

# Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2020 Program meeting and July 17, 2020 Business meeting

### Minutes Summary:

The BCAS July program meeting was held July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm featuring Alice de Anguera, Park Ranger from BLCA, and a business meeting was held July 17 at 7pm both via BlueJeans video conferencing. Alice's topic featured **"The Program and the Pandemic: National Park Service Night Sky Interpretation in 2020"**. Business topics on the 17<sup>th</sup> included Treasurer's Report, policy discussions concerning outreach events, annual club dinner in Montrose, and preliminary planning for 2021. Total program meeting VC attendance on the 9<sup>th</sup> was 14. The business meeting was attended by the following club officers: Bryan Cashion, Art Trevena, Joyce Tanihara, and Val Szwarc.

### Program Topics (July 9):

Concerning astronomy news Art discussed the comet NEOWISE position and the fact viewing will shift from early morning dawn to early evening. Alice did provide her recent SQM measurements at BLCA with an average of 21.56 for zenith measurements. For the program Alice provided a very interesting overview of the challenges that the COVID 19 pandemic is presenting to the NPS in providing astronomy related programs. She discussed how other NPS parks are evolving their programs to be virtual, as in the Grand Canyon's case, or to simpler programs of binocular or naked eye constellation tours that allow social distancing. Additional challenges are the changing regulations as a result of a rapidly evolving pandemic that make long term planning very difficult.

### BCAS Business Topics (July 17, 7pm):

- Treasurer's Report by Joyce Tanihara stated that the BCAS checking balance was \$3370.11 as of Feb 15, 2020. Since then deposits included \$135 and withdrawals of \$290 for a balance of 3215.11 on July 15, 2020.

- BCAS was recently informed that BLCA will be canceling all astronomy outreach for 2020, including AstroFest in September.

- After some discussion, a meeting and outreach policy was agreed to for the remainder of 2020. Remaining 2020 programs (Aug, Sep, and Oct) will be via video conference. All in-person outreach will be canceled and only video conferencing will be offered. Art will present a program on Mars in Aug, and Aaron Watson will discuss North Fork Dark Sky activities in Sep. In Oct Michael Williams plans to present on "Gravitational Radiation: The Next Wave."

- After some discussion it was decided to cancel the Annual dinner in November. Sara's work to find a restaurant in Montrose earlier in the year was greatly appreciated.

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- Preliminary planning for 2021 was discussed but no decisions were made pending pandemic conditions in 2021.
- The next business meeting will be held pending accumulation of significant topics or additional pandemic information that enables planning for 2021.
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10pm.