



Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society



Minutes from the June 24, 2014 Meeting

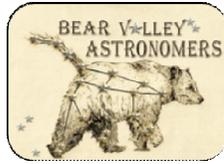
- ✓ Membership
 - New members or 1st time visitors?
 - *Chris Jacobs*
 - *Jim Kettler*
 - *Vincent Padilla*
- ✓ Announcements?
 - *Member Paul Littlecoyote is at Loma Linda hospital*
- ✓ Elections:
 - Nominations thus far:
 - President: *Teresa Bippert-Plymate*
 - Activities Director: *Claude Plymate*
 - Secretary: *Bill Young*
 - Treasurer: *Randy Fear*
 - Member at Large: *John Day*
 - New nominations?
 - *No nominations heard from the floor or submitted in writing.*
 - Call for vote.
 - *The slate was unanimously approved by acclamation.*
- ✓ Updates:
 - *Randy Fear was given 4" Celestron. Can be used for BBVAS loaner telescope.*
- ✓ Comments, reactions, reviews:
 - RTMC Astronomy Expo.
 - Starlight Festival and the BBVAS involvement with the Sidewalk Astronomy.
 - Star Party Hosted by Matthew and Katie, May 31.
 - *A bit windy, but the hot chocolate was fantastic. And good turnout.*
 - Did anyone do an Urban Assault Astronomy on June 6?
 - *No one participated*
 - Response to the BBVAS petition.
 - *Response from Sen. Diane Feinstein was read by Teresa.*
- ✓ Activities:
 - Planetarium Projector Museum Tour. (Owen)
 - *Contact Owen for the tours...<http://www.planetariummuseum.org/>*
 - Summer Solstice Potluck and possible Virtual Lecture, June 21. (Claude & Teresa)
 - *Details to follow... please send email to Teresa for headcount*
 - *This will be a potluck event... bring your favorite dish.*
 - OPT - Southern California Astronomy Exposition in Oceanside, CA
 - *July 12, 2014, Oceanside, CA*
 - *<http://www.optscac.com/astronomy-expo/>*
 - Discovery Center (DC) – Support Star Parties? Choose Dates & Signups....
 - *Several dates were suggested by the DC for June, July, and August*
 - *We voted to support June 20, July 12, and Aug 16*
 - *Teresa will send email to members looking for sign ups*
 - *Several members at this meeting volunteered to help at the DC*
- ✓ Scheduling:
 - Next Sidewalk Astronomy
 - *4th of July? Or move off the holiday?*

- *Decided to hold this event on July 5 in the Village.*
- Star Party, July 28?
 - Where? (2N02?)
 - *Date should be JUNE 28*
 - *Agreed to the 2N02 location*
- ✓ Dues
 - Woodland Hills Dues Matching Program.
 - *Woodland Hills will give our club members a gift certificate in the same amount as the member's club dues...*
 - Include \$5/yr for Astronomical League membership?
 - *A majority show-of-hands vote approved the inclusion of a \$5 AL membership.*
 - Interim BoD Recommendation:
 - \$15/yr Single (includes \$5 AL membership)
 - \$25/yr family (includes \$5 AL membership)
 - *A majority show-of-hands vote approved a 2-tier membership cost of \$15/\$25.*
 - *Randy F. will create a Membership Application*
 - *Annual Dues will be accepted at the July club meeting*
 - *Payment of dues registers the member to be on the club Roster*
 - *Randy will maintain the club roster and make it available on the website.*
- ✓ Developing a BBVAS Mission Statement. (Teresa)
 - *Tabled until the next monthly meeting.*
- ✓ STEP roundtable
 - *General discussion of Stars, Telescopes, Events, and Programs*

Respectfully submitted by Bill Young, BBVAS Secretary



Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society



Minutes

July 2014 Meeting Agenda

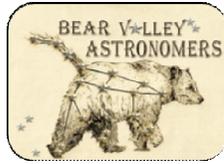
- ✓ Membership
 - **Attendees:** Joscelyn Pierce, Russell Lewis, Teresa Bippert-Plymate, Claude Plymate, John Varsik, Jerry Baker, Jim Kettler, Bill Young, Randy Fear, Bill Hornaday, John Day, Richard Stanton, Christine Jacobs.
 - New members or 1st time visitors?
 - Joscelyn Pierce
 - Russell Lewis
 - Jerry Baker
- ✓ Announcements?
- ✓ Comments, reactions, reviews:
 - The last star party on 2N02.
 - John Day and Bill Young attended. 7 people looked through John's scope.
 - Very good seeing, and John's scope and presentation was a big hit with all.
 - Summer Solstice Potluck.
 - Good food, and good folks. The Plymates will consider continuing the twice-annual "Solstice Potluck" at their home.
 - Big crowds for our Urban Assault Astronomy night on July 5.
 - Matt, Claude, Bill Y. had their scopes there
 - Lots of interest from passersby
 - One visitor has a Meade 12" but has never set it up. They will bring it to BBL and we'll help set it up for them... they probably will become new club members.
 - Discovery Center Night star party. Teresa gave an intro to telescopes and telescopic objects.
 - Many good comments about Teresa's presentation.
 - Many visitors looked through the scopes till 10:30pm
 - Wes, Matt, Randy, Claude, John Day set up their scopes.
 - Working with KBHR on BBVAS publicity and announcements.
 - Continuing to work with Vanessa F. on the script and timetables
- ✓ Activities:
 - OPT - Southern California Astronomy Exposition, July 12 in Oceanside, CA. Carpooling?
 - Teresa, Claude, and Bill H will car pool down to Oceanside.
 - Discovery Center star party, July 12. Vatch will give a talk.
 - Several members offered to setup their scopes.
 - Invitation to all new club members to help at the scope locations
 - Virtual Lecture with Scott Kardel, Executive Director IDA. July 17.
 - 6pm at the BBSO conference room
 - Members only, but we can bring a guest
 - Upcoming Star Parties -
 - Julian StarFest, Aug 23 – 26. Should this take the place of our monthly star party?
 - We agreed to have our star party as well.
 - Grandview Star Party, September 19 – 21.
 - Teresa and Claude will attend

- ✓ Scheduling:
 - Next Urban Assault Astronomy Night, August 1.
 - Set up scopes on the corner of Village Drive and Pine Knot ("Xmas tree lot") at twilight
 - Several members will be there with scopes
 - New members are encouraged to attend as well
 - Solar viewing for Public at Farmer's Market – When?
 - Teresa will continue to work on dates so Farmers Market can publicize
 - Farmer's market folks are very interested
 - Need H-alpha scope in addition to Teresa's scope
 - Discovery center, Camp Fire presentations
 - The August presentation will be on August 22
 - John Day will give the presentation
 - Scope setup will start at twilight
 - Several members committed to being there with their scopes.
 - We encourage new members to attend as well.
 - Star Party, July 16.
 - Where?
 - **Date correction: July 26 is the correct date**
 - We agreed to the 2N02 location... at the turn- in for "the eye of God" quartz mound in eastern Baldwin Lake area. Road is OK for cars, 4x4 NOT required although the road is rock/gravel.
 - Setup at twilight.
 - All members (new and old) are encouraged to attend.
- ✓ Dues
 - Membership forms.
 - Randy is working on the membership forms so we can enroll via the club website as well as the paper membership application.
 - Dues will be collected at the August club meeting. (\$15 for individual, \$25 for family. Includes Astronomical League membership & magazine).
- ✓ Developing a BBVAS Mission Statement. (Teresa)
 - Please submit a few bullet points to Teresa on what you think our mission statement should be
 - Why did you join the club?
 - What do you expect from the club?
 - What should our long term goals be?
 - Etc.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Young, club Secretary, on July 11, 2014



Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society



Minutes---August 14, 2014 Meeting Agenda

- ✓ Membership
 - New members or 1st time visitors?
 - Paul Palmquist, current member, but 1st time at meeting
 - Tim Baggerly, Apple Valley, tried to attend, but family duties called him away.
 - Wants to be on mailing list: baggerlyt@aol.com
 - **Attending:** Christine, Bill H., Jim, Randy, Wes, Dick, Ned, John V., Claude, Teresa, John D., Bill Y., Paul P.
 - **Guest speaker:** Jeremy Little, STEM coordinator, Bear Valley School District
- ✓ Announcements?
 - The passing of Paul Littlecoyote earlier this afternoon, 8/14/2014.
 - John Day lead a moment of silence for Paul L.
 - Suggestions included a memorial of some kind at the 2N02 site.
- ✓ Comments, discussions, reactions, reviews:
 - The last star party at 2N02.
 - **Scopes:** Teresa/Claude, Bill Y... good seeing through the holes in the clouds
 - Urban Assault Astronomy was cancelled. A few tried the Vons parking lot at last minute.
 - Visitors were mostly local folks
 - **Scopes:** Teresa/Claude, Matt, Bill y.
 - Discovery Center star party. Vatch presented an extremely well-received talk on the Moon.
 - Lots of scopes and interaction with visitors
 - This month's Discovery Center star party & the Virtual Lecture scheduled in the same week.
 - Are we doing too much?
 - Consciences was that we are OK with the current activity level
 - Do we need to spread things out more?
 - No...
- ✓ Activities:
 - Discovery Center star party, Fri, August 22. John Day will give the presentation.
 - How many telescopes will be attending?
 - Scopes expected: John D., John V., Claude/Teresa, Matt, Bill Y.
 - This will be the last Discovery Center/Telescope event for the year.
 - Everyone is welcome even if you don't bring a scope.
 - Virtual Lecture by Dr. Connie Walker, NOAO/EPO. Thurs, August 21.
 - *LIVE* lecture by Tom Ayres, U Colo, Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy. Sept 18.
 - Visiting "dignitary". Avid astronomer, Leo Cavagnaro visiting from Argentina, Sept 23 – 25.
 - Dinner? Talk?
 - Upcoming Star Parties -
 - Julian StarFest, Aug 23 – 26.
 - Grandview Star Party, Sept19 – 21.
- ✓ Scheduling:
 - Next Urban Assault Astronomy Night, Sept 5.
 - In the BBL Village, corner of Pine Knot and Village way.
 - All Club members are invited... very good outreach opportunity

- More scopes are always welcome.
- Solar viewing for Public at Farmer's Market – When?
 - Teresa is still working on a demo scope for the event.
 - Farmer's Market will end their season in October.
- Star Party this month - Aug 23 or 30?? 2N02? Next month on Sept 20?
 - Voted for Aug 23 at the 2N02 site.
 - Dick Stanton volunteered his home for the Sept 20 Star Party
 - Details to follow
- ✓ Discussion with Jeremy Little.
 - What relationship can we develop with the Bear Valley Unified School District?
 - Jeremy gave brief overview of the STEM program and his duties.
 - Jeremy_little@bearvalleyusd.org
 - He is open to all thoughts/ideas about getting Middle School and High School kids interested/involved with Astronomy.
 - Consider Intern program?
 - Project to integrate robotics, or smart phone apps or ?
 - Ad hoc "expert" presentations?
 - Open invitation to students for our Star Parties, Sidewalk Astronomy, etc.
 - Students help staff the Village star parties?
- ✓ Dues:
 - Membership forms.
 - Randy handed out the membership forms and collected annual dues from most meeting attendees.
 - The membership form is available on the club website for downloading.
- ✓ Developing a BBVAS Mission Statement. (Teresa)
 - Project-in-process... more details in next month's meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by : Bill Young, club secretary.



Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society



Minutes of September 11, 2014 Meeting

Admission: Free, Fun for the Whole family, Guest speakers, Drawings, prizes and surprises.

✓ Membership

- Attendees at this meeting:
 - Bill H., John D., Lidia, Bill Y., Teresa, Claude, John V., Jerry Baker, Wes, Randy, Christine, Vatch
- New members or 1st time visitors?
 - Lidia Adams

✓ Announcements?

- Paul Littlecoyote services,
 - 9/21, 2pm, at Tom Moffett's house

✓ Treasurer/Membership Report.

- How many have turned in membership forms?
 - 17 members have submitted enrollment forms
 - Current balance: \$175.00

✓ Comments, discussions, reactions, reviews:

- The last star party at 2N02.
 - Present: Teresa, Claude, Matt, John D., Randy, Bill Y.
 - Teresa and Claude refurbished C8 to new member family
 - 2 non-members with new ETX60 came out as well
 - Good seeing
- Urban Assault Astronomy – a busy night!
 - Present: Teresa, Claude, Matt, John D., Bill Y.
 - 75+ passersby had a look at the night sky
- Last Virtual Lecture with Connie Walker.
 - Recap from attendees
- Dr. John Varsik talked about the two recent solar flares/CMEs

✓ Activities:

- Virtual Lecture, Tom Ayres, U Colo, Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy. Sept 18.
 - This one will be in person!
- Visiting "dignitary". Avid astronomer, Leo Cavagnaro visiting from Argentina, Sept 23 – 26.
 - Dinner? Talk?
- BBVAS Star Party, Sept. 20. at Dick's place!
 - Dick has requested RSVP to: rhstanton@gmail.com
 - Address: 1429 Shay Road, BBC (large blue house with white picket fence)
- Other upcoming events –
 - Woodland Hills SIA., Oct. 11.
 - Grandview Star Party, Sept. 19 – 21.
 - RAS Nightfall, Oct 23 – 26
 - Az Science & Ast. Exp. In Tucson. Nov 1.
 - 9/27: Yucca Valley, http://www.scdva.org/Upcoming_Events.html
 - What: 18th Annual Starry Nights Festival
 - Where: Yucca Mesa Community Center
 - When: Saturday, September 27th

✓ Scheduling:

- Next Urban Assault Astronomy Night, Oct 3.
- Solar viewing for Public at Farmer's Market – Last Tues in Sept
- Next BBVAS monthly star party on Oct 25. Where?
 - If cold in BB, then at Randy's house
 - If wx is ok in BB, then 2N02
- School Star Party in October?
 - Date TBD
- 11/4/2014: Special Star party at Randy's house
 - Details to follow, but we need more telescopes.

✓ Upcoming observing events (this will be a new agenda item going forward)

- 10/8: Lunar eclipse, <http://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/lunar/2014-october-8>
- 10/23: Partial solar eclipse, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_eclipse_of_October_23,_2014

✓ Old Business: Developing a BBVAS Mission Statement. (Teresa)

- Tabled indefinitely

Respectively submitted by : Bill Young, club secretary



Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society



October 2014 Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- ✓ Membership
 - New members or 1st time visitors?
 - Tom Stall, visitor
 - Attendees: Randy, John D, Claude, Teresa, Lydia, Bill H, Bill Y, John V, Jim
- ✓ Announcements?
 - Lydia thanked Bill H. for the viewing session on the 20" Meade
- ✓ Treasurer/Membership Report.
 - Currently 30 members
 - Treasury balance: \$325.00
- ✓ Comments, reports, discussions, reviews:
 - The last star party
 - Thanks to Sidney & Renee for stepping in at the last minute as our hosts!
 - Urban Assault Astronomy
 - Some clouds but still were able to show off the Moon and Neptune.
 - Last Virtual Lecture
 - Tom Ayres delivered a visually stunning talk in person.
 - Last night's Lunar eclipse. How was it?
 - John D displayed picture of the red moon
 - Almost everyone attending went out to see the eclipse
 - Great seeing the rest of the night sky as well
- ✓ Activities:
 - No Virtual Lecture this month.
 - Conflicting vacations and eclipse.
 - Other upcoming events –
 - Woodland Hills SIA., Oct. 11.
 - Gift certificates!
 - Carpooling? Bill H would like a ride if anyone is going.
 - RAS Nightfall, Oct 23 – 26 Borrego Springs
 - <http://nightfallstarparty.com/introduction/>
 - Az Science & Ast. Exp. In Tucson. Nov 1.
 - BBSO Docent Program?
 - Volunteers to give tours.
 - Other ideas?
 - Meeting attendees expressed good interest in a Docent program.
- ✓ Chief observer report:
 - What's up this month? (Partial solar eclipse, Oct 23!)
 - 10-19, Comet fly-by of Mars
 - http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2014/09oct_cometprep/
 - 10-21, Meteor Shower, Orionids
 - http://earthsky.org/tonight/orionid-meteors-are-debris-from-famous-comet-halley?utm_source=EarthSky+News&utm_campaign=ac7ebc8f32-

[EarthSky News&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c643945d79-ac7ebc8f32-394109673](http://earthsky.org/tonight/orionid-meteors-are-debris-from-famous-comet-halley?utm_source=EarthSky+News&utm_campaign=ac7ebc8f32-394109673)

- 11-17 evening, Leonids meteor shower
 - <http://earthsky.org/space/everything-you-need-to-know-leonid-meteor-shower>
- ✓ Scheduling:
 - Next Urban Assault Astronomy Night
 - First quarter Moon Friday night is on Halloween!
 - Should it move to another night?
 - Now set for Saturday, 11-1-2014
 - in the Village, Pine Knot/Village Drive
 - Next BBVAS monthly star party on Oct 25. Where? (Nightfall that weekend)
 - If wx =ok, then 2N02; if wx=bad, then Randy's OBS (thanks Randy)
 - School Star Party?
 - No dates yet.
 - Partial solar eclipse Oct 23 – Solar viewing for Public? Advertising?
 - Club will set up 2-3 telescopes at Meadows Edge Park (west of Swim Beach)
 - 2pm to 5pm
 - Will announce the event in local press/radio
- ✓ Old Business: Developing a BBVAS Mission Statement. (Teresa)
 - Continuing effort

Respectfully submitted by Bill Young, club secretary



Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society



November 2014 Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- ✓ Welcome:
 - New members or 1st time visitors?
 - No new or 1st time visitors
 - Attendees: Matt, Teresa, Claude, John V, Wes, John D, Vatch, Bill H, Christine, Russell, Joscelyn, Randy, Lydia, Richard, Larry, Jim, Tom, Bill Y.

 - ✓ Announcements?
 - Dr. John V talked about the recent Rosetta mission, and the large sun spot cluster that is coming around to our side of the sun again now.

 - ✓ Treasurer/Membership Report.
 - 29 paid members, 44 on the email list
 - \$355.00 in the War chest

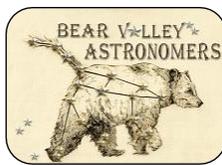
 - ✓ BBSO Docent Program:
 - Dr. Dale Gary, Interim Director BBSO , <http://web.njit.edu/~gary/>
 - Thoughts on developing a volunteer group through the BBVAS to give BBSO tours.
 - Most attendees expressed interest in the Docent program.
 - Teresa will send out an email looking for "sign-ups" and ask for thoughts/ideas about the Docent program design.
 - Dale is also Director at the Owens Valley Solar Array (Radio Telescopes)
 - Also an NJIT facility, <http://www.ovsa.njit.edu/>
 - Possible field trip/tour for our Club?
 - Docents in the proposed program will need to know the history of BBSO
 - John V.'s presentation from 2/13/2014
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BEDqD3PBD8>

 - ✓ Comments, reports, discussions, reviews:
 - Solar eclipse in the park.
 - Teresa, Randy, and Bill Y set up their scopes with solar filters.
 - We guess 35-40 folks attended throughout the 2-3 hours of the eclipse
 - The last star party
 - Teresa & Claude skipped it and instead hosted "movie night" showing Gravity.
 - The night sky was not good...
 - Urban Assault Astronomy, Nov . 1st.
 - Weather was awful so we didn't set up scopes
 - Woodland Hills SIA.
 - Teresa and Claude attended
 - Az Science & Ast. Exp.
 - Teresa and Claude attend... LOTS of people and vendors
 - Teresa made good contacts for our club and the RTMC events

 - ✓ Activities:
 - Virtual Lecture this month.
- Mike Simmons, Astronomers without Borders. Nov. 20, 6pm, BBSO.
 - Add a Sidewalk "Sun-Day" to our outreach activities?
 - This coming Sunday is now scheduled... 11/16/2014 at the "Star Corner" in the Village.
- ✓ Chief observer report.
 - What's up this month?
 - Randy talked about the Leonids meteor shower midnight to dawn on 11/18..
 - <http://earthsky.org/space/everything-you-need-to-know-leonid-meteor-shower>
 - No other spectacular sky events for the next month.
- ✓ Scheduling:
 - Next Urban Assault Astronomy Night on Nov 29.
 - At the Village "Star Corner"... set up at twilight
 - Next BBVAS monthly star party on Nov 22. Where?
 - Randy's house in Lucerne, set up at twilight
 - If you use GPS to get there, remember that the last turn you'll make will be to the NORTH on Santa Fe, and not to the SOUTH... universal GPS error.
 - 10⁶ thanks to Randy for again hosting this event.
 - Skip virtual lecture in Dec. Too close to the holidays.
 - Annual Solstice potluck in place of monthly star party on Dec 20 or 21?
 - Group decided on 12/20/2014, Saturday
 - Theme will be Mexican... bring one or two side dishes of Mexican eats.
 - Next beginner talk:
 - Astronomical Sketching. "You, your pencil and the Universe." (Teresa)
- ✓ Old Business: Developing a BBVAS Mission Statement. (Teresa)
- ✓ Beginners talk:
 - John D. and Bill Y. telescope shootout. Dobs vs. commercial computerized whizbang SCTs.
 - Both presenters agreed that regardless of age or technology, both scopes can "see stuff" very well.
- Door Prize!! Bill H won the star chart calendar, and Matt won the baseball cap.



Big Bear Valley Astronomical Society



December 2014 Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- ✓ Welcome:
 - New members or 1st time visitors?
 - No new members or first time visitors
 - Attendees: Jim Kettler, John Day, Randy Fear, Lydia Adams, Wes Krause, Dick Stanton, Claude and Teresa
- ✓ Announcements?
 - Global Sun Day July 5th. BBVAS “signed up” to participate
 - Might have good crowds on Sunday, July 5
- ✓ Treasurer/Membership Report.
 - 36 paid members / \$405 in bank
 - Teresa handed out \$15 gift certificates (\$25 for Family Membership) for Woodland Hills Telescopes to all attendees
- ✓ BBSO Docent Program Update.
 - Twelve volunteers thus far.
 - Will likely start training after the holidays
 - Training will consist in part of “hanging out” with observers operating the telescope
 - Tours perhaps starting in spring.
- ✓ Comments, reports, discussions, reviews:
 - Mike Simmons Virtual Lecture
 - Good snapshots of amateur astronomy in other countries—why do they have interest from girls and boys while interest in US is mainly old men?
 - Agreed that forming a relationship with foreign club would be premature at this time
 - The last star party was weathered out.
 - Urban Assault Astronomy—Streets closed due to Xmas tree lighting.
 - Our 1st Sun-Day in the Village
 - Great turnout—60-70 looked
- ✓ Activities:
 - No Virtual Lecture this month.
 - Solstice Party, Dec 20.
 - At Teresa & Claude’s
 - This year’s theme will be Mexican
 - Everyone welcome—RSVP appreciated so they can rustle up seating
- ✓ Chief observer report.
 - What’s up this month?
 - Alpha Com may eclipse sometime around Jan 23-24--A first for a visible binary
 - SpaceX experiment landing on a barge next week
 - Watch for Geminid meteors THIS Sat. and Sunday nights~9pm until ~12 (moonrise)
- ✓ Scheduling:
 - Next Urban Assault Astronomy Night.
 - First Quarter Friday Jan 2nd (before the next meeting)
 - This Month’s BBVAS star party being replaced by our annual Solstice Party.
 - Next beginner talk?
 - Randy volunteered to talk about eyepieces
 - Next Sun Day? Second Sunday again (14th)?
 - Will give it a shot on Sunday if weather cooperates
- ✓ Old Business: Developing a BBVAS Mission Statement. (Teresa)
- ✓ Door Prize!! Randy won the Astrophotography book; Dick won the hat
- ✓ Beginners talk:
 - Teresa will discuss Astronomical Sketching. “You, your pencil and the Universe.”
 - Teresa showed that excellent renditions of galaxies and nebulae are possible with a No. 2 pencil, blending stick and a LED-illuminated sketch pad
 - Open clusters are toughest since need to be meticulous with bright star locations
 - Templates for many objects are available on the internet—just download and start drawing!