

Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 25, 2021

7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

Online BCAS video meeting using BLUEJEANS video conferencing service

Prepared by Val Szwarc- Co-Secretary

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

19 online connections and 21 individuals attended.

Minutes Summary:

President Bryan Cashion opened the meeting, welcoming members and possible new members. Astronomical News was mentioned by Art Trevena Vice President, and the main program topic of the evening was a summary of IDA's Annual General Meeting Nov 13-14, 2020 by Val Szwarc, Co – Secretary.

Current Astronomical News:

Art discussed the discovery of new nova in the constellation Cassiopeia. This 8th magnitude nova was discovered on March 18 by a Japanese amateur astronomer. Bryan mentioned evidence of a super massive object in the Hyades Cluster which is only 150 LY away give or take a few LY.

Program Presentation and Summary of Key Points:

Featured Program: Summary of IDA's 2020 Annual General Meeting and Conference (AGM 2020), by Val Szwarc, IDA member and member of the Board of Directors Colorado IDA Chapter.

- AGM 2020 was a Global Virtual event (via Zoom) which enabled record breaking registrations and participation from around the globe that promoted its international emphasis and Under One Sky theme during the 2020 annual meeting.
- With one exception all presentations were from international presenters covering all the continents, except Antarctica.
- The Keynote speaker was Dr. Annette Lee from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. She is an astrophysicist, professor, artist, and Director of the Native Skywatchers research and programming initiative.
- Annette's keynote discussion set the stage for a worldwide conversation about the environmental and cultural threat that light pollution poses to people who have been inadequately represented in the effort to protect the night.
- Other presentations were from Dark Sky Advocates from SE Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Middle East, Africa, India, and finally from the Americas' including Central and South America.
- All presentations including Global Opening and Closing events are available for viewing on the [IDA You Tube channel](#).

- Val wrapped his presentation with two short topics:
 - 1) A short discussion on the ways Light Pollution hurt our planet and actions that we can take to help mitigate Light Pollution.
 - 2) Changes at IDA's Dark Sky Places program with the resignation of Program Manager Adam Dalton.

Questions and Answer included discussion and status from a number of members including:

- Phil Virden mentioned he attended AGM 2020 as well and it was a well-executed conference given participation globally.
- Aaron Watson provided a short summary on Dark Sky protection progress in Paonia
- Bob Grossman indicated Nucla and Naturita submitted a Dark Sky application to IDA
- Dee Friesen indicated that Albuquerque NM was awarded the first Dark Sky Urban Place in 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.