



Minutes of DAS E-Board Meeting Friday, May 11, 2007

Officer/E-Board Attendees: Wayne Green, Keith Pool, Brad Gilman, Darrell Dodge, Jack Eastman, Frank Mancini, Joe Gafford, Ron Mickle, David Shouldice, Ron Pearson, Bryan Wilburn, Dan Wray **Other:** Aaron Reid, Ivan Geisler, Wayne Kaaz, Bill Ormsby,

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 pm by Wayne Green, DAS President.

The April Meeting Minutes were submitted by Darrell Dodge, DAS Secretary and approved with minor changes.

Chamberlin Report – Aaron Reid

The window refurbishing work under the grant was delayed again. There are more books in the new bookcase in the Director's Office, including old Chamberlin observing reports

Secretary's Report – Darrell Dodge

Delayed reprinting member brochures and mailing renewal reminders pending resolution of the Sky and Telescope subscription issue (see below). The new Secretary still hasn't received DAS historical files from Stuart Hutchins. The Secretary updated the Denver Post Web calendar for public nights and open houses.

Treasurer's Report – Brad Gillman

DAS is still spending more than we are taking in, but this is not a serious situation. There were six new members since the April meeting. S&T subscription problem: they cashed the check May 2nd and sent funds to Boston, then to Florida. We will send funds to Florida until we are told differently. Members should be told to keep sending the paperwork and checks to Brad until we know that the new process is in place. Members with problems can learn their subscription status from S&T's 800 number. DAS will send S&T a roster so that they can check that only members are receiving the discount. Dan Wray suggested this be a name list only. An alternate suggestion was first initial, last name, and zip code.

Vice President's Report – Keith Pool

Bob Bruner of the DMNS is a speaker possibility for October (Greek mythology and constellations) and also for Colorado Astronomy Day (Mars). The quarterly participation prize drawing will be held at the May general meeting.

President's Report – Wayne Green

1) The property inventory was completed. Twenty items were missing (including some artwork and the Clave 65mm eyepiece.) The inventory has an estimated replacement value of \$18,000. There is currently no total assessment of value for items reported in the financial statement. The library has a mixture of DAS and DU books, a situation acknowledged by Dr. Stencil. We need to look in every book and make a determination of ownership. One item added was the donated SS4P photometer.

2) Wayne Green said that SeaGate offers funds to teachers and students in the St. Vrain Schools and proposed that they be encouraged to expand coverage to allow DAS to participate. One possible project would be to fund a student to dig into Howe's records and extract double star information (a possible \$2000, 20-hour per week 10 week project.) Howe had 14 observations in USNO data base from Cincinnati, but there are no records from Howe or DU in the database, which feeds into the Washington Double Star data base. Wayne asked the E-Board if the DAS wanted to get involved with these programs, but members expressed little interest. Ron Mickle suggested that Naomi Pequette could possibly be involved in this.

Public Outreach Committee – Ron Mickle

Ron reported that a \$75 check was received from Sabin Elementary School for the recent star party. Brad will send a thank you letter to them. Ron reminded members to send him numbers from all outreach activities. Other recent activities include a Girl Scouts star party in Bailey and Bob MacArthur's middle school astronomy club in Highlands Ranch.

Todd Thomas was certified as a PN operator on May 10th. Courtney Kais – an apprentice PN Operator – will be graduating from Thunder Ridge High School and will be attending the School of Mines in chemistry next year. She joined apprenticeship at 12 years old -- the youngest person to do so.

Chamberlin Restoration and Maintenance – Ron Pearson

The Chair expressed the committee's displeasure that the original Director's Office cabinetry was replaced with new woodwork, without consultation with, or input from, the committee. Ron Mickle noted that the funds used for the bookcase were the \$1 per-visitor payment DAS makes to DU.

Wayne Green noted that the working agreement with DU was that the Director's Office would be returned to its original state – probably a very Spartan room. The bookcases that were built were supposed to be a restoration similar to the bookcase in the Computer Room. The original idea was to have glass doors with wire reinforcement, but they were redesigned to reduce costs. DAS offered more money, but DU didn't accept it.

Wayne Green asked if DAS should dissolve the committee. Ron Mickle argued that we should retain it to provide a way to work with the people who do the Grant work. It was informally agreed that the Board will remove the committee from the agenda until something relevant comes up.

Van Nattan-Hansen Scholarship Committee – Ron Pearson

Four scholarship applications were received this year and an evaluation meeting will be held soon. The invested part of the scholarship is growing significantly: 11% in the past year, up to almost \$50,000. The Credit Union portion has some minor glitches: the address needs to be changed and the primaries on the account need to be changed to Brad Gilman and Ron Pearson.

Financial Development Committee – Frank Mancini

No report.

Dark Site Committee – Wayne Kaaz

Nothing to report, although E-Board members had some comments on related issues, as follows: Wayne Green mentioned that the Deep Space Exploration Society wants to make its 11-acre site 19 miles west of Eads into an optical observing resource

Ron Pearson said he is willing to donate components for a fork mount for the 17 ½-inch scope that has been proposed for installation at the DS. The tube needs to be replaced and it was proposed to obtain a truss assembly from AstroSystems. Ron was asked to make some sketches of this proposal for evaluation. The refurbishment would be a DAS project, but the DS committee would have the option of deciding on a way to house it at the DS.

Aaron Reid asked what to do when new members call about access to the DS. Wayne Green said that this should be handed off to him, at least until the DS committee comes up with a procedure.

List Serv & Web Site

Wayne Green mentioned that the DAS Web site lacks a page for beginning amateur astronomers and that an article planned for the *Rocky Mountain News* on May 14th may result in many new amateurs accessing the site. Darrell Dodge agreed to set up the page.

Newsletter

Ron Mickle and others noted that the errors in recent newsletters need to be caught before publication. The need for additional editors or proofreaders was discussed.

New Business

Annual Picnic, July 22nd – Wayne Green requested that a picnic committee be organized at the next open house.

Colorado Astronomy Day – Darrell Dodge will contact Jennifer Moss-Logan of the DMNS and set up a planning and coordination meeting. Wayne Green proposed that DAS offer Solar observing at the Denver Botanical Gardens as a way to attract more people to the evening activities at Chamberlin Observatory.

Rocky Mountain News Article – Aaron Reid said he had been interviewed for the “Mile High Tech” article in the Rocky Mountain News Monday. The DAS, DU, and IDA Web sites were submitted to RMN reporter for the article.

There being no more new business, Wayne Green asked for a motion to adjourn. Keith Pool so moved, Jack Eastman seconded and the E-Board voted to adjourn at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Darrell Dodge, DAS Secretary