

# **Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)**

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday September 23, 2021

7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

Online BCAS video meeting using Zoom video conferencing service

Prepared by Val Szwarc- co-secretary

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

Attendance was noted as 16 Zoom logons and 19 members present.

## **Minutes Summary:**

President Bryan Cashion opened the meeting, welcoming members and guests. Val Szwarc, co-Secretary had a few topics for recent Astronomical News. Val mentioned that Dr. John Barentine left IDA. Concerning local Dark Sky activities, Ouray County's Top of the Pines (TOP) Recreation Area submitted an updated application to IDA that includes an Ouray County BOCC Resolution pledging Dark Sky preservation support for TOP. The program for the meeting was Naked Eye Astronomy Topics by John Miller, an astronomy volunteer at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. John is a member of both BCAS and the Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS).

## **Program Presentation and Summary of Key Points:**

John Miller presented an interesting overview of naked eye astronomy that started with local objects, including the Moon and major planets within our solar system and then he moved beyond our Solar System.

Some of the key and interesting facts that John discussed included:

- The planets do not twinkle like stars
- The planets of our Solar System have predictable paths across the sky
- Saturn's rings are a rather "recent" addition to the planet (in the last 100 million years – give or take a few, versus 4+ billion years for the age of Saturn)
- The star Spica is expected to explode into a Super Nova sometime in its future
- The red giant star Antares is super big

Bryan wrapped up the meeting and mentioned nominations for 2022 Officers is requested. John and Virginia Ast nominated the current officers for 2022. No other nominations were received at the meeting. The membership will vote on this nomination and any others at the Oct 28 meeting.

Art will be giving a presentation on Astronomical highlights for 2022 at the October 2021 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.