

Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of July 26, 2013 E-Board Meeting

Officers Present:

President	Ron Hranac
Vice President	Lisa Judd
Treasurer	Brad Gilman
Secretary	Dena McClung

Board Members Present:

Johnny Barela	Jack Eastman	Joe Gafford
Ron Pearson	Ed Scholes	Digby Kirby

Absent:

Chuck Habenicht, Scott Leach, Dan Wray

Observatory Representative:

Aaron Reid

Other Members and Guests:

Hugh Davidson, Volunteer Coordinator	Darrell Dodge, Webmaster	
Dennis Cochran	Jeff Tropeano	Eileen Barela

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 7:35 p.m.

The Previous Meeting's Minutes were read, amended and approved.

Chamberlin Business: Ron Hranac explained that there existed some confusion about Dr. Stencel's request that Open House fees be increased from \$1 to \$2, as no motions had been made or passed in regard to the issue at the June meeting. He had queried Dr. Stencel, who had clarified that he intended for the new fee to go into effect in August. He also requested that the DAS website and new flyers reflect the price increase. It was agreed that this change be accepted without the requirement of a motion, that it only will apply to persons who are over 41" tall, and that visitors who had the old information would be admitted for \$1 but advised of the change. A **motion** was made, but tabled, to not charge any fee on nights when the telescope will not be able to be used.

Electrical repairs have been made to the telescope to ensure that no one else feels any discharge of current while removing or installing the lens cover, due to worn insulation allowing a live wire to come into contact with the pier. New wiring has been correctly installed, and tests showed that no current was being transmitted to the pier.

On a related matter, however, the polarity of the dome control has been reversed.

Treasurer's Report: Brad supplied copies of the latest financial information to those in attendance. The General Fund balance is \$31,406, the DSS balance is \$4,195, the Van Nattan-Hansen balance is \$70,276, and the total of all funds is \$105,910.

Brad has never received a response from attorney Covell. Another attorney, Lewis, offers a discount of 25% for non-profit organizations, and estimated that his fee would be approximately \$450 to consult on the DAS terms of service for online public night purchases and the club's privacy statement. A **motion was made and passed** authorizing Brad to spend funds for that purpose.

Brad expressed a need to upgrade his Quickbooks software, which would cost approximately \$300 retail. Ron Hranac asked Brad to research the issue to ensure that it would meet his needs, and to ascertain a definite cost.

Committee Reports

Dark Sky Site: Darrell reported that he had placed a safety notice on the website regarding emergencies at the dark sky site. He noted that the site had been left unlocked by a member who left hastily after seeing a rattlesnake. A first aid kit has been left at the site, and after a metal box is purchased, it will be affixed to the wall. Ron Hranac expressed his desire to have emergency instructions posted on site. Digby explained that he had done some investigating, and that emergency personnel responding to the site were likely to be delayed for a variety of reasons. He agreed to research the current definitive evidence-based EMT protocols for snake bites and report back. Jack suggested that members be urged to use the buddy system as well as common sense when observing at the site, and that the club investigate the possibility of having a 911-only landline or cell phone with charger installed. The possibility of a wireless node was also raised. Those who have Verizon or AT&T report that they receive good service at the DSS.

New member Steffanie Peterson made a request to take a large number of students to the DSS for observing, and was referred to Darrell.

Van Nattan-Hansen Scholarship: There was nothing new to report.

Public Night Teams: All concerned have agreed on a new format for the public night collection envelopes. Ted Cox has moved from Team One to Team Six; Patricia Keeler has moved from Team Four to Team Six. The ad for new public night volunteers will be in the August edition of The Observer. Aaron and Ron Hranac both agreed to approach Dr. Stencil about installing a chain on the gantry to prevent visitors from climbing it when not in use.

IT: Internet access is up and running and a cooler pad for the dome laptop was discussed. It was recently discovered that a heating pad for the laptop, intended for winter use, had been left on. A wifi extender is needed to enable members on the lawn to have access.

Social Media: Member Jeff Tropeano agreed to do some exploratory research into a variety of social media tools and to work with an informal group of board members to determine how best to reach young adults. A small group of members is working on ideas for YouTube videos about the DAS and Chamberlin.

Loaner Scope Program: Dena returned the Dobsonian she had borrowed, along with the new Telrad donated by S&S Optika; Jeff is the only member who currently has a loaner scope in his possession, also a Dob.

Newsletter: A new column slated to appear in the September issue will be a member profile written by Dena. Jeff Tropeano will be featured in that issue. Jack reported that he was able to review the article which he had written in advance. The August issue is due out on time.

Outreach: The Roundup Fellowship Fundraiser has agreed to pay our standard fee for providing volunteers to their event. Ed, Jeff and Ron Pearson agreed to volunteer, preferably using moon filters due to the close proximity of the full moon to the event. The Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado event, set for August 1 (with backup dates of the 2nd and 3rd) will be at no charge. Four or five members are taking telescopes there.

New Member Packets: Eileen reported that the paper version of the packet would cost about \$7.50 per copy to produce, and that those copies would only go to people who request them. Bruce Heath has offered to make and send an electronic version of the packet but needs direction from the board. Eileen agreed to contact Bruce and report back on this issue at the next meeting. It was agreed that DAS needs to send an automatic welcome email to all new members. Darrell will look into how that can be done.

Job Jar: No one has stepped forward to take any of the positions. Luis Uribe is considering the Outreach Coordinator position, but needs to see if he can fit it into his schedule.

DAS Brochures: Lisa and Digby have sent feedback on them to Darrell. It was suggested that a QR (Quick Response matrix barcode) be placed on the brochures to allow smart phone users to link directly to the DAS website.

Storage: No update.

2017 ALCON: A planning meeting has been set for August 17, 2013 at the convention property in Casper. The room rate for this meeting is \$70 per night. Ron Hranac is checking his work schedule to see if he can attend, and asked board members to advise within a few days if they can attend.

New Business

Auction: The annual auction will take place in lieu of the October meeting. The board needs to ask Ivan and Dan if they will once again coordinate and put on the auction. Dena offered to assist. David Shouldice has been working with the families of Norm Rosling and Bill Ormsby to help them sell their equipment.

Calendar: Joe Gafford presented a preliminary 2014 DAS calendar for the board's review. He asked board members to provide input on resolving scheduling conflicts and setting times for winter Public Nights, and to send him their requests and comments as soon as possible.

AED: Some members have expressed interest in having an AED (automated external defibrillator) installed at Chamberlin. Ron Hranac agreed to ask Dr. Stencil about getting one, as this would be DU equipment on DU property. In addition to the cost, DU would need to be responsible for the monthly maintenance and software updates.

The **next e-board meeting** is scheduled for Friday August 30, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and passed.