

19:02 - meeting started (Randy Hemann)

Meeting Attendees

23 (24?) present:

Michael Currie, Noel Taylor, Jay McLaren, Dean M. Johnson, Don Schlosnagle, Julie Gawarecki, Joseph Gawarecki, John Martin, Alan Cameron, Luka Bajzer, Rick Galbraith, Patty Galbraith, Dan Strain, Rick Murray, Bill Davidson, Mike Quirk, Jerome Taubel, Bob Fealey, Ron Purdue, Mike Carlin, Josef Chlachula, Jeff Newland, (Kirk Severson?), Randy Hemann, and Brandon Wyman

Treasurer's Report

12 members renewed, dues \$240. Donation(s) \$25. Calendar sales: \$60 (7 calendars left).

Check for science fair cleared: \$100.

Balance \$3082.72 (+\$200 in other account for NCRAL). Still need to workout how to show other account(s).

Meade LX200GPS: Jeff Newland -> Josef Chlachula.

2016 donations to add/update.

Observing Notes

- Bob Fealey had some PowerPoint slides to share with some pictures. The Bessel Ray, 2/15/2017 - lunar observation photo, not exactly known where the effect comes from ([Sky & Telescope](#) article in the December 2016 issue). 2/14/2017 Venus picture from 8-inch reflector, eyepiece projection, taken with a Canon Rebel T5 camera using DigiCam Control (freeware program).
- Randy Hemann mentioned that he thinks this is the month with Venus at its brightest.
- Dean Johnson was out Friday night. He did not see the penumbral eclipse. He showed the crescent (of Venus) to some people that had never seen it before, someone asked if he could move the clouds (on Venus).
- Randy Hemann and ??? were out at the STEM Academy, a school off 16th Avenue. He had a last second e-mail request, many eager students, penumbral eclipse viewing request. 12 to 16 students signed up. Randy did a last second shout out to Josef, he showed up to help just after 6 p.m. Venus was brought into view on the 80mm refractor, they had to explain "No, not the moon". The east was cloudy, so the lesson on why Venus was seen as a crescent worked to kill some time. Josef showed up just when there was hope ... clouds still holding ... around 7, clouds lowered, flipped over to the moon. The thinking was it would be subtle, but very visible. Some pictures taken when cellphones. Some constellations were also shown. Luka asked how old the students were, Randy indicated they were teenagers. Josef said they were an excellent age for asking questions. Randy indicated they all participated, asked great questions.
- Bob Fealey asked if anyone seen the comet. Josef had a look, quite tiny, no nice pictures to see, no green color noticed. It is/was a morning object, going really fast. Randy said it was leaving us fast, getting dimmer. Randy also commented on how the media left out some details regarding the moon, an eclipse, and a comet, but you would not see the comet (due to the light from the moon). It was 7th or 8th magnitude, now 17th magnitude. Josef said that February 10th was the best day. Randy pointed out that it is in a 5 year orbit, it will be on the other side of Earth's orbit during its next time around, using Sky Safari to show that pass. Dean indicated he loses interest once a comet gets below 10th magnitude. There apparently was a magazine article on the comet.

News

- Messier Marathon is coming up.
- Randy asked Josef to give an update on NCRAL. Josef has the website online, all are welcome to register for the conference, April 21st - 23rd. There are 27 registrations at this time. Register as soon as possible, due to the limited lodging. We need to inform the Eagle Bluff staff in two weeks regarding the number of people attending. Kirk pointed out that our deadline is in 10 days, the end of next week. There was a question on lodging, it is on somewhat of a lottery system, unless you know someone already attending/registered and have their permission to room with them. The fees are outlined on the website: \$149 without meal, without lodging; \$65 lodging; \$45 meals. Kirk and Randy clarified that we need numbers for meals as well, meals & lodging numbers by the end of next week. There was some negative feedback, expensive. We are trying to clarify that we are trying to break even, any extra money will go to the NCRAL. Josef said that 25+ registrations were from outside clubs (22 outside, 5 from RAC). 8 - 10 RAC members still plan on going, not signed up yet. Luka asked about the start time, Randy pointed out that the first meal is Friday night at 5:30 p.m. Kirk is to get signs up for parking, etc. Jerome asked about the parking being potentially muddy, Josef indicated he was there this passed weekend and the parking was okay. Randy said to get registered, the more we get by next week, the better.
- Kirk and Randy had a NCRAL 2017 sign-up draft Google doc. There will be lots of chores if people show up early. The start of setup time is not firm, there will be a prior group leaving, but it should be around noon to 2 p.m. Some entertainment ideas were mentioned, such as movies (Contact?), in case it gets cloudy. Randy mentioned that there are typically contests at an event like this, Kirk said we will do it if you/someone wants to run it. Randy pointed out that no registrants asked for a contest, yet. Josef mentioned that so far, there were 2 people not lodging at Eagle Bluff. There were some questions on RV parking (no), parking down by the buildings (no), and the observing area.

RAC Meetings/Calendar

- Feb. 24/25 Dark Sky Weekend
- Mar. 14 RAC meeting - presentation tbd
- Mar. 24/25 Dark Sky Weekend
- Mar. 31/Apr. 1 Dark Sky Weekend
- Apr. 11 RAC meeting - presentation tbd
- Apr. 21-23 NCRAL -- Eagle Bluff
- Apr. 22 Lyrid meteor shower
- Apr. 29 National Astronomy Day
- May 9 RAC meeting - presentation tbd

Other News/Notes/Announcements

- Small topics for the next couple meetings are welcome.
- April 29th is Astronomy Day. Randy was thinking we could possibly do something downtown, but see how much energy we have left after the conference.
- Bill has sent the newsletter out.
- Bill has a Twitter account setup for the club, it has a mention of the NCRAL 2017 conference.
- Randy has also updated the club Facebook account with information for the NCRAL 2017 conference.

Featured Presentation

Josef Chlachula -- "The Last Man on the Moon"

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20:48 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary