

## **Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)**

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 6, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Online BCAS video meeting using BLUEJEANS video conferencing service

Submitted by Sara Ungrodt-Secretary

Note: **BCAS Business Topics:** Business will not be covered in this video conference.

21 connections. Several people were logged in together.

### **Minutes Summary:**

This was the third online BCAS video meeting using BLUEJEANS video conferencing service.

President Bryan Cashion opened meeting.

### **Program Topics:**

Current astronomical news:

\*Colorado Public Radio(CPR) interviewed Val Szwarc about the Town of Ridgway's recent dark sky community designation. There will be a link posted on in Bryan's Astro News.

\*SpaceX plans for 2021.

\*Bryan and Art showed their images of comet NEOWISE.

\*Norwood Dark sky update by Bob Grossman. He is also working with US Forest Service about a MOU- Memorandum of Understanding to start Dark Sky sanctuary, maybe including Naturita, Nucla and Paradox. Nucla and Naturita have started a joint lighting ordinance. They are now in 30 day comment period. Exciting time for west end of Montrose County. Additional info noted on study to understand light pollution and cloud bottom reflection.

### **Presentation:**

Topic: "Mars in 2020" by Art Trevena

Mars opposition Oct 13. Mars will be closer and brighter during October, 2020 than at any time until 2035.

Mars' orbit around the sun is elliptical. Mars will be in Pisces when the opposition occurs.

38.6 million miles away from Earth at closest approach, October 6, 2020.

Mapping of Mars was done in 19th century. Martian "canals" postulated in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Average surface temperature is -82 F.

Shelter from radiation needed if inhabited.

Several chat questions were submitted during presentation. Art addressed them during his talk.

Showed videos.

NASA has launched the Perseverance Rover toward Mars.

China and the United Arab Emirates have also launched probes to Mars.

Mars Perseverance rover weighs 2260 lbs. Art discussed what scientific information will be gathered and the caching of samples for future return to Earth.

Can humans get there and colonize?

Art's presentation gave us a very detailed look at what challenges would need to be dealt with if it were colonized and what mapping/info has already been gathered.

Talk ended at 8:21p.m.

Next video meeting is September 3, 2020. Aaron Watson will be the presenter. The topic is about preserving dark skies in the North Fork Valley. Paonia is already starting to change out about 100 streetlights with DMEA's help.

This meeting was recorded by BlueJeans and Bryan will post a link.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.