

DAS E-Board Minutes for OCTOBER 14, 2011

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

Board members: Jack Eastman, Joe Gafford, Chuck Habenicht, Tim Pimentel, Dave Shouldice, Ron Hranac.

Observatory Reps present: Dr. Stencel.

Others members & guests present: Hugh Davidson (Public Nights), Bill Ormsby, Ivan Geisler, Evan Anderson, Darwin Weber - operator trainee.

Regular attendees not present: Dan Wray, Keith Pool, Ron Mickle (Past Pres), Aaron Reid.

Previous Minutes were read, amended and approved.

REPORTS:

Observatory Report: Dr. Stencel thanked Dave Shouldice for his work on the 20". Meanwhile work is ongoing to adjust the RA to work more easily. Heat in the observatory will be turned on by D.U. maintenance. The DAS Calendar should be finalized; Cathy of S&S needs it for her planning. Kids on ladders in the dome: we need to keep up certifications for operators for legal (& other) reasons, and a steady stream of new trainees to keep the teams staffed.

Jack E: re-measured the force needed to move the 20" RA: 20 lbs. The Declination needs only 3-4 pounds.

President: We will use the Chamberlin Observatory address on our membership brochures.

Open House speakers: Cathy's How to Buy a Scope upcoming. Noise during talks is still a problem. It's hard to control the noise of kids coming in the south door. Tix sellers try to shush them, with mixed results. More noise comes from crowd around meteorite displays, and these will be cancelled when Cathy's talk is scheduled.

20" ladder: Do we have an age limit for climbing the ladder? NO. Little kids are followed by parents, very time-consuming. Some are even carried up ladder by parents! We need a clear rule.

Lisa J: and a notice on our web reservation form of whatever rule we adopt. Ladder control especially hard for Team 7 (Open Houses.) Ticket sellers could tell buyers what the rule is. There is a rule against two people on ladder at once.

Hugh D: Height could be the rule, or parental judgement.

Darrell D: Kids get scared, especially close to the edge of the platform. Discussion of height rule, decided 41" (average between boy & girl 6-year olds) was good. Several people mentioned how no one on the teams wants to throw a damper on the visitors' experience. The discussion ended in agreement on these rules: No carrying kids up the ladder. One person on ladder at a time. Height rule will be enforced at 41" (at Open house.) A tape strip will be placed on the vestibule wall (inside south door) and incoming kids will be measured against it. All kids that are too short will not be charged to see the telescope, and they will be encouraged to look thru scopes outside and whatever is set up on the balcony. The height rule will be enforced particularly at

Open House, while being only a guideline for Public Nights. These rules were offered as a Motion, which was PASSED. We will revisit this issue at a latter meeting, when we can judge how they are working.

Veep: Speakers January speaker will sell his books - that was deemed OK after discussion. But: one percent to DAS.

Xmas Party: Still looking at locations. Most want \$3-35/person. That is a bit much, being almost = to annual dues. Can we do mexiscan food? Yes. The Hacienda (next to VI) would be good, with some big rooms, and maybe La Fogata, which is a lot smaller. The date on our Calendar for this is 12/17.

Do we need to come out in the black on this? No.

Price at Hacienda, Fogata to be checked by Veep.

Sec'y: No report.

Treas: We had \$15k in checking, \$5k from a cashed CD was added for a total of \$20k. We made about \$350 on the auction.

Committees:

Dark Sky Site. Darrell D: Which fund to pay for needed Brooks Observatory work? DSS fund should pay for general equipment like Crayford focuser and eyepiece case. Specialized equipment like cameras should be donated. Darrell to talk to rest of DSS Committee. Darrell has an autoguider that would fit on the C-14's dovetail mount. Darrell proposed adding two (2) people to the DSS Committee, preefably frequent users of the site. This to be decided by the DSS Committee. Darrell is writing an easier (than Celestron's 100 pager) manual and checklist for the C-14.

Larry's family donated \$500 for the observatory. There is a \$600 overage on its construction cost, and a motion was made and PASSED to apply the \$500 donation to this. The DSS Committee may ask the E-Board for other items/money as needed.

Public Nights: Hugh D: we need to get the RA working smoothly before we start our (re)certifications.

Darwin W: He has found that he's getting a lot of people-shuffling experience but not much scope-operation training. A training session one hour before opening the scope at Open House would be a good time.

Lisa J: Feels the need for scope-pointing training. A list could be made from the operators' list-serve for what the trainees feel they need in training. Hugh could generate an email to operators to do this.

Loaner Program: Bill O: All three scopes are back in.

IT: Chadd Warwick not present. A phone is now available on the east wall of the ready room upstairs. (note: downstairs phone has been moved to the wall above the coffee machine.)

Newsletter: Patti moving this month. Ron P to do a (possibly abbreviated) newsletter. Darrell to send November Skies to Ron.

External Outreach: NSN stuff was popular, all taken at Open House, need more. People scarf up those DVDs.

Events: Smart Girls star party 10/14 covered by Dan Wray, others.

Nov. 13 our annual participation at The Fort needs 4 people/scopes. Four volunteers came forth at tonight's meeting.

Old Business: Dome Clocks: Tim P has wanted to work on clocks to replace the plywood-clad ones now in the Chamberlin dome. Need new clocks; there's one on Ebay. The two 24-hour clocks on the plywood board have had their hands diddled so much that they are now broken, but the sidereal clock works. Tim to talk to Dr. Stencil re plans for this. Ron H: La Crosse is a good company for clocks.

Astronomy Day: Went well. 250 people at Open House.

Brooks overage: Lisa J: The \$114 overage could be taken out of the \$350 we made from the auction, and the rest of the auction money to the Van Natten Fund. A motion to this effect was made and PASSED.

2012 Calendar: It needs Messier Marathon dates. Discussion: Darell D: 3/24 is the MM date, with no convenient backup date.

Partial Solar Eclipse and Venus Transit: Ron P: these afternoon events should be DAS special events and should be included on our event cards in the rack.

New Business: Frank Mancini to head up the Nominating Committee. Bill O and Ivan G volunteered to be on it.

Mirror grinding class? Evan Anderson wanted to know. Ron P: we need a class teacher/honcho. Stu burned out from last one.

Adjournment: was motioned and PASSED.