

## **DAS E-Board Minutes for March 25, 2011**

**2011 Officers and Board Members:** Ron Pearson, Pres; Lisa Judd VP; Dennis Cochran, Sec'y; Brad Gilman, Treas; Board members J. Eastman, J. Gafford, C. Habenicht, R. Hranac, T. Pimentel, K. Pool, D. Shouldice, D. Wray. All present except for D. Shouldice, in hospital for eye operation.

**Observatory Reps** present: Dr. Stencel, A. Reid.

**Others members & guests** present: H. Davidson (Scope Operators), D. Dodge (Web & Membership), I. Geisler, F. Mancini (Finance Comm.), B., G. and P. Ormsby.

**Previous Minutes** were read, slightly amended and approved.

**Observatory Report:** "Globe at Night" forms for evaluating light pollution are available in the phone room for use on public nights.

IDA news: The IDA is promoting a Lights-Out Hour at 8:30 pm Saturday night and DAS members are urged to participate. Also, the city of Durango, CO may become the first Dark Sky City in the state.

Observatory public attendance: Records from 1968 were found and a bar chart of yearly attendance was created showing a decrease in the years between then and now, and a more recent increase.

**President's Report:** Trip to Little Thompson Observatory on 4/23/11: 14 coming.

Volunteer Records: Theron Hampton now coordinating the participation records for members doing public outreach. Public night crews need to start recording their names. Lisa Judd to work the quarterly prizes awarded for this.

DMNS Astro Day: K. Pool assembling solar observers & speakers to participate in this 5/7/11 event. DAS participation to be finalized by April E-Brd meet. DMNS will have a Yuri Night on 4/9/11 to celebrate manned exploration of space.

**Veep's Report:** Speakers have been arranged for April, May, June and August, others are in the works. April: Craig Betzina speaking on building a backyard observatory, May: Clark Chapman speaking on very recent results from Mercury spacecraft. June: Jack Harvey on remote observing, Aug: \_\_\_\_\_ on teaching tactile astronomy to blind and deaf students.

**Treas. Rpt:** The DAS budget has been sent to officers and board members as an e-mail attachment. Details of this were discussed in the meeting. A summary of the Club financial status was presented to the membership at the last General Meeting.

**Committees:** Van Natten - No report.

EGK Dark Sky Site: Orientation for new users is not well organized. A 10x10' building with a dome is being constructed for the Celestron instruments (s): the 14" is still being repaired by Celestron, so the 11" will be installed. Ted Cox is heading that effort. D. Dodge to talk to Ted re accepting some payment for his considerable effort, since the faltering economy has recently put him out of work.

Finance: No report.

Public Nights: Hugh Davidson is the new coordinator of the public night teams and is updating the list of team members and apprentices.

IT: Chadd not present. Dr. Stencel pointed out that a group in Sweden collects streaming videos of amateur astronomy events, and these may be exchanged via DSL line. Chadd is looking into this.

Public Outreach: DAS will support star parties at The Grange in Castle Rock on 4/25/11 and in August. Several scope operators and a speaker have been arranged for the former.

Loaner Scopes: Bill Ormsby reports that the 8" dob loaned was to Bruce Heath. The PST has been returned. A motion was made and passed to formally include the PST in the loaner program. Darrell Dodge has put pix of loaner instruments on the website.

Newsletter: Problems have occurred with getting last-minute changes into the Observer calendar section. Lisa Judd will start reviewing calendar info being sent to the editor.

### **Old Business:**

Funding for 20" Clark Maintenance: Dr. Stencel has suggested that DAS, in light of its long-time interest in the 20" Clark, might want to share the cost of upcoming work on the scope's mount on a 50/50 basis with DU. This would amount to \$12,800 for DAS. After a review of the DAS budget, a motion was made to allocate not more than that sum, to be paid in quarterly installments over one year contingent upon the completion of the work and its actual cost. A lesser cost would involve a correspondingly smaller DAS contribution. The installments, initially of \$3,200, would be sent by the Treasurer on 3/31, 6/31, 9/30 and 12/31 of 2011. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Frank Mancini will write an article about this for the Observer. It was decided that an increase in the scope-viewing fee to support this was unnecessary at this time.

EGKDSS Future: We have seven years left on the site lease, but certain circumstances, such as the sale of the land by the present owner, could short-circuit this arrangement. Question: is there a DSS money reserve to handle decommissioning of the site? No. It might cost around \$5k to decommission. Buying our own land would be an attractive option for the future.

C14 at the EGKDSS: Purchases needed for installing the Celestron(s), for a pier plate and a mount control. Ron Pearson to look into this.

DAS File Cabinets at Chamberlin: Dr. Stencel was concerned with the weight of several filing cabinets on the upstairs floor structure. Two facts were discussed: while the floor structure there is weak, having the records up there would be handy for DAS even though they are not often accessed. Dr. Stencel suggested that perhaps we could keep two cabinets upstairs and move two down to the basement.

### **New Business:**

Red lights for observatory steps: Jack E.: We need to remember to set up the red "snake lights" on the south steps for safer negotiation of same by the public. (This was done at the Open House of 4/9/11.)

FYI: Jeffco will not be able to continue funding their Outdoor Lab & observatory in the Mt. Evans foreground country, which costs them \$900k/yr.