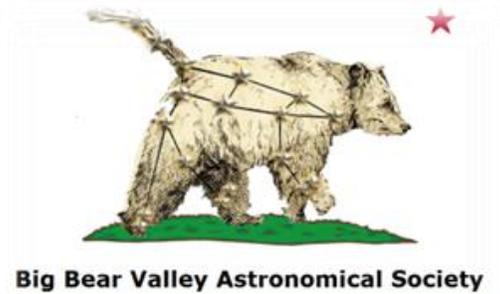


# Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society



## January 2016 Minutes

- ✓ Welcome:
  - New members or 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors?
  - Attendance: Jim, Randy, Lidia, John D., Matthew, Dick, Teresa, Claude, John V., Vatch, Bill H., Wes.
- ✓ Announcements : Observing calendars sold out!
  - Randy needs a new mount for his 6" refractor. (Wind killed his old mount!)
- ✓ Treasurer/Membership Report
  - 32 Paid members out of 46 total. A few folks who paid in 2014 need to re-up...
  - \$549 in general fund.
- ✓ Comments, reports, discussions, reviews:
  - Annual Solstice Party. Well attended. Nice!
  - Has anyone spotted Comet Catalina? Most clouded out. Randy's seen it through binoculars.
  - Dick reported the Scholarship fund has received contributions totaling \$90 already.
- ✓ Activities
  - Lecture by Dr Marcia Reike (U of AZ) Jan 21st. JWST: Status and Potential.
  - Urban Assault , Fri Jan 15<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting!) Noooooo! Too much snow!
- ✓ Chief observer report.
  - What's up this month?
    - Comet Catalina in sky and may have 3<sup>rd</sup> tail. Tomorrow very close to last star in tail of the "Dipper".
    - Jan 2. Occultation of Aldebaran.
    - Randy handed out Solar Rise/Set time chart for the 2016.
    - May 9 Mercury transit!
- ✓ Scheduling:
  - Next SunDay. No, Weather likely too poor, and deep snow on our "lot".
  - New moon star party. Feb 6? Try for GMARS again? Weather permitting, yes. Teresa will contact them for permission.
  - February's Urban Assault. Friday, Feb. 12 is two days before 1st quarter. Will decide at next meeting.
  - Discovery Center Nature Nights. Friday nights in February, March, and April. Will revisit in February to see how El Nino weather is behaving.
  - Maybe Goldstone tour this spring. Everyone likes the idea but too early in season to pick a date.
  - Next beginner talk?
- ✓ Bill to report on Yahoo discussion group. Bill Y. could not come due to feeling ill tonight.
- ✓ Discussion of scholarship. See Dick's comment above. Already have \$90. Dick made a donations bucket for taking along to public events.

✓ General Discussion

- John D. talked about Dobs not having as much problem with temperature compared to other types of telescopes. He set up in his driveway and without waiting for instrument to stabilize, the image was “beautiful”.
- Randy’s mount for his 6” was blown over and destroyed during a very high wind and is now in the market for a new mount.
- There was a short discussion of the recent earthquakes we’ve experienced.
- Dick talked about wanting to replace his roll-off telescope enclosure with a dome and how important acoustic isolation of the building from the telescope might be. He is considering mounting both on his existing concrete pad.
- Bill H. had a heavy metal restraining mount blow off his dome in the recent heavy wind. Several others mentioned wind damage that they’ve had recently as well.
- A discussion ensued over the wind here in Big Bear. Vatch mentioned how Big Bear seems to have a very persistent 10-15 mph wind. Teresa then talked about going x-country skiing on Baldwin Lake last week and it was BEAUTIFUL! – Clear with *NO* wind.
- Wes got an 8” mirror kit for Xmas! He is planning to grind an F/6 to F/8 mounting on a “plumber’s nightmare” equatorial.
- An extended discussion got started about observing in the southern hemisphere. Dick spent a week observing with a 24” in Australia. Bill H. went to Australia to view Halley’s Comet in ’86. (And kangaroos can apparently get *REALLY* big!)

With secretary Bill Young out sick, the minutes were recoded and submitted by Claude Plymate