

**DAS E-Board Minutes for  
April 13, 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, Naomi Pequette, David Shouldice, Dan Wray, Chuck Carlson. Ron Hranac was absent.

**Observatory Reps:** Dr. Stencel.

**Others members & guests:** Hugh Davidson (Public Nights), Darrell Dodge, (Membership & EGKDSS), Amanda Perry (External Outreach). Bill Ormsby absent.

**Previous Minutes** were read and approved as is.

**REPORTS:**

**Observatory.** Dr. Stencel: Asked DAS to provide him the cover page of our insurance policy. He congratulated us on our child safety procedures and reminded us that the floor of the DAS office and ready room is shaky and can't take much weight, like a lot of filing cabinets.

Annular eclipse in May: he asked for solar scopes at Chamberlin at 6pm. (Four people in the group said they'd be there.) He and Ron Pearson are to test the 6" Grubb with focal reducer to see if its view can be shown on the monitors.

Venus transit in June: The Club has three people signed up to cover this at Chamberlin, others will be at DMNS.

Repairs to the 20": Dr. Bob talked to Fred Orthlieb and got several suggestions.

Staunton State Park: There will be meetings Saturday 4/14 & Monday 4/16 in Conifer. Dr. bob passed out info sheets with times, addresses.

Question: Does DAS want to support Staunton with scopes? The consensus was YES. (Two new members in that area are interested, as are Ron P and Lisa J.) Ron is going with Kevin Bedard to the Monday meeting.

**President.** Ron Pearson: Fran Ohmer scope: David S & Ron P examined the scope, an f8 16" dob. Possible use at Staunton? If we don't accept it as donation we could help Ohmer sell it. We'd need to test the mirror.

DMNS Space Day: We will support this Sat 4/28 with solar scopes, starting 10am; 10 people signed up. A table will be set up & manned (several people signed up) in Space Odyssey and NSN items & club literature will be given away.

Eclipse & Transit: see above. Five people signed up for DMNS. (The Barelans are covering every event we discussed.)

**Veep.** Lisa Judd: Still looking for Sept. speaker.

Job Jar: Norm Roslin to do commentary on dome floor. Amanda Perry also may do this. She will also take on preparation of the club roster from Darrell Dodge. No hits on the Your Hub publicity person. Lisa asked for other JJ positions. Darrell said that managing the membership database, working with the Treasurer, was a 1/8-time occupation and should be in the JJ. We are also looking for a person to manage showing of the IDA film City Dark. Discussion of volunteer participation prizes: we've tended to depend too much on S&S for these. **Secretary:** No report.

**Treas:** Brad not present. Darrell Dodge said he & Brad will open a DAS PayPal account which will allow online membership re-ups. This will save a lot of time & money now devoted to

mailing reminders. (Later DD reported that we have a new member who is the first person on this account.) Newcomers will be able to join via our web page. We are now at 326 members.

#### **New Business:**

External Outreach, new leader Amanda Perry. Darrell Dodge suggested she make a regional list of people that normally cover events in an area.

Student Outreach is non-existent. Ron Pearson said Amanda could start this if she wanted to. (Neil Pearson & \_\_\_\_\_ are making a 12" scope for student use.) 20 of our members are students.

Member Burt Watson made video spots of DAS activities; he was planning to be at meeting but didn't make it.

Astronomical League membership: Ron P felt that we shouldn't renew. Membership is 14% of our dues but we only get The Reflector out of it. The observing certificates activity continues without the Club's active participation. A MOTION was made by David Shouldice that we drop automatic membership in the AL and make it an option. Chuck Carlson seconded this. Darrell suggested we could create another category of club membership. The option would be a button on our join-up or re-up sections of the web page. The motion was DEFEATED. A 2nd MOTION was made to go ahead and pay the \$1500 for all-club membership to the AL. This was PASSED.

#### **Committee Reports:**

DSS. Darrell Dodge: Brooks Obs. Lighting OK. We are gaining how-to, for instance at the Messier Marathon. The experimental wind screen for observing pads worked well. They cost \$80 to make; we'll make two and further test them. People could buy them and keep them at home and store the poles in the warming hut. Darrell D & Ted Cox to do training procedures for the 14" scope. There were 23 people at the Marathon.

Ron P and Darrell D to set up meeting with owner of DSS property to see if we can re-up our lease. If so we could build a rolloff-roof facility.

**Public Nights:** Hugh Davidson: We will need teams for the transit but not the eclipse, since the 20" will not be used by the public for that. Hugh will email team members about this. Frank Mancini now part-time on Team 4.

**IT, Loan Program and Van Natten: Outreach:** see above.

**Newsletter:** Luis Uribe, new member, to do Observer for May & June while Patti is away.

**Old Business:** Eclipse glasses not in (Naomi P.)

Lisa J to run E-brd meet in May.

**Adjournment:** MOTION was made and PASSED to adjourn.