

## **Minutes of DAS Eboard Meeting**

**Oct. 5, 2001**

Larry Brooks, President presided.

Secretary Ron Pearson, read the Sept. minutes. They were approved as read.

Treasurer Chuck Carlson presented a monthly account statement. He noted that so far there were \$246 in CAD expenses and \$90 income. Two vendors had signed up so far.

President Larry Brooks - no report

DU - no report

Dark Sky Site Comm.: The telescope raffle had sold 39 tickets to date. There have been no work or changes at the DSS. Larry has not pursued getting the permits due to CAD business.

Library: nothing to report.

List Serv: no report

Public Events: 280 tickets were handed out at the last open house in Sept.

### **Old Business:**

Colorado Astronomy Day (CAD): 4 speakers are lined up. Press release was sent out last tues., Printed 400 brochures for distribution. Vendor tables - two have registered with money. Food vendor will be "Top Dog" to set up 10am-3am. Check out facilities at Boettcher with Dr. Stencil on Monday at 12pm. At DMNS, Patti's sons will be doing the cryo cart. Chuck will pickup the Star Lab at DMNS. Door prizes are doing ok. Larry will make up meteorite cards to sell for \$2 each; it will be \$36 for 100 cards.

Jerry Sherlin noted that the Executive Secretary of A.L. will be coming to CAD. There will be a MARS region meeting at 5pm at Chamberlin.

Patti had raised issue of donating CAD funds to Red Cross for NY Relief efforts. Motion was made, did not pass.

Parking at Olin - DAS will have to front \$400. for parking tickets.

The Calendar-schedule for 2002 was reviewed and finalized.

### **New Business:**

Steve Solon would like DAS to do a raffle every year. Discussion was to go year to year on it.

Larry noted that the Eboard yahoo group site is for eboard email discussion only; no voting or polls are to be done since it's not open to members.

Motion was made to eliminate DAS payment of parking tickets; Sentiment was that pay parking should be ended and members will have to park on the street; but discussion centered around the fact that DAS has already purchased several hundred from DU Physics dept., and we have to use them or lose the money. Motion to table the previous motion until all permits are gone, passed.

Spring Banquet Dinner: we need a new restaurant as Dardano's, used for past several years has closed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30pm passed.

Minutes approved as read. Nov. Eboard meeting  
[Ron Pearson](#), DAS Secretary

## **Minutes of DAS Eboard Meeting**

**Nov. 2, 2001**

Larry Brooks presided.

Secretary Ron Pearson, read the Oct. Eboard minutes. They were approved as read.

Treasurer, Chuck Carlson presented a monthly balance sheet to the board. He reported that membership is now up to 327 members. A balance sheet was also presented for Colorado Astronomy Day activities. Based upon the sale of registrations, door prize tickets given out, there was approximately 75 paid attendents. A total of \$401.68 will go to the DSS fund after expenses.

VP Patti Kurtz, discussed the CAD and noted that everything except the food vendor went very smoothly.

Pres. Larry Brooks thanked Patti for all the hard work she put into CAD. Larry reported that we are using a new printing process at Signal Graphics for the newsletter and asked for comments on it.

DU Report: Larry reported for DU that he has sent a schedule for next year to reserve Olin Hall for regular meetings. Larry also noted the RA lock on the 20 inch is broken. Dr. Stencel will be gone for two weeks. Discussion of having the DU machine shop fix the lock. Greg Marino said he will try to make one and get it to Ted Cox to install. They may need to cancel public night observing if can't be fixed in time.

DSSC: There is approx. balance of \$4,400 + CAD money for the DSS. 89 scope raffle tickets have been sold. There has been no construction on the site. We still need to go through the building permitting process, although the warming hut does not need a permit. Electrical wiring to the buildign will need to be approved. There was discussion about waiting until spring to apply for the permit. Decision of the DSSC was to wait.

Library: There was a discussion about video-tapes of the speakers at regular meetings. Larry will call Pat Razor to find out the status of where the tapes are, if they need to be copied to VHS? Jerry reported there are many books in boxes and we need to decide what to put on shelves. More shelf space is needed, and some may be able to be put in the old board room. Jerry will discuss with Dr. Stencel.

List Serv: Patti reported no problems. A motion was made by Greg Marino to move the denverastro.org website to a new .com domain. Discussion of the motion centered around although Terry Chatterton has been very cooperative with getting Patti's stuff on the site, she has no access to upload directly. Motion passed.

Public Events: the observatory phone line has been replaced.

## **Old Business:**

CAD: Larry and Patti reviewed the outcome from Astronomy Day activities. At least two vendors did well. There was no Starlab from DMNS. It was canceled at last minute because DMNS didn't want it set up outside. The food vendor was never scheduled due to mix-up. DAS did not have to front the \$400 for parking tickets as previously reported. Open House attendees about 400 tickets were given out.

DAS Annual Auction: reported a profit of \$518.35 this year, which will go to VanNattan fund. Amount is down from yr. 2000 because there was not a lot of 100% donation to DAS and low attendance. We still have the ETX90 received at CAD and attempted to auction, which brought no bids of \$250. Decision was made to have another raffle in 2002 of the ETX 90.

There was a question and suggestion of DAS mug sales; whether to take to Olin Hall to sell at regular meetings. Bill Ormsby will do.

“Election Reform”: Ron Pearson raised the issue that this would be the last opportunity to revise the election system before the next election, which the board has tabled several times this year. Given the misunderstandings in the 2001 proxy voting and poor wording of the by-laws several revisions were discussed and motions made as follows:

Motion was made to change to a mail-in ballot, with ballots to be published in the Jan. issue of The Observer, ballots to be mailed to chairperson of the nominating committee and received by chairperson prior to the February general meeting. Members could vote at the general meeting only if they bring their ballot to the meeting. A member must be present with own ballot to vote. Motion passed.

Motion was made to change Section 4.0 of Article V of the By-Laws. The motion was to eliminate Section 4.0 and replace it with the following statement:

“Election of officers and board members, shall be held at the regular meeting. Ballots will be published in the February issue of the The Observer. Members entitled to vote may either mail in their ballots to the Election Chairperson or bring their ballots to the regular meeting in February.”

This motion was to be voted upon at next eboard meeting in December pursuant to requirement in the By-Laws of official notification of the eboard of amending the By-Laws.

Subsequent decision was made to retract the motion and simplify Section 4.0 eliminating the proxy voting.

A motion was then made to eliminate the second sentence of Section 4.0 from the By-Laws. The motion was seconded and is to be voted upon at the Dec. Eboard meeting.

Article V Election of the Executive Board and Officers Section 4.0 would then read as

follows:

Section 4.0 "Election of officers and Board members shall be held at the regular meeting of the membership in February."

**New Business:**

Question was raised whether DAS should pay for dinner for regular meeting speakers?  
After discussion a motion was made that the dinner should be paid for. Motion passed.

Issue of thankyou letters for tax-deductible donations to the DSS fund. Steve Solon noted they had been done in the past, but lately we have not received any large, or special donations. Chuck Carlson noted that most have been small donations sent in with membership renewals. Chuck and Steve will discuss and report back to the board at the next meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:45pm

Minutes Approved as read  
Dec. Eboard meeting.  
Ron Pearson, Secretary DAS

## **Minutes of DAS Eboard Meeting**

**Dec. 7, 2001**

### **DAS Eboard Meeting Minutes**

**Dec. 7, 2001**

President Larry Brooks presiding.

Secretary: Ron Pearson read the minutes of the Nov. eboard meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer: Chuck Carlson presented the monthly balance sheet. He noted we had also just received the annual phone bill in amount of \$492.00 - was not yet on the balance sheet.

President: had no report.

DU: Assistant Director of Chamberlin Observatory, Dave Trott reported on the RA locking mechanism for the 20 inch Clark. The set screws are not a standard thread but new ones were made by Russ Mellon by turning on a lathe and cut with an antique die. He now has 4 new screws and 3 extra. Russ Mellon recommended adding a slip clutch mechanism in the RA lock to prevent overtorquing. This would require turning down to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch keyway. A proposal from Russ Mellon for the work has an estimated cost of about \$1,089. It was noted that there is just enough money in the 'Restoration Fund' to pay for the work, but discussion was that it may not be necessary or overkill. Note - examination of the RA lock mechanism following the eboard meeting by Dave and others showed that there probably was not enough clearance in the mechanism to allow adding a clutch.

Greg Marino reported that a cardboard lens cap for the scope balances better and therefore it may not be necessary to lock the scope when stored.

Dave Trott noted that he would like people to contact him regarding any ideas or needs for the scope and observatory. His email address is dtrott@du.edu, phone voicemail on campus is 303- 871-3499. He is there tues. and thurs. during the day. He prefers email as then he has a record of the idea or correspondence he can track easier.

Dave reported he is concerned about the east railing on the balcony. Dave and Dan Wray will check it out.

Dr. Stencil requests that DAS do a 'telescope maintenance day' a couple of times a year. And there will be a Neighborhood caroling on 12/16 from 5-9:30 pm and would like a volunteer to help with the opening the scope weather permitting.

Dark Sky Site Comm.: There was lengthy discussion of problems reported by members of stray lights on the Leonids meteor shower night at the DSS. There were a lot of solutions suggested on the listserve to block or prevent problems related to car lights and stray

lights. Suggestions have been for fences and trees to large hay bales to block lights. The DSSC feels this was a rare event and overall its not a major problem. The primary problem is with disruption to members who are doing astrophotography. Therefore, in the plan for the 02 year construction several pads will be built on the south end of the DSS that will be specifically designed for astrophotography. There will be 1-6'x6' concrete pad, and 2-3'x3' pads with 8 inch di. PVC pipe piers. Piers will be filled with sand and or concrete. The smaller pads may be timber-framed and gravel filled, since the center pier will provide support for the scope. The piers will be such that those with SCT wedge type mounts can attach their wedges directly to the pier. A standard design such as a single fixed bolt will be placed in the top of the pier and if necessary, members will be responsible for providing their own removable adapter plate to attach the wedge to the pier. In addition, the pads will be built with pipe tubes inset in the ground at the corners so that poles can be set in the pipes and a tarp hung between the poles temporarily enclosing the pad for protection from stray light. Members would be responsible for providing their own poles and tarps, setting them up and removing them when through observing or photographing. Other pads may be added later.

The DSSC also recommended that the suggestion in the DSS guidelines for people to drive in from the north be dropped. This has not proven effective and feel the lights from north are worse. The construction for the coming year (02) the priorities will be 1. New pads, 2. Vault toilet, 3. Pads at south end for photographers. The DSS needs to be posted "No Trespassing", DSSC will put up 2 or 3 signs. The gate needs to be marked with new reflectors due to breakage. The courtesy recommendations will be modified, adding wording about members need to bring their own power supply or extension cord. The microwave oven is not out there yet, but will try it and see how it goes.

The DSS fund raising Telescope Raffle has sold 92 tickets to date (\$920) and the Open House on 12/22/01 will be the last chance to buy tickets. A list of contributors to the DSS fund will be published in the next Observer to recognize those who support the DSS.

Library Comm. Jerry Sherlin talked with Dr. Stencil about need for more shelf space. If they could box up old issues of Mercury, S&T, Astronomy, Griffith Observer, would free up about 5 shelves. Almanacs take up about 2 shelves. Videotapes of DAS meeting speakers are in the library and on shelves now. Discussed possible use of a file cabinet to store some pubs. Dave Trott will run it by Dr. Stencil. A motion was made for DAS to purchase a metal file cabinet with hanging files to store publications; contingent upon approval from Dr. Stencil, with a limit of \$150. Motion passed.

ListServ: Patti reported nothing new.

Public Events: At public nights Steve Solon would like to have Joe Gafford's astro-photo cards in a mosaic picture to hang on the wall. Proceeds would go to DAS. Dave Trott needed suggestions of where it will go. It was suggested to hang it under the projector shelf.

Old Business: Christmas Pot-luck - we have just learned that we need to be out of the facility by 9pm.

“Election Reform”: Motion was made to adopt the change to Section 4.0 of the By-Laws as stated in the November minutes of the Eboard meeting. Motion passed. This deletes the “proxy voting” statement in the By-Laws.

New Business: Dave Trott raised the need for maintenance events for the 20" Clark. Discussion centered around going back to the monthly observatory ‘cleanup’ that was done in the past. It was dropped in the past as restoration had completed much of the ‘to-do’ list at that time. Dave will need to provide DAS a list of items for the scope and observatory that needs or can be done. Motion was made to start a monthly clean-up and maintenance day again. Motion passed. Dr. Stencil requests 2 days per year on scope maintenance. It was decided to try and go to monthly afternoon cleanup days on Open House days so people can come for cleanups and stay for open house events.

There was further discussion of Russ Mellon’s proposal to put a clutch on the Clark’s RA lock assembly. Discussion centered around whether we really want to ‘modify’ the original hardware, is it really needed if training and maintenance could take care of the problem.

The Antique Telescope Society (ATS) has contacted Jack Eastman by email asking if we would be interested in hosting the 2003 meeting of the ATS? After some discussion, the board asked Jack to ask the ATS what they would expect us to do and provide to support a national meeting?

It had been suggested that we purchase a color correction interference filter to improve color of the Clark. Several members had tried one out after the previous meeting. There were differing opinions as to whether it really helped or whether a light yellow K1 or K2 wratten filter would do the same thing. It was decided that purchase of the interference filter would be up to the public night staff.

It was noted that since Terry Chatterton has moved, that we need someone to head up the mirror grinding group.

Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 10pm.

Meeting Minutes, approved as read Feb. 01, 02 respectfully submitted,

Ron Pearson, Secretary DAS