

KVAS Meeting Minutes – 6/21/13
Hansford Center, St. Albans, WV
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary

Rodney Waugh called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm.

Yuri's Night Preparation – William Blake

William shared ideas he has generated for a Yuri's night (or day) celebration, which would occur on April 12, 2014, which is a Saturday. William has been talking to the Library about a possible event – he is exploring whether we could have it at the Clay Center in the Planetarium.

Ideas –

- Partner with WV Soar – an organization that promotes rocketry
- Local news satellite van
- National Weather Service
- NRAO
- Library – to coordinate children's activities
- A display of spin off products from the space program
- Static hang glider
- Mini Solar System walk (there is an app for that!)
- GPS activity
- Speakers from WVU
- KVAS to demonstrate scopes
- Amateur Radio Club – Live call from the ISS? Bounce signals off the moon?
- WV South Magazine had an article about a NASA welder – could we get him?
- Raffle to raise money? Raffle off a private astronomy session for those wishing to learn how to use their telescopes or who want to learn more about astronomy?

William has a meeting with the Library on July 8 to continue to discuss possibilities.

Star Quest Update – Rodney Waugh

Rodney gave an update on the upcoming Star Quest event at Green Bank, which will be held July 10 – July 13. See the Star Quest website (<http://www.greenbankstarquest.org/>) for more information.

Speakers and events include Jimmy O'Dell (one of the Rocket Boys), the editor of Sky and Telescope magazine, sessions on astrophotography, use of the 40 ft. radio telescope, Brent Maynard, Michelle Shinn, Mark "Indy" Kochte, Andrew Clegg, Children's activities including a rocket launch simulating the "rocket boy's" launch, an inflatable planetarium, the NASA bus, and movies, raffles, vendors, and food.

The Star Quest advertisement is on the inside front cover of Reflector Magazine. Posters are available to post in the community.

Rodney solicited volunteers to help with setup and support of Star Quest. Several KVAS members will be volunteering.

Rodney gave a brief overview of Star Quest finances

Starting Balance	\$ 6050.22
Registration Fees	\$ 2905.00
Total	\$ 8955.22
Expenses	\$ 919.42
Current Balance	\$ 8035.80

Presentation on Venus Transit – Rodney Waugh

Rodney gave a very good presentation on the Venus Transit, sharing much of the history of Venus Transits of 1761 and 1769. He summarized all the different explorers and astronomers who traveled to view the transits, focusing specifically on how they used observations of the time duration of the transit as viewed from different locations on Earth to estimate the distance between the Earth and the Sun. The fact that they were able to measure the distance to within 1% in the 1770's is amazing!

Rodney also shared his experience when he, Ed, and Devin Matlick traveled to Berea, Ky, to view the 2012 Transit, including an excellent photograph that he took.

Blackwater Falls Preparations – Chuck Spann

Chuck led the group in a vote to select the “big” raffle prize we will have this year at our September Blackwater Astronomy Weekend.

The items suggested, along with the votes that each received are summarized below –

Small iPad	7
Shotgun	0
Camping Gear	0
Astrophysics Binoculars	2

Based on the voting, we will proceed with the small iPad.

Visit to Ed's Observatory – June 28

A reminder that Ed will host the Club at his observatory near Ripley next Friday night, June 28. Rodney will E Mail directions to the Club Members.

Submitted by John Willson, Secretary

Attendance

John Willson	Melissa Thorner
Janet Willson	Dell Mill (I apologize, spelling may be wrong)
William Blake	Robert Dean
Michael Riggs	Dan Pleska
Bonnie Dean	Chuck Spann
Tom Schottle	Rodney Waugh
Ed Connors	