

**Denver Astronomical Society**  
**Minutes of March 21, 2014 E-Board Meeting**

**Officers Present:**

President - Ron Hranac                      Vice President - Lisa Judd  
Secretary - Dena McClung                Treasurer - Luis Uribe

**Board Members Present:**

Joe Gafford                      Digby Kirby                      Ed Scholes  
Sorin                      Jeff Tropeano                      Dan Wray                      Ron Pearson

**Absent:**            Jack Eastman            Chuck Habenicht

**Observatory Representatives:**

Dr. Robert Stencel            Aaron Reid

**Other Members and Guests:**

Hugh Davidson, Volunteer Coordinator                      Darrell Dodge, Website Administrator  
Naomi Pequette, Outreach Coordinator                      Brad Gilman                      Johnny & Eileen Barela

**The meeting was called to order** with a quorum present at 7:32 p.m.

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

**Chamberlin Business:** The telescope operator annual recertification session will take place on Saturday May 17 at 1:00 p.m. Attendance is required for all current operators and apprentices. Two roof leaks have been repaired. A discussion was held about finding a way to increase the in-focus travel on the 20". Digby agreed to investigate the cost of a new JMI focuser.

**Treasurer's Report:** Luis has received everything needed to change the signature cards over at First Bank and the credit union except for possibly a copy of the DAS meeting minutes. Balances are as follows: General Fund - \$24,057.01; Time CDs - \$5,172.38; CD - \$10,522.65; Van Nattan-Hansen Fund - \$19,819.19; VNH Principal Investment - \$64,829.63. Luis agreed to accept invoice/receipt originals, copies, and jpg attachments sent online for bills and reimbursements.

**Van Nattan-Hansen Scholarship Fund:** There was no report. Tim Pimentel has agreed to send a report via email to Ron Hranac, who will in turn post it to the e-board listserv. Dr. Stencel volunteered to serve on the VNH committee. It was determined that the board needs a recommendation from the committee on whether to comply with the by-laws by filling out the vacant seats on it, or change the by-laws to have fewer members on it. Ron will ask Tim to discuss this with the committee, and to look into posting the VNH on Scholarships.com. Ads regarding the scholarship have gone out to the FRAC list.

**Dark Sky Site Lease Renewal:** In a meeting with DAS representatives, landowner Henry Weisensee indicated that he is not interested in selling the property to the DAS, but that he would be willing to extend the existing lease (which expires in three years) another five years, and in additional five-year increments. He requested that we draw up the paperwork within the next few months, and that we agree to a rent increase of \$50 per year. The existing lease needs to be used as a template for creating the new lease agreement.

**DU Endowment Support Request:** When asked, Dr. Stencel stated that interest from the proposed endowment (\$50,000 minimum) would go toward paying the salary of staff personnel who maintain Chamberlin. It was noted that DAS needs assurance in writing to prevent a recurrence of the trouble caused the last time the DAS raised funds on behalf of Chamberlin. Dr. Stencel agreed to check with the endowment office and ascertain if any legal advice regarding a fund-raising effort can be obtained.

**SWOT Analysis/Member Survey:** Jeff reported that the draft survey is ready to go and is in board members' in-boxes. He asked board members to review it and provide feedback no later than March 28. He is working with Darrell to send it out once the review process is complete.

**Finance Committee Charter & Third Member:** Brad and Digby have volunteered to serve on the committee; a third member is needed. A message will be put out to the listserv asking for volunteers, and it will be placed in the Job Jar as well. The description was expanded to read, "Provide guidance, oversight, and support." Ron Hranac directed that the committee make recommendations for a contingency fund. He agreed to write a one-paragraph charter for the committee.

**Banquet Speaker/Presentation:** The consensus of the board was that the presentation made at the Spring Banquet will not be posted online, and that no further action in regard to it will be taken.

**Missing Property:** Items noted as missing include two pairs of binoculars, some software, a laptop, a banner and the large DAS logo. Jeff recommended that the keys to the equipment cabinets be locked in the file cabinet drawer that contains the DAS cash boxes; and that a line be added to the PN envelopes for volunteers to verify that all equipment was returned to the cabinets at the end of every PN, that the cabinets were locked, and that the cabinet keys were returned to the locked file cabinet drawer. He further recommended that the padlock on the file cabinet drawer be changed, and that keys be signed out to volunteers on a list to be created by Hugh and Ed. It was agreed that each key will be stamped with a unique number; that keys will be signed out by number to each volunteer, and signed back in upon surrender (as opposed to just handing the key to another volunteer). Everything in the equipment cabinet is DAS property. Ed agreed to look into using a new set of unique asset tags. Aaron will ask Dr. Hoffman if she has any leads on missing property. Money from the Public Night fund will be used to replace the missing binoculars.

**120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** DAS brochures have been ordered to be used at Anomaly Con and Star Fest. A promotional piece is being put together specifically for the anniversary event. Sorin, Jeff and Naomi were photographed by member Zach Singer, and the prototype photos were passed around; they will be used at Anomaly Con and in preparation for the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration photo shoot. Activities may include workshops, a raffle, an auction, a scavenger hunt, activities for families and children, and a costume contest, in addition to photos with the telescope. Luis agreed to investigate state requirements regarding non-profit raffles. A discussion regarding the annual picnic will be conducted online. A city permit may be needed. The committee is due to meet with Dr. Stencel on April 2 and permission for each specific activity will be addressed.

**Next Meeting:** The next e-board meeting will be held on Friday April 18 at 7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made and passed at 10:00 p.m.

Online Updates  
Received prior to March 2014 E-board meeting

Topic: Summer Picnic

Reported by: Lisa Judd

Status: In reading last month's minutes, it seemed that there might be a large celebration for July's Open House to commemorate anniversaries, and I wonder if trying to stuff a picnic in there might be a problem for that. Would we like to move the picnic to another date or place, perhaps up in the mountains?

E-board action: brainstorming and recommendations; let me know if I understand it right

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Topic: Speakers booked

Reported by: Lisa Judd

Status:

April: Dr. Jack Spencer (SWRI) on New Horizons

May: Dr. Frank Eparvier (CU) on Space Weather

June: Daniel Bisque (Software Bisque) on their new facility in Golden

July: Mike Carroll on science writing and tourism among the Galilean satellites

August: Mike Roos (LAS) on photographic Messier Marathon

September: open

(remember, no need to book October, November or December)

E-board action: no action required

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Topic: Job Jar

Reported by: Lisa Judd

Status: want to print the ad for OH merchandise table, and add one for VP mentorship

E-board action: anything else we want to throw in there?

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Topic: Missing Items/Items on Loan

Reported by: Ed Scholes

Status: Binoculars are still missing. Aaron has found the building left open, so I think we have to think of the building as never secure. My thought is that we put the cabinet keys in a place that is still convenient but not obvious. Let me know if you have any ideas regarding the keys. No loaners are officially checked out at this time.

E-board action: Discuss?

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Topic: New Member Greeting

Reported by: Digby Kirby

Status: Dena has thus far forwarded several dozen names of new members. I have directly contacted about half and left voice mails for the others who didn't answer except for a few new names just received. I am following up those who didn't answer with a second call. I have emphasized that this is a welcome/thank you call, not a solicitation of any kind and ask if the new member has a scope and ask if there are any questions I can answer. Reception has been generally good and when people have wanted to chat, I've talked up the website, open houses, general meetings and the dark site.

E-board action: None required, however any feedback or suggestions are always welcome.

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Topic: Chamberlin 120th Anniversary Event Planning

Reported by: Sorin

Status: We (Jeff, Naomi, Dena and I) have been working on some ideas for the Chamberlin 120th Anniversary on July 19th and would like to get the Board's feedback at the meeting. Our hope is to make this a large outreach event with proceeds potentially going towards establishing the Chamberlin endowment that Dr. Bob has asked for a contribution to.

The proposal is to create an event with a festival like atmosphere, and taking a bit of inspiration from the Cosmos series. We should have people in costume. Galileo, Copernicus, Carl Sagan, Einstein, Herschel, etc. And to lend a lighter atmosphere, maybe a Doctor Who or two, and a few Star Fleet officers. Hopefully we could attract a steampunk contingent (likely), and we could invite the 501st Storm Troopers Mountain Garrison. We think it would be a lot of fun to have club members dress up as scientists and astronomers, or even science fiction characters to conduct mini workshops and activities for adults and children alike, of course being mindful to clarify the differences between science fiction and science fact. The costumed/convention atmosphere would make the event much more approachable than a typical open house. We could also do a costume contest with the prize of a telescope or gift card to S&S.

A central attraction would be having a professional photo taken with the Chamberlin telescope, with the picture tinted to lend a historical/steampunk appearance. People could be in costume or not, possibly with some costume items provided, for a cost of \$5-10 with the photo emailed to them.

Other attractions for consideration include various workshops, solar viewing, live music, a scavenger hunt (to learn about the history of Chamberlin, or of astronomy overall), and a raffle or silent auction. There could be a suggested donation of \$5-10 for attendees.

E-Board action: Feedback on the activities and atmosphere proposed for the event. Feedback on flyer.

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Topic: External Outreach Events

Reported by: Naomi

Status:

March:

--Valley Country Club: Sat March 23rd (rescheduled)

--Anomaly Con: March 28 – 30: (Sorin organizing). We have 6 volunteers for this event (including Sorin) to work at a DAS table. Sorin will be giving an astronomy presentation on Saturday. There will also be stargazing Saturday night (weather permitting)

April:

--Compass Montessori: April 11th: Luis organizing

--Majestic View: April 24th: Luis organizing

May:

--Starfest: May 2nd – 4th: We will have a table for the club on Saturday and Sunday as well as possible stargazing Saturday night, and Sorin will be giving the same presentation as at Anomoly Con. 6 volunteers so far, with a couple other members talking about possibly helping. Volunteers do need to pay for a ticket to the convention, however.

--East High School: Sometime between May 5th to the 15th: They are requesting us to set up telescopes for their astronomy class to view through (60 students). Also possible lecture? Requested a night Mon - Thursday

--Dinosaur Ridge: May 11th: They will provide us with a 6' table, 10'x10' canopy, and lunch for the volunteers. This is their open house event. Last year, they had about 1800 visitors! Setup would begin at 8am, and the event is from 9am – 3pm.

Other possible Opportunities:

--International Baccalaureate School in Bear Valley would like to have a stargazing event at the end of April. I have called the contact, who left a message with Aaron, but haven't received a call back.

--Cub Scout Event: Message was left at Chamberlin Observatory. I called the number provided to Ron #3 by Dr. Bob, but haven't received a call back.

I am planning to send out a call for volunteers for the May events here soon.

E-board Action: no action required