

Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Prepared by Sara Ungrodt and Val Szwarc

Minutes Summary:

The BCAS meeting was held at the Centennial Room in Montrose, CO. Referencing the sign in sheet, 32 people were in attendance. President reminded all of dues and benefits of BCAS membership. We also gave out new BCAS Stickers! Several guests found out about the meeting from the Montrose Press and on website. Discussion of current astronomical news was followed by the evening program on the James Webb Telescope by Bryan Cashion. After a short break, several Business topics were discussed during the second half of the meeting, including Treasurer's Report, upcoming outreach events and other business items as detailed below.

Program Topics:

Current astronomical news topics included information shared by Val Szwarc about Town of Ridgway IDA status with Town Council and the Feb Mars occultation (Mars behind Moon around 4:30 a.m. with 23% moon illumination). The evening's program by Bryan Cashion covered the background of the creation of the 9 billion dollar James Webb telescope (following the legacy of the Hubble telescope), the challenges it faces for deployment, methods for relay of information and what may be the next generation of telescopes after the James Webb telescope. Note: The scope will be launched 4 times the distance between the earth and moon- 930,000 miles away! Bryan noted that he can email additional resources to all that have provided their email. There were many questions by the meeting attendees that could not be addressed without further research. Bryan has a list of these questions and will prepare a document that will be emailed to the meeting participants and members. Members can also access the info on the website as an addition to the February meeting minutes.

BCAS Business Topics:

- 17 members attended, including Board members.

- Treasurer's Report by Joyce Tanihara stated that the BCAS checking balance was \$ 3,030.11.

- Reminder to fill out liability forms if members bring scopes to outreach events.

- Upcoming outreach activities:

March 3- Art will give a program at Gr. Jct. library for WCAC (Western Colorado Astronomy Club) "Deep Space, Deep Time".

March 21 - Bryan will give a program at the BLCA Visitor Center before evening viewing. March 28th is weather backup.

April 1- Art is giving a "Geology of Mars" talk at CMU in Gr. Jct. for the Geology Club.

April 9- The documentary "Saving the Dark" will be shown at the April BCAS meeting in Montrose in the Centennial Room.

There was a lengthy discussion about meeting minutes distribution, to members, non-members etc. Discussion was wrapped up with a statement of need for further discussion (with the Board) about the details of how the website should be handled along with how names/emails info of attendees should be managed.

- Val informed the group that he was contacted by the Colorado Chapter of IDA and they would like to have a meeting in our neck of the woods this summer and combine it with a "star party" event that we may have going. Also talk of an afternoon mtg. in the Centennial room. Val, Art, Joyce, Nancy (WCAC) were actively involved in this discussion. Bryan suggested that a smaller group of people interested in this event discuss this proposal and present info to the Board at the next meeting.

- Next BCAS meeting is March 12 at the Delta Partners Building. Brenda Harvey (NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador) will talk about the next Mars rover.