

Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 26, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Online BCAS video meeting using Zoom video conferencing service

Submitted by Sara Ungrodt- co-secretary

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

27 people and 3 couples were pre-registered for Phil's talk.

20 connections including 3 couples joined Zoom.

Minutes Summary: Meeting started at 7:03

President Bryan Cashion opened meeting. Shared Agenda.

Program Topics:

Current astronomical news:

EAA- Electronically Assisted Astronomy- eyepiece is a camera, then to computer that projects image on to screen. Photos of set up at BLCA. Red rope light used to get people into amphitheater. Then turned off. Ranger also does constellation tours. Art and Bryan keep exposures short. 8 sec exposure with Ring Nebula and Saturn! Saturn magnified 4 times digitally. This mode is for the rest of 2021.

Alice thanked Art and Bryan for all their hours in prep. and delivery. 3 EAA nights Sept 8-11 Astro fest. People need to sign up for all events. Phil Virden would like to learn more about EAA.

Presentation:

Topic: by Phil Kelton - Memoirs of a Telescope Addict.

Volunteer at BLCA, former Supt McDonald observ. in Texas. 5th year Phil has given a talk.

Fun for Phil to summarize all scopes and astro activities he has dealt with.

Lists of all equip in his life and career- Rich Field Telescope to telescope ergonomics, international partnerships. Robotic.

1962 Frontiers of Astronomy. Bought first scope 3" refl \$ 29.95

6" out of high school

1970 Edmond scientific reflector

1968-69 Rich Field Telescope- 2 books of inspiration

RFT photo Tombaugh early 1900s- inspired him

Dr. Henry Paul book photo - had his model in it

1970 comic relief slide of Phil with wavy hair and striped bell bottoms- 3" RFP

6" Jaegers RFT 1971- lots of homemade items

Apodizer- Make sharp edge and soften edges- Sc Amer article used on his 6" F/5 and made better images

Celestron 8

DIY 8" Schmidt Cass. 1972 won Schmidt corrector as a door prize - Corrector made to fit with drilling

Used another(upgraded) for 15 more years

4" f/15 Folded Retractor.

Moved to Austin, TX

McDonald Observatory 1974 to 2007- 4 positions

82-inch Otto Struve- 2nd largest in world 1939" Old Beast"

107 -inch Harlan Smith built in 1960s- another beast

1997 Hobby Eberly

Otto Struve scope

Harlan J Smith Telescope

1981 Wise observ. In Israel Tel-Aviv Univ 40" scope - he spent 23 days in Israel. Engineer there said they could change 1 wire to fix software.

Lots of fun visiting because problem was solved so fast.

Wise observ travelling thru desert - lots of cultural stimulation

1986 Astro-Physics 6" f/8 Apochromat- used for 15 years

McDonald 30-inch telescope. 1970-Dome replacement

Dome built in 1990s

Hobby-Eberly Scope at Mc Donald – Arecibo- style optical telescope-very complex- designed to run on internet.

Segmented mirror with hexagons 273 actuators needed

McDonald 36" "Light Collector" \$30,000 individual donation given to updating control system.

LAMOST-Nanjing China interested in HET. Also had a Telescope factory there. Purple Mtn observ and Beijing Observ

2000s SALT- South African Large Telescope- Phil was liaison.

Had collateral benefits. Lots of native tribes at groundbreaking- School kids did part of celebration. 13 tribal languages in South Africa.

2001- Orion 10" dob

Mc Donald Solar Spectrum Projector 2002- Heliostat on roof of dome

Got 2 free telescopes for McDonald

Showing Star Party at Visitor Center

MONET-Foundation from Krups Foundation in Germany

Bernard Schmidt Museum

15" Dobsonian 2008 Orion ED. Recession deal
2009 1st year NP volunteering at Glacier- Logan Pass solar viewing
Side trips while at Glacier- lovely lake photo
2010-1st year at Black Canyon "Deep, Steep and Narrow" photo
2019 photo with Gina and Nick. Black Canyon Gothic pose
2011 Bought Vixen VMC 200L - He is left-handed and can work it well

Astrotourism- his retirement- his various travels in France
Herschel's telescope for Uranus. Galle's scope for Neptune.
Lyon art and other art
Went to Chile
260L Vixen- he uses it a lot at BLCA
BIG bend volunteering- 100th anniv
"Money can't buy happiness but it can buy telescopes"

Finished 8:14

Art: How many telescopes do you now have? About 10
Bryan: How precise are actuators? Resolution in nanometers
Catherine Whiting: How much of the sky can it observe? 70% of the sky. Donut shaped section between 7 degrees Dec and 70 degrees Dec.
Original telescope cost 13.5 million. Final about 25 million
40 million in HET Upgrades... more than original
Catherine: Where scopes in China- parks? Standard City operations
Bryan: Was Digicon output digital or analog? Analog converted to digital, fed to computer for analysis.

Meeting in September is 23rd John Miller member: BCAS, The Albuquerque Astronomical Society and volunteer at BLCA. Naked Eye Astronomy topics
Always room for what makes observing interesting.

Ended 8:30 p.m.