

Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of May 31, 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	Chuck Habenicht
Digby Kirby	Scott Leach	Ed Scholes	Dan Wray

Absent:

Ron Pearson, Past President

Observatory Representative:

Aaron Reid

Other Members and Guests:

Darrell Dodge, Webmaster
Hugh Davidson, Volunteer Coordinator
Eileen Barela

Meeting was called to order with a quorum present.

Previous Meeting's Minutes were read and approved.

Chamberlin Business: Aaron reported that construction of DU's new engineering building (which will be erected on the site of the parking lot adjacent to Olin Hall) will affect DAS' general membership meetings beginning in 2014. The replacement parking area will be located somewhere to the south of the current one.

Permission has been granted to replace the faded image of the Greenwich Observatory (displayed in the Transit Room). Joe Gafford reported that it would cost roughly \$52 plus postage to acquire a new one. **A motion to approve the expenditure was made, seconded and passed.**

Aaron reported that he is working with DU's maintenance personnel to correct the runaway heat issue in the upstairs office.

Aaron advised the board that former member Rob Tamblin may visit Chamberlin but shall not be entrusted with any keys nor be permitted to operate the telescope.

Aaron has agreed to investigate a "clack" being heard approximately every 17 seconds in the clock drive.

Treasurer's Report: Brad was unable to distribute copies of his report due to a lack of paper in the upstairs copier.

He reported that he has received a copy of the club's new insurance policy and needs someone to review it. Upon request, he agreed to supply a copy of the policy's cover sheet to Dr. Stencil.

Scott agreed to look into the issue of Public Night registration forms being presented that show "zero due." He stated that if DAS upgrades (for \$20 more/month) to a higher package, he could customize the printing options and possibly add a box to the forms that states something to the effect of "All payments are due at the door." A **motion** was made to that effect. However, Scott stated that the software company will likely grant him a free 30-day trial period during which he could experiment with the options. The motion was **tabled** until the next meeting.

Brad agreed to ask attorney Cynthia Covell what her legal fees would be to create a “terms of service” agreement for DAS to use in conjunction with online payments for Public Nights.

Upon being advised that DAS is in arrears for the first quarter payment to DU, Brad agreed to remit payment.

Committee Reports

Dark Sky Site: Darrell reported that David Delassus will be mowing at the DSS. Darrell is expecting damage reports following a storm that produced 1” hail in recent days. The oil well on property adjacent to the DSS is pumping oil slowly and is unlit and quiet. Approximately \$1100 is available to be spent on improvements at the DSS. The floor of the Brooks Observatory installed by Dan is keeping mice out but dust is blowing in under the dome, coating the equipment. More trainees are needed in addition to the three already recruited. Darrell would like to host groups for star parties at Brooks.

Dan has installed electrical boxes to the table in the observatory and will be replacing the current bright yellow extension cord which runs across the floor to the pedestal with hard wiring. It will be at least 18” below ground in accordance with code. He expects to have no issues with permits or inspection. The pads have GFCIs. Ron urged Dan to incorporate both all-site and point-of-use surge suppression systems to minimize risks from lightning strikes and line voltage fluctuations. The cost, prior to surge suppression, is estimated to be \$20 and will come from DSS funds.

Public Night Teams: Hugh reports that Scott will be taking the position of Team Lead on Team One. A discussion arose about Team Five needing a new member; David Shouldice will be remaining on that team. Other members joining Team Four are Sarah Borenstein, Patricia Keeler, Jennifer Kobilan and Jeff Kieft. Hugh circulated a suggestion for a newsletter ad seeking more Public Night volunteers. He will approach Patti Kurtz with the idea of placing an ad in the DAS newsletter.

IT: Century Link's internet access will be turned on this evening.

Loaner Scope Program: The only telescope currently on loan is signed out to Dena. Brad reported that he had attempted to return a deposit to another member but it was returned due to bad address. Dan agreed to call Chuck Carlson (who has been in charge of that program) to check on him, due to his recent decline in health, and report back.

Newsletter: The June issue is out, and those responsible will attempt to keep it coming on schedule.

Outreach: After providing some information to the Valley Country Club in Centennial regarding a request, we have not heard back from them.

Ron is the point of contact with the Roundup Fellowship Fundraiser, scheduled for 150 people on September 19 at the Wellshire Event Center. This organization provides services to the disabled, therefore the board needs to look up the club's standard fee for a non-profit and advise them. It was also suggested that we ask them what limitations our people will need to know about in order to accommodate their guests.

Old Business

SWOT Analysis: Ron requested that each member of the e-board choose 5 items from each quadrant of the SWOT matrix as their highest priorities. Lists are to be provided to Dena no later than June 21.

DAS brochures: Both Chamberlin and S&S Optika are out or nearly out of them. **A motion was made and passed** to approve payment for the next round of printing pending review by the e-board. The deadline for suggestions to change the content is one week after Darrell uploads the PDF of the

current form to the Yahoo Group.

New Member Packets: Eileen showed a sample of the new member packet to the board. Contents include: Astronomy 101, a copy of The Observer, an S&S Optika flyer, an Open House Schedule, a Planisphere, a DAS business card, our Mission Statement, Venue Information, a DAS Member Directory, a list of Committees and Representatives, DAS' By-Laws, and a copy of Astronomy Magazine. Bruce Heath is sending an online version to new members, and Eileen said that some are content with that while others want the physical package. She will prepare an estimate of the package cost for the next meeting.

New Business

2017 ALCon: The Astronomical League's 2017 Convention will be held at the Parkway Hotel and Convention Center in Casper, WY immediately prior to the total solar eclipse (August 21, 2017). It will be hosted by the Salt Lake City Astronomical Society. The board reached consensus that DAS should pursue the opportunity to assist. Aaron has already offered to help them. Darrell volunteered to contact the SLCAS to ask how the DAS can get involved.

AL Dues and Election: Darrell agreed to ensure that DAS' dues are paid to the AL by the June 30 deadline. Dues are \$10 for the club and \$5 per DAS member. Lisa agreed to check out the candidates for the election.

Missing Items: The sign in question has been returned but other items are still missing (the LCD projector, for example). The need for secure storage was raised, and Ron asked board members to think about storage options, such as possibly removing one desk from Chamberlin's upstairs office, and bring those ideas to the next meeting. Dr. Stencil is concerned about placing too much weight on the floor in that room.

Picnic: DAS' annual picnic is scheduled for July 13 at 4:00 p.m. at Chamberlin. The main course will be barbecued meat provided by KT's Real Good BBQ. The remainder of the food will be potluck dishes brought by members. Lisa will purchase beverages. Three tents or gazebos are needed for shelter in the event of rain. Lisa agreed to put a request for shelters on the general Yahoo listserve. Coolers are also needed. There will be no storage, cooking or refrigeration on site. It was agreed that discussion for next year's picnic needs to begin much earlier. The subject of having tables for dining was raised, and the possibility of moving the picnic to another venue in the future as well.

Deferred Items

The issues of selecting **Inventory Quartermasters** and discussing **Family Memberships** were deferred to the next meeting.

Miscellaneous

It was noted that Ron Hranac, Brad and Darwin will not be in attendance at the June Open House.

The next e-board meeting will be held on **Friday, June 28.**

Adjournment: was moved and passed.