

Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 8, 2020- The Last Meeting of 2020
7:00 p.m. M.T.

Online BCAS video meeting using BlueJeans video conferencing service

Submitted by Sara Ungrodt-Secretary- Notes taken while in Nashville, TN

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

16 connections. Several people were logged in together.

Minutes Summary:

This was the fifth online BCAS video meeting using BlueJeans video conferencing service. This is the last meeting of 2020. Unfortunately, there will not be an end-of-the-year dinner get together.

President Bryan Cashion opened meeting and explained how the video process works and how to chat questions.

New member Joany Hunt from Paonia was welcomed and joined video meeting.

Program Topics:

Current astronomical news:

-Bryan shared photos and info about recent visit to Headlands IDS (International Dark Sky) Park located near the Mackinaw Bridge in the northern area of lower Michigan along Lake Michigan. Built in 2017. Impressive event center and outdoor viewing/ telescope design set up. 4 slides. Unfortunately, as of this date, the local astro club has withdrawn from Headlands partnership.

- Two new Dark Sky Parks in Colorado. Slumgullion Nature Center near Lake City and Jackson Lake State Park in Morgan County, Orchard, CO.

-Bob Grossman was contacted by a Last Dollar Road resident about renting telescope for public viewing and if BCAS would want to help renters with operation of scope?? Contact Woody in Norwood??

Presentation:

Topic: Gravitational Radiation: The Second Wave- presented by member Michael Williams of Hotchkiss and Denver. He had presented in March 2015 on a similar topic, but new research has been completed since then.

Gravitational Radiation detected at Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) operated by Cal Tech and MIT.

2 Black Holes collided-2015

“Collision created Gravitational Radiation”

-Gravitational waves travel at light speed- used video of blue slinky movement- in several dimensions.

-Scientists are getting better at detecting Gravitational Waves. They are able to increase sensitivity and range for detection.

-Michael had lots of details about methodologies.

-The Universe is expanding according to this data.

Michael's talk ended at 8:08 p.m.

Questions: Art asked about the sources of Michael's videos - NASA website

Bob Grossman- Takes enormous amounts of money to operate and research these detectors. Who is doing this? National Science Foundation, National governments

Bob- His experience is that strong personalities keep this type of research going- lots of convincing when don't get results for 8 years.

Other: Bryan noted Nobel Prize winners - Sir Roger Penrose (Black Hole work), Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez (Milky Way's central black hole), 1 of 4 women in 2020 to receive Nobel Prizes

Note: Art will present observing highlights for 2021 in January. Board assumes that it will be an on-line meeting.

1/28/21 is the date.

Safe Holidays to all!

This meeting was recorded by BlueJeans and Bryan will post a link.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.