

Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2021 Program meeting via Blue Jeans Online Video Conference

Minutes Summary:

The BCAS January program meeting was held Thursday January 28 starting at 7pm featuring the topic Astronomical Events for 2021 by Art Trevena, vice president of BCAS. The meeting was held online with 24 registered members and guests. Art provided a month-by-month overview of the major sky events for 2021. Some of the most interesting events included a number of Mars missions arriving in February, including NASA's Perseverance scheduled to land Feb 18th.

A business meeting was not held.

Program Topics Details:

Concerning related news Bryan highlighted the recent SpaceX Starship test mission reaching a height of 10 miles but crashed on landing. Also mentioned were three missions to Mars, including the first by UAE which was designed and built by University of Colorado Boulder and engineers in Dubai. Aaron Watson reported that the Town of Paonia reviewed a draft lighting ordinance in January and a small team was assembled to work some details. Val reported that Crestone finalized their IDA Dark Sky designation application and will be submitted by the third week of February.

Bryan initiated the evenings program with a discussion of the Wolf Full Moon which was tonight on January 28 as well. Also, the sun is entering into cycle #25 and starting to see some activity after a long minimum period. Some of the major events for 2021 that Art highlighted are as follows:

- Feb 18 NASA Perseverance lands on Mars
- March 4 Mars will be very near the Pleiades open star cluster
- March 5 Jupiter and Mercury will be at conjunction
- May 26 Total Lunar Eclipse
- June 23 Mars will be in front of the Beehive open star cluster (Messier 44)
- Aug 12 the Perseids will be visible with minimal interference from the moon
- Sept 8-11 Astro-Fest at BLCA pending state of COVID-19 health restrictions
- Dec 4 Total Solar Eclipse visible in remote Antarctica but it will be "summer" there

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 25 at 7 pm. It will be an online meeting with Dr. Ken Edmundson discussing his work on ORISIS-Rex probe to Bennu.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm. The minutes will be posted on the BCAS website, under Calendar of Events

Respectfully submitted,

Val Szwarc, Co-Secretary