

Kanawha Valley Astronomical Society – Meeting Minutes 5/20/16

Hansford Center – St. Albans, WV

Call to Order and Review of Recent Events – Rodney Waugh

Rodney called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and reviewed the minutes from the last meeting.

Rodney also updated the group on the Cato Park event held recently.

Astronomy Day – Janet Willson

Janet Willson updated the group on plans for Astronomy Day. It will be held on Saturday, June 18, at Breezy Point Observatory. We will need members to bring their scopes. Details will be worked out in the coming weeks.

Don Hackston Memorial – Rodney Waugh

Rodney informed the group that Don Hackston passed away on May 10. Don was a long time participant in Astronomy Weekend at Blackwater Falls, having made many presentations over the years. He worked for NASA, supporting the Apollo / Soyuz mission, and worked on the Hubble Telescope mission for over 22 years. Don was respected by many in the Club, and will be missed.

Green Bank Star Quest – Rodney Waugh

Star Quest will be held this year on July 6, 7, 8, and 9 at Green Bank. Set up day will be Monday July 4 – if you participate in set up on Monday, the registration fee is waived. Rodney passed around a flier – the Saturday night keynote speaker will be Seth Shostak from SETI. Other speakers and additional information is at greenbankstarquest.org. Registration is open, so go to the website and sign up!

Lease Renewal for Breezy Point Observatory – Rodney Waugh

Rodney gave an update on efforts to renew our lease, which expires at the end of June. Rodney has talked to Damron Bradshaw, who supports renewal, but is having trouble contacting Camp Virgil Tate's lawyer. A motion was made and seconded to take Rodney's revised lease proposal, and take it directly to Damron to get it signed and notarized.

Multifest – Danny Blair

Danny gave an update on plans for our participation in Multifest, which will be held August 5, 6, and 7 at Haddad Riverfront Park. We plan to have a booth with items we can give away – star charts, pencils, business cards, etc. Members will be asked to bring scopes and set them up. Danny arranged to buy small telescopes that we plan to sell for \$7 each, and we plan to show the kids and parents how to put them together and use them. Danny has made copies of the instructions to give out with the scopes.

We will have a sign-up sheet for new members and offer a new family member special rate of \$15 for the rest of the year. Members who sign up under this plan will have voting rights.

We also plan to have a notebook of photos that Ed has taken using our scope to show at Multifest.

Door Prizes for Blackwater Falls – Rodney Waugh

Rodney led a discussion on choosing our big door prize for Astronomy Weekend.

Ideas proposed were –

Solar Binoculars

A Telescope

Gift Certificate

Bundle 2 or 3 items together under one raffle ticket

Ernie Snodgrass offered to donate a large pair of astronomy binoculars that he has. The group proposed to buy a tripod to go with the binoculars and use this as the grand prize, pending research on an appropriate tripod.

Photographs Taken at Breezy Point – Ed Connors

Ed shared several outstanding photos he has taken with his camera through the Club scope. All were awesome, and illustrated how excellent the tracking is with our new mount.

Website with Cool Videos – Robert Dean

Robert mentioned a website he has found that has excellent videos. He will send an email to the group with a link.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Attendance

Rodney Waugh	Judy Waugh
Janet Willson	Sandy Blair
John Willson	Danny Blair
Carol Hilleary	Robert Dean
Ed Connors	Ernie Snodgrass
Michael Riggs	