

**DAS E-Board Minutes for
MARCH 9, 2012**

Officers and Board members present: Ron Pearson, Pres; Lisa Judd, VP; Dennis Cochran, Sec'y. Brad Gilman, Treasurer.

Board members: Jack Eastman, Joe Gafford, Chuck Habenicht, Tim Pimentel, David Shouldice, Dan Wray, Ron Hranac. Keith Pool.

Observatory Reps: Aaron Reid.

Others members & guests: Hugh Davidson (Public Nights), Darrell Dodge, (Membership & EGKDSS), Naomi Pequette, Chuck Carlson. Bill Ormsby absent.

Previous Minutes were read, amended and approved.

REPORTS:

Observatory. Aaron Reid: Daylight Savings Time is coming Sunday 3/11. Mr. Moyles (?) was to give his observatory key to Hugh D. The extra Sky & Telescopes in the Library were to be trashed if nobody takes them.

The 20" RA was to be adjusted next week or by the end of March by Dr Bob and Aaron. Aaron has spoken with Fred of the original repair crew. He also hopes to fix the light for the declination vernier.

President. Ron Pearson: The 41" height rule for children to look thru the 20" worked well at last Open House (OH). Frank Mancini reports that review of our \$1million insurance coverage suggests it is adequate.

The OH publicity in the "Your Hub" section in the Denver Post seems to have drawn in people. Stoking the Your Hub is an activity in our Job Jar.

DMNS: Would like more participation by the DAS in future events. Their Space Day will be 4/28 and coincides with our OH. We could provide solar scopes and talks. Cooperation on both the upcoming annular eclipse and the Venus transit. DMNS is a better place for viewing these solar events. Both events are scheduled on the same days as OHs. Another DMNS event we might support is the 8/5 landing of the NASA Mars Lander spacecraft.

"City Dark" movie: show at Colo Astro Day? It would cost \$100 to an IDA member.

Unfortunately there is already another group using Ricketson Auditorium that day.

Veep. Lisa Judd - Banquet: The anticipated cost of banquet food for 65 people from Taco Mojo was passed to the Board. It looks like we'll have about 75 people. Help in setting up is needed at 4pm that day.

Speakers: Sept. open. Job Jar (JJ): Lisa brought a draft JJ article for the April Observer. Ron Hranac will handle the Face Book Page so that was removed from the JJ list. David Shouldice suggested we maintain a generic line in the JJ asking for scope operator trainees.

Newsletter availability timing: A discussion of when the Observer should be available to members versus to the public took place, and a motion was made by Lisa to do away with the rule of keeping the Observer unavailable to the public via the webpage for a period of one month during which time it is available to members via Constant Contact. Deleting this rule will make the Observer available electronically to members and non-members alike. This motion was PASSED. Lisa to do member poll.

Secretary: No report, but see the last sentence before adjournment, below.

Treas: Brad Gilman passed out a sheet of fiscal information and spoke of fund amounts and checks sent. The club is listed with the IRS as a 501c3 organization. Darrell D: We have only 285 members now; about 85 have not renewed. This normal renewal-time phenomenon is larger this year. A discussion ensued of terminating the Oberver to non-re-ups, and of bank fees vs interest paid.

PayPal (internet payment method) account: like a bank account but higher interest.

DSS. Darrell Dodge: Passed out a DSS Committee Meeting (3/3/12) Report.

Public Nights. Hugh Davidson: Members of the Colorado Scientific Society and their families are coming to the April OH. Team Seven is alive and working.

Chuck Habenicht produced a draft certificate for the completion of scope operator training (discussed at the previous meeting), which was reviewed and discussed.

IT. The laptops need Windows 7. A discussion of Windows 7 vs XP vs Vista ensued.

Loaner Program. Bill Ormsby not present.

Outreach. Keith Pool: A March 2 event was cancelled. Cliff Simpson is working on a Grange event, details tbd.

Chuck Habenicht has the Outreach Awards from the Night Sky Network organization, and he will pass out pins and certificates to our outreach participants at the Banquet.

Nominating Committee: Frank Mancini will conduct the club election at the Banquet.

Van Natten. Committee membership discussed (needs participants.)

Old Business. See President's Report, above, for Space Day information.

New Business. There was a discussion of the storage of donated telescopes.

May E-Board Meeting: Ron will be away; Lisa will run it.

IDA: Kevin Bedard, a member involved in the movement to make the upcoming Staunton State Park (north of Shaffer Crossing) an official Dark Sky Site, reported that the park will be open on a limited basis this year. It will have a Visitor Center and yurts and cabins and a campground.

Aaron Reid says it will have full cutoff fixtures on the lights. There followed a discussion of who to talk to for help with park. Both Aaron and Lisa suggested names. Kevin's email address is river@indra.com.

Steele Elementary School Planetarium: A discussion ensued of the planned closing of the only planetarium in the Denver Public School system. The relevant public is up in arms over it; Dan Wray was knowledgeable about this. The Secretary has written a short letter to the DPS Board and will pass it to Ron Pearson for review.

Adjournment: was motioned and PASSED.