

19:04 - meeting started (Bill Davidson)

### **Meeting Attendees**

25 present:

Patty Galbraith, Chris Gawarecki, Julie Gawarecki, Rick Murray, Jay McLaren, Noel Taylor, Steve Remick, Dean Johnson, Jack Wiltsie, Alan Cameron, Jeff Newland, Roger Southwick, John Martin, Rebecca Bomgaars, Jerome Taubel, Michael Currie, Mike Quirk, Mike Carlin, Ron Purdue, Bob Fealey, Josef Chlachula, Luka Bajzer, Kirk Severson, Bill Davidson, and Brandon Wyman.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Income: 4 members renewed, 3 calendar sales.

Balance about \$4,000.

Committee looking over income and expenses for the conference, did not lose money. Bill asked for a round of applause for everyone that went and those that helped organize.

### **Observing Notes**

- Bill said that after that Saturday night, there were lots of hands, he sketched out The Sobrero Galaxy in 104, 4 Messier objects. 6¼" achromatic lens. Mike Currie took a look through "Big Red" as well.
- After Mike Currie had asked how the public was, Josef mentioned trying to organize something every month, but Mike could not go Friday. Saturday, thanks to Jeff Newland for showing up, but there was bad weather, no one showed up.
- Bob Fealey mentioned Glory Dei Church parking lot observing event. Jeff and Randy were there. The sky was good enough to see Jupiter and the spot. A neighborhood lady on a walk asked "what are you doing" ... called her 14-year old son, Nick, who would be excited to join in. He had a Dob just like Jeff's. Randy and Jeff helped him collimate his scope. Soon after, Nick was showing other guests his scope, clearly a talented youngster with a keen interest in science (solar astrophysics in particular). Dr. Roger Harms (donated "Elvis" to the club) and his wife were there as well. Jeff mentioned that the moon was also very good, four scopes with Nick's there.
- Dean mentioned a shadow transition of Jupiter Friday night. Saturday was M51, M81, M82, M101, M108, M9, ... in Virgo, Leo's triplet, M107, The Flower, NGC 3242 (Ghost of Jupiter), Ring Nebula, NGC 6543 (Cat's Eye), M5, M13, NGC 6207, M92, M4, open cluster M35, NGC 2538, NGC 9657, Double Cluster, M1 (supernova remnant), and then Saturn finished off the night. There was also a comet, which Mike asked about. Mike Currie had stumbled on "Jupiter's Ghost" and had to ask Dean what he was looking at. Dean indicated it is north of M83 (NGC 3242).
- Luka mentioned that he was checking out a lot of things in binoculars with Jerome, 80% of which were open clusters that Dean noted. Mike said they were HD Quality, 70 mm Oberwerks. Ring Nebula distinct at 20x, not so at 15x. M101 & M51 (not seen in binocs in a long time). Dean mentioned Epsilon Lyra as well.
- There were also some drone photos (at the conference) that Bill mentioned being via Mike Currie's drone. No one apparently got a count of the number of scopes present. Luka said it was nice to observe with Duane Deal again. (drone pic from 8:31 p.m. Saturday night shown)
- Kirk mentioned that during the second night there was some playing around with the club's Explore Scientific telescope, searching for the comet.

## News

- NCRAL 2017 - During the observing notes, Dean had asked about how many attendees there were, Julie indicated there were 63 paid, along with 8 speakers. Bill said that he had a picture of Mike getting a picture of the group. Pictures from the conference were shown. There was an mp4 from Mike that Bill could not get to work, possibly have pointers to it in the newsletter. Dean pointed out that next year's conference is May 14th.
- NCRAL 2017 Survey Results. Josef shared the survey results that John e-mailed out to about 60 people. 30 people responded.
  - Were your accommodations comfortable? 21 answered, 2 skipped -- 4 stars average.
  - Was the meal plan a good value? 20 answered, 3 skipped -- 4.5 stars.
  - How would you rank? 39% Excellent, 39% Very Good, 21% Good.
  - Would you like to continue door prizes at Eagle Bluff? ...
  - Would you consider attending a star party at Eagle Bluff? 87% yes.
  - Open Comments.
    - Mean dogs? (Coyotes?)
    - Think may be directions...
    - Cold pancakes Sunday
    - Information on where to buy gas.
    - Paved road to ... be nice.
    - "John Attewell is awesome."
    - Chair to sit in room would be nice (sat on pot).
  - Mike Currie said it was kind of sad that the grand prize winner did not own a telescope.
  - Josef & Luka thought maybe skipping breakfast and having brunch was a good idea after a star party.
  - Dean pointed out that we really lucked out with the weather.
  - Jerome thought the conference should be moved into May.
- Julie gave another update on the StarBlast telescope. It took a back seat during the conference. There is some observing stuff on a website that can be downloaded and printed out if they are interested. Luka mentioned library books, call numbers to check out. Mike Quirk and Josef thought that some instructional YouTube videos would be good, 5 to 10 minute overviews.
- Dean mentioned public observing through 40-inch telescope (largest refractor) in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Greg Bragg will be there.
- Nebraska Star Party (NSP). Bill asked for interest in the forum. Dean has pamphlets. Bill mentioned that attendees are required to purchase a Nebraska Park sticker. Dean pointed out that when there is no wind, the mosquitos came in. Bill indicated that NSP is already booking reservations.
- Josef, Mike Quirk, and John Attewell were out at the soccer field. Bill asked about out at Watson Field. Josef said there were three members out, nobody from the public. The horizon in flat, and the skies are reasonably dark. There will be more traffic when the road is no longer closed. Bill asked about thoughts for next week. Josef indicated that he and Mike were committed to be at the soccer field, Friday with the moon in first quarter.
- Some talk about the moon eclipse and wither observing amongst Bill and Dean. "Elvis" brought up, possible improvements, NCRAL excess, but that needs to be checked into.

### **RAC Meetings/Calendar**

- May 26/27            Dark Sky Weekend
- June 13             RAC meeting - tba
- June 23/24         Dark Sky Weekend
- July 11              RAC meeting - tba
- July 21/22         Dark Sky Weekend
- Aug 8                RAC meeting - tba

### **Other News/Notes/Announcements**

- Discussion about a possible regional star party at Eagle Bluff.

### **Featured Presentation**

- None - NCRAL 2017.

20:36 – meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Brandon Wyman - Rochester Astronomy Club secretary