

## **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2012 KVAS MEETING AT THE HANSFORD SR. CENTER**

The subject meeting was on 3/16/2012 and Pres. Bob Frostick began it promptly at 7:30PM with greetings and an outline of the meeting agenda. Delicious refreshments were provided by Bob and Melissa Thorner. Attendance was 17 folks. Acting Secretary Brent took notes.

Brent presented The March-April Nite Sky featuring Bootes, Libra, Lupus and the amazing, beautiful Centaurus region. We agreed to post the Nite Sky texts on our web site ([WWW.KVAS.Org](http://WWW.KVAS.Org).) starting with the current one. We also discussed solar events, auroras, the deceased comet Swan and other events of interest.

Melissa Thorner presented a description of 14 regional/national star parties for this year including computer graphics and hard copies. Summarized results are:

April 15-22 Texas Star Party (SP) at Laurel Heights, big and beautiful

April 28-29 North Eastern Ast. Forum (NEAF)

April 19 Delmarva Star Gaze VIII

May 10-13 East Coast SP in NC

June 14-16 Cherry Springs SP

June 20-23 Star Quest IX at Green Bank, WV

July ??? Mason Dixon SP in Pa.

Aug. 17-19 Hidden Hollow in Ohio

Aug. 17-21 Almost Heaven SP at Spruce Knob Mountain Institute, WV

Sept 14-16 Black Forrest

Oct 11-14 Blackwater Falls SP ,WV

Oct. 12-22 MidAtlantic SP

Nov. 12-18 Cheifland SP

Feb. 4-10 Winter SP in Fl. Keys

She did an excellent job and members participated enthusiastically.

Bryson McCain presented celestial events coming soon. April highlights Venus which dominates the evening sky. There will be no moon on April 21 & 22 so the Lyrid meteor shower could be excellent. The next transit of Venus across the sun will be 6/5-6/2912 and will be best seen in the Pacific Ocean but we can see the beginning here. Bob F. described a good i-phone app called Exoplanet which costs only 99C.

**Old Business:**

Due to bad forecast weather, the BPO Spring Cleanup is moved into April, date TBD.

We need input from members on what would be a suitable BWF 2012 StarParty raffle prize. We also need recommendations on a good place to hold our Dec. Party.

Progress and much activity are going on to determine and install suitable telescopic equipment at BPO. At least 4 groups want to have star parties at our site.

**New Business:**

The text for each month's Nite Sky will be displayed on our web site. Beginning with March. So will notes for each KVAS Monthly Meeting.

Minutes taken by Brent Ogle