



Minutes of DAS E-Board Meeting Friday, September 28, 2007

Attendees: Officers: Wayne Green, Brad Gilman, Darrell Dodge. E-Board: Ron Mickle, Dan Wray, David Shouldice, Joe Gafford, Jack Eastman, Frank Mancini. Others: Aaron Reid, Bill Ormsby, Wayne Kaaz,

Chamberlin Report – Aaron Reid

Wayne Green gave extended thanks to Dr. Bob for the *Seeing in the Dark* preview and the *Apollo Shadow of the Moon* preview. We discussed the possibility of Dr. Bob giving a presentation about Chamberlin Observatory at the Antique Telescope Society conference.

Retired telescopes are available from Penn State but the size and condition is not known. Wayne Green asked if the DAS wanted to acquire one of them. Wayne will find out how big they are and other information. Wayne mentioned that there is a 120K building available that is portable that could house a larger telescope.

Aaron Reid reported on the Cottonwood Creek elementary school star party. There were 200 students and parents in attendance. Telescopes were provided by Dan Wray, Wayne Kaaz, and Darrell Dodge.

Aaron reported that Cathie Havens will sell IDA approved cut-off lights at the Okie-Tex star party. The owner of Art's Barbershop in Clayton, New Mexico (a representative of The New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance) will be buying lights from Aaron to install in Clayton, NM to help avoid light pollution of the Okie-Tex Star Party.

Aaron mentioned that Sputnik Day, October 4th will be a Thursday Public Night.

Aaron reminded DAS members to make sure the observatory thermostat stays at 68 degrees. Ron Mickle agreed to send an e-mail to all the public night volunteers to remind them of this.

Astronomical League and ALCON

All four M.A.R.S. positions need to be filled (there hasn't been an election in 10 years). Mike Murray is the regional director, Gene Shimmerhorn is the treasurer. There is \$2000 for promotion in the MARS region. Wayne Green talked with Gary Garzone of LAS and he agrees that something needs to be done. The election will be in January time frame. No one is interested in a convention, so we will go with an e-mail ballot.

Treasurer Report – Brad Gilman

Brad Gilman reported that the society is still taking in less funds than it is spending. The EBoard agreed to purchase 25 Astronomy Magazine calendars for \$6.48 and sell them for

\$10.00. We will not purchase RASC handbooks this year, but will encourage S&S Optika to up their order and offer at a discount to members. The EBoard also agreed to buy 5 of the new Chamberlin Books for children to sell on Public Nights.

Secretary Report – Darrell Dodge

June meeting minutes were approved without change. Reminders are being sent out in two forms: a red “It’s time to renew your DAS membership” sticker on newsletters and postcards with an included membership renewal form to those who download their newsletters from the Web site. Response to the postcards has been good.

Vice President Report

The Quarterly DAS participation prize will be awarded at the next meeting on October 5th.

President Report – Wayne Green

Girl Scout outside outreach events need to be managed a bit better. Wayne is developing a reservation system so that DAS members can look at the list and decide what they want to support. We need to get more members interested in leading activities and to develop more leaders within the society. We need to think about who we can bring along.

The club received a donation of a vintage 4 ½-inch Tasco reflector. A thank you letter has been sent to the donor.

Wayne Green mentioned that we need to replace the curved handle on the tail end of the Clark 20-inch. Wayne is machining a replacement metal attachment fitting, but we also need to make a wood handle to replace the old one. Jack Eastman mentioned that the big rack and pinion has a tooth missing or something. Wayne Green responded that the entire encoder system should probably be redone and said (for example) that it would be helpful to have an LED panel with displays of RA, DEC, and sidereal time. Wayne also mentioned an idea of mounting small TV cameras aimed at the setting circles, with a small monitor in the work area at the base of the telescope, with a switch to change from one circle to the other. This would require small cameras that have their own infrared light source. Wayne also noted that anything that we add can’t reduce the original functionality.

Committee Reports

Dark Site – Wayne Kaaz

Wayne Kaaz made a proposal to approve funds to mow the high grass, based on requests of some members. Darrell Dodge pointed out the high cost and whether it is a fire hazard if there is no tall grass near the hut buildings and pads. Darrell and Joe Gafford have cleared away grass and weeds from near all buildings, pads, and the access drive. Wayne will check with Steve Solon about what we did in previous years.

Outreach –

Girl Scout camp 70 scouts over a weekend. There is also an outreach event at Kiowa high school early in October and a big Girl Scout event on November 12th in Littleton.

The AAVSO meeting will be in their new headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts this year.

Ron Mickle discussed the applications for AL awards for outreach activities that he is pulling together. He received outreach hours from most members, but people who do not participate in Public Nights may need additional support for the award. Ron requested a paragraph from each person with hours and justification for award.

Wayne Green brought up the challenge of getting more young people involved in astronomy. He noted that with few high profile projects, we are approaching a period of doldrums in astronomy, with only the Hubble ST to inspire young people. Ron Mickle said that the DAS should engage the AL and ask them to develop a document on how members with CCDs can produce differential photometry and to tie this in AAVSO activities. Jack Eastman said that there are training documents available from the AAVSO, but Ron emphasized that something better is required to inspire people to participate in these programs.

Finance Committee

Frank Mancini mentioned that Dr. Bob approached him about whether the DAS would be willing to fund the bid costs for restoration of the Clark telescope (\$2,000 to \$3,000.) Wayne Green said that he has already provided Dr. Bob with names and addresses of people who could restore the telescope. Wayne said that the cost estimate he had received from Mike Reynolds for renovating the Chabot 20-inch refractor was \$100,000 plus “tons and tons” of volunteer work. Wayne stressed that the problem right now is that DAS has been prohibited from representing the observatory any more. Wayne Green said that he told Dr. Bob that when the university is ready to talk with us, we will consider this.

Other Business

Library

DAS member Phil Klos has taken over the responsibility of the library. He called up people at the DU Penrose Library and he will work with them to catalog loose holdings and miscellaneous books.

Associates Program

Three young people have joined the DAS, encouraged by Naomi Pequette. Wayne Green proposed that we should try to locate every nascent astronomy club in the region, such as the one recently started up in Brighton.

Holiday Pot Luck

The space at the Columbine Unitarian-Universalist Church in Littleton will be reserved for the pot luck. The program and food arrangements will be similar to last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm and Wayne Green brought out a birthday cake for Treasurer Brad Gilman.

Respectfully submitted by Darrell Dodge, DAS Secretary.