



January 25, 2008
Minutes of the DAS Executive Board

Attendees:

Officers: Wayne Green, Darrell Dodge, Brad Gilman, Keith Pool
Trustees: Jack Eastman, Dan Wray, David Shouldice, Joe Gafford, Ron Pearson, Bryan Wilburn,
Ron Mickle, Frank Mancini, Dave Shouldice
Others: Aaron Reid, Bill Ormsby, Wayne Kaaz, Ivan Geisler

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Green at 7:35pm

Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved with minor corrections.

Chamberlin Report – Aaron Reid

New light boxes were developed for the dome room at Chamberlin by Aaron Reid, with technical input from Naomi Pequette. The old glass plates were carefully removed by Dr. Stencil and Aaron and preserved. Wayne Green mentioned that he would have liked DAS to have been consulted before the boxes were completed, however Ron Mickle and Frank Mancini said that the DAS did have input. Frank Mancini asked if DAS would be able to use the boxes for outreach events. Aaron said yes, that was in the plans. A sheet explaining the use of the boxes and asking for comments was developed by Dr. Stencil. All Chamberlin displays need to be cleared with Aaron.

The following suggestions for improvements in the boxes were made:

- A dimmer switch should be added for light-sensitive environments
- A face-to-face clamp should be added to allow two boxes to be carried at once.
- Attach the boxes to the window wells in some way so a child cannot tip them over.
- Obtain input from DAS prior to developing displays

There was a request by Aaron for DAS to support Colorado IDA at the Earthworks Expo at the Denver Merchandise Mart June 21-22 for solar energy industries with \$275. A motion was made by Bryan Wilburn, seconded by Frank Mancini and passed.

ALCor Report – Wayne Green

Jerry Sherlin will be relocating to the East Coast and therefore needs to drop his AL representative duties. Darrell Dodge has agreed to take over. AL has a new committee called ELF (envisioning the leagues future.) John Goss is taking revitalization ideas seriously – increasing participation by young people, etc.

Darrell Dodge sent in updated DAS roster to Mitch Glaze of the AL.

Neil Pearson, a DAS student member, was nominated for the National Young Astronomers Award and sponsored by Wayne Green.

The AL is aiming to increase its astronomy promotion activities in 2009 – the “International Year of the Telescope.” 2008 is “International Year of Astronomy.”

The 2008 AL convention (ALCON) will be held in July in Des Moines, IA.

Officer Reports

Treasurers Report – Brad Gilman

QuickBooks is now being used by the Treasurer to process all transactions. The DAS has had 19 new members in the last 2 months. Brad said that the DAS needs to pay annual IDA dues of \$100. Dan Wray moved to approve this payment, Jack Eastman seconded, and it was approved by the E-Board. Brad also said that the DS warming hut has been fully depreciated. The ending balance of the general fund account at 1st Bank is \$25,775.67. The ending balance of the EGKDS account at 1st Bank is \$3,838.64.

Wayne Green mentioned that he has been talking with Brad about obtaining a dedicated laptop computer that would be handed from Treasurer to Treasurer and would have only relevant programs (QuickBooks, Excel, etc.) and DAS data on it.

Secretary – Darrell Dodge

Darrell Dodge urged the E-Board to consider changing the DAS registration renewal system to specify one renewal date for all members. Because of the complexity of this change, E-Board members suggested that a written motion on renewals was needed for review by the E-Board. There was some discussion, but the E-Board agreed to table the motion to shift renewals policy, subject to receipt of the written motion and bylaw review and possible update.

Reminders were sent to the 50+ members who were late in renewing their memberships. The club membership total is 323.

Vice President – Keith Pool

Members of the E-Board agreed that January General Meeting speaker, Mike Carroll, was an excellent presenter and recommended that he be invited to future General Meetings, and perhaps for Colorado Astronomy Day.

The February speaker will be David Grinspoon, presenting on the European Space Agency’s Venus Express mission. The March Banquet speaker will be Bryan White. Chuck Carlson will present in April. May was open, but members agreed that a Spring show-and-tell program would be a good idea, given the number of people who wanted to present last November but couldn’t. Several people mentioned that the meeting moderator needs to limit times on speakers at show and tells. Ideas for meetings: Panel discussions on astro imaging or something else? The June speaker will be Stephanie Pahl; July’s speaker, Mark Bottorff.

President – Wayne Green

Wayne Green was approached by Stephanie Pahl about using the Clark for a research project at Metro State. She is proposing to gather data to provide updates for the Washington Double Star catalog. Jack Eastman wondered if the seeing in Denver would prove problematic.

Wayne Green said that he wants to get support for doing research at Chamberlin. Wayne believes that one of the first steps would be to obtain a valid time source for time references or time stamps in research data. He said that John Doran is donating some activity to this effort. Ron Mickle wondered who would use this. Dan Wray wondered how much it would cost. Other members expressed an interest in seeing a written proposal on the components of the system and how it would be used.

Wayne Green reported that David Grinspoon's general meeting speech will be featured on Second Life – the Internet-based virtual world. NOAA is putting up the streaming Web service that will send images from a video camera to the Web. Dr. Grinspoon will do his lecture and video images of the presentation will appear in the virtual world of Second Life. Questions from the Second Life audience will be collected by a computer for response by Dr. Grinspoon. Wayne asked if there was any E-Board opposition to doing this. The E-Board response was positive and no objections were expressed.

Wayne Green asked the E-Board for opinions on when the March Banquet should begin. The members agreed that 6pm would be a good start time.

Wayne Green noted that if DAS is a member of the Western Amateur Astronomers, this should be added to the "affiliations" page on the Web site. Jack Eastman agreed to check on this.

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee Report – Ron Mickle

Ron Mickle received a letter from Rich Lane's sister. She is looking for a donation on Rich's behalf. We need to decide what this could be.

Open House events: Ron Mickle made a recommendation that DAS Open House participants should be reminded that when we set up scopes on the lawn we need to actively engage the visitors, who may not understand that they are the reason we are there with our telescopes.

Division for Space Exploration – The Bush administration is proposing that the U.S. go to the moon and then go to Mars and beyond. A new group called the Division for Space Exploration has been set up by the Planetary Society, planetary experts from NASA, and others to formulate a new vision for space exploration of bypassing the moon, but making staging explorations to asteroids and going from there to Mars.

Ron Mickle discussed the need for publications about astronomical science at a very easy level and again raised the idea of putting together a how-to document on doing various types of research.

Wayne Green mentioned that at the last Open House there was a group of 30 people in the observatory listening to his presentation on using telescopes. Wayne also mentioned the need for an operator's meeting. Another immediate concern was that the eyepiece optics for the Clark need to be cleaned.

David Shouldice noted that the laptop computer used to aim the Clark isn't working properly. He said that the V-box, encoders and wiring may need to be replaced and recommended an up-to-date V-box and standard encoders. Some members discussed the idea of just putting digital setting circles on the telescope. Joe Gafford thinks it's a wiring problem. This situation will be relayed to Dr. Stencil through Aaron Reid.

Bryan Wilburn said that external outreach activities have naturally dropped off due to the winter weather. He is using an Excel spreadsheet to track the number of outreach participants. He said that over 500 people were involved in external outreach activities over the last few months of the year.

Van Nattan-Hansen

Sad news: the stock market downturn in the last few weeks has taken away much of earnings of the past year. Frank Mancini, our investment expert, says not to worry.

Dark Site Committee – Wayne Kaaz

Wayne Kaaz is stepping down as committee chair, but will stay on as committee treasurer. A new Chair needs to be recruited.

The tuff shed that was available for a storage structure at the Dark Site was lost because we could not get to it in a snow storm. Wayne Green commented that the users of the DS did not seem to be interested in this anyway.

Wayne Green had not reviewed the revised dark site lease agreement with Henry Weisensee that was given to him by Wayne Kaaz. Wayne Green will bring it to the next EBoard meeting for review.

Library

Dr. Stencil has mentioned to Wayne Green that he would like the DAS to cull its holdings in the Chamberlin Observatory library of non-technical and off-topic books. Librarian Phil Klos has not been notified of this yet.

17.5-Inch Telescope Committee – Ron Pearson

Ron Pearson said that very little is going to happen on this project until spring. He said that the actual dimensions of the 17½-inch mirror are 17½ -inches in diameter and 1 ½-inch thick.

Wayne Green reminded the E-Board that a Total Lunar Eclipse on February 20th was the month's special event.

There being no more business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Wray, seconded by Joe Gafford, and passed at 10:26 pm.