed in order to mount a shop crane to load and unload the telescope.
- The presentations were in an air conditioned building.
- One rule: no alcohol.
- The furthest person there was a guy from Seattle, originally from New York.
- There are not a lot of star parties on the east coast, so this one is one of the few, with the other being in Pennsylvania. The one in Pennsylvania apparently has unpredictable weather, you will get rained on in a week.
- Cacita group, three in a row, text to tent and trailer. Asked one about their camper, be prepared for an hour long conversation.
- Jerome mentioned that some guy there had a recent invention, a 3-D binocular. The starfield had depth. Randy mentioned that he had recently seen those for sale. The vendors are from out east.
- "Meteor showers" - no drains, runs onto the ground.
- No mosquitos.
- M57 and Uranus (extended object) were seen great when viewing through the heavy mist. Carl tried to explain it. Jay was asked about it, but he was not sure if he had a good explanation.
- They had one good night, until about midnight. Canopus was seen after midnight, low on the horizon. John pointed out that he is going down that way in a couple weeks, so he will have to check Stellarium.
- Jerome and Josef had to pay the late registration fee, \$95.
- The guy from Explore Scientific was there. He "field dressed" (tuned?) the telescope Jerome brought, on a picnic table. Some lubrication, and replaced plastic screws with metal screws.
- Jerome bought a solar alignment device while down there, for \$15. It is a simple design, but really effective.
- Josef bought a mount.
- There was a solar prominence that brought lots of attention, 1/8th the surface of the sun.
- One the way back, there was a stop in Cordele, GA, to get gas. Jerome and Josef checked out a Titan I missile, christened in July 1969. 2,300 lbs. when empty.

20:30 – meeting adjourned

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary