

**Denver Astronomical Society**  
**Minutes of September 27, 2013 E-Board Meeting**

**Officers Present:**

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

**Board Members Present:**

Johnny Barela	Dan Wray
Ed Scholes	Digby Kirby
Ron Pearson, Immediate Past President	

**Absent:**

Jack Eastman	Joe Gafford	Chuck Habenicht	Scott Leach
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**Observatory Representative:**

Aaron Reid

**Other Members and Guests:**

Darrell Dodge	Hugh Davidson	Jeff Tropeano	Eileen Barela
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**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:** Aaron reported that the observatory's heating system is being tested, the malfunctioning door lock is to be repaired, and the basement is being aired out due to negligible water damage from the recent rains. He advised the board of a request for scopes and volunteers from the Littleton Public Library on October 4, but also that Cathie Havens plans to attend that event. The power outlet for the wifi extender has been installed and the first aid kit has been replaced. Dr. Stencel is still pursuing the installation of an AED with DU's Risk Management department, however he has been getting a bit of push-back due to their liability concerns. It was pointed out that Colorado has Good Samaritan laws that reduce liability for citizens who render aid. If one is installed, keyholders will be required to complete a certification training. Dr. Stencel has also requested that wording in the Terms of Use document be changed from "site" to "website." The laptop heater pad is in Dr. Stencel's custody and will be released upon the onset of cold weather. In regard to DAS' new storage cabinets, Dr. Stencel has requested some space in them and the combination or key for the locks. The Open House fees were reiterated: \$2 per person, \$5 per family, and \$1 per person when the 20" cannot be used.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brad reported that the C8 scope has been removed from DAS' inventory. The attorney's fee of \$450 has been paid. Total of all monetary accounts is \$105,699 (breakdown available). Brad made the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy available for members to read, and noted the slight amendment to be made (see above). He reported that Quickbooks Accountant 2014 (which is an upgrade to the current software) is available for \$400. A **motion was made, seconded and passed** to approve purchase of that software.

## Committee Reports

**Dark Sky Site:** Darrell reported that exterminator Major Boddicker applied a mixture of diesel and gasoline in selected spots to repel snakes, completing the treatment of the DSS. Major recommended installing a mesh skirting around the base of the buildings, extending below ground level, to prevent the snakes from returning. Darrell reported that an Eagle Scout Troop (led by Brad Hitch) plans to complete that project between the 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of November. Darrell will be doing maintenance very soon and will advise when he has reopened the site, possibly early next week. A written report from Major Boddicker is in the works. He recommended the use of rodent traps to eliminate the snakes' food source. He noted that coyotes have gotten scarce in the area, resulting in a larger food supply for the snakes.

**Van Nattan-Hansen Scholarship:** No changes to report.

**Public Night Teams:** The roster for Team #4 is improving. Rich Loper has returned as an operator and will be training Jeff Kieft, Jeff Tropeano and Ken Sturrock. Lisa is the Team Lead. Hugh set the official Public Night start time for October 1, 2013 through March 6, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. A question was raised about the start time for the period March 7 through April 29; Hugh will make a determination. The start time for April 29, 2014 through September 30, 2014 will be 8:30 p.m. The PN reservation system was set up to accept reservations for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Years' Eve. Those dates will be canceled. Also, the incorrect start times listed on the reservation system are being corrected. People who have reservations will need to be contacted and advised of the start time change. Lisa asked Hugh to notify volunteers of the possibility of guests arriving an hour late.

**IT:** There is no update on the video project. The laptop chiller and wifi repeater have arrived and been tested. The repeater will not be left up between Open Houses. Security cables have been purchased for the library laptop and the laptop in the upstairs storage room.

**Social Media:** Jeff reported that he'll need to set up a time for the folks at Yelp to contact him while he is at Chamberlin to validate the DAS account. The Facebook "likes" are up significantly, and are high in the age 25-34 demographic. Meteorite Man Geoff Notkin follows @denverastro on Twitter and has offered to speak next time he's in Denver. Lovely Denver, a local advertising and activity recommendation service, follows @denverastro and is recommending us. Our August Open House photos have been shared with followers of the Online Astronomy Society (@OASoc). This week, 37,868 people on Facebook saw a DAS post on their newsfeed. A recommendation was accepted to add Jeff as DAS' official Social Media representative and to add him to the DAS e-board listserve. He is to be sent the names of new members.

**Loaner Scope Program:** The PST has been returned temporarily for use during Colorado Astronomy Day on September 29 at the DMNS. Jeff Tropeano and Russell Quan still have loaner Dobs. Ed reported that he will be creating a form for members to use when applying to borrow telescopes.

**Newsletter:** Patti has been aggressively doing pre-publication reviews.

**Outreach:** The Roundup Fellowship Fundraiser, at which guests viewed the moon, was brought to an abrupt and premature halt when the lawn sprinklers (controlled by the City of Denver) came on. With 150 guests and five volunteers, Ron gave RFF a rain/sprinkler check to enable them to reschedule. Lisa mentioned that we need to discuss a collection policy with Luis, and get an outreach update. Ron Pearson agreed to contact Luis. An event at Golden Montessori is scheduled for October 11.

## Old Business

**Colorado Astronomy Day:** Nine people have volunteered for the September 29 event at DMNS. Their Dave Cuomo and Ron Hranac are in touch about the details. Ron instructed volunteers to use 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to access the area via the fire lane. Indoor volunteers are to set up by 9:00 a.m., and outside folks by 11:00 a.m. The new tri-fold brochures have arrived and will be available for distribution. A sign is needed for the DMNS event. It was noted that the DAS schedules need to have the website address and fees corrected on them. As for October 12, the only event at Chamberlin will be the monthly Open House. October 12 is also International Observe The Moon night. It was suggested that the board begin thinking now about having a 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Chamberlin; 2014 is also DU's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Job Jar:** Hugh will review what is needed for the November Observer. A backup treasurer will not be used. Chatfield State Park has requested an astronomy volunteer. It was agreed that the volunteer request would be put on the listserve, but not in the job jar. Lisa continues to work on speakers for upcoming meetings, although she has speakers through the end of the year. Ron Hranac agreed to move his meteorite display during the next Open House to see if that facilitates a better traffic flow.

**Storage:** Transportation is needed to pick up and bring the new cabinets to Chamberlin.

**Auction:** On October 19, set up will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the auction will begin at 1:00 p.m. Ed agreed to help since Dena will be out of town. Board members discussed putting the Meade 127 ED/APO (currently in storage at Chuck's house) and the 6" SCT (in storage at Ron Pearson's) in the auction.

**Christmas Party:** Lisa reported that Maribel at Embassy Suites needs a \$250 deposit and a commitment by October 4 (but Lisa will be out of town past that date) unless an extension can be arranged. Postponement or cancellation would cost the club \$840. DAS and Lisa are both on the contract. The cost to members may be as low as \$17 per person; \$1200 is the minimum charge for the entire group. DAS can bring our own audio/visual equipment, rather than renting theirs. The date of the party is December 14. A firm head count is needed four weeks in advance. A **motion was made, seconded and passed** to commit with Embassy Suites. It was agreed that a discussion regarding what to do in case of cancellation is to be tabled until the next meeting.

**2017 Astrocon:** A discussion regarding the DAS handling vendor requests and payments resulted in a concern arising about possible legal issues. Ron Hranac agreed to consult our attorney before we decide how to proceed. It was recommended that a committee be formed to address the DAS' involvement, and that Lisa lead that committee.

## New Business

**Welcome Letters:** Darrell agreed to research automated electronic welcome letters for new members, and will report back next month.

**2014 Budget:** Ron Hranac announced that he will require the board to have a budget, and that income and expenses will be tracked, based on current transactions. A **motion was made, seconded and passed** to establish a budget by the end of 2013 for 2014.

**Change of Election Date and By-Laws:** Ron Pearson expressed a desire to move the nominations and election date for 2014 because of the possibility of inclement weather. The board's consensus was to not make a change at this time.

**Website Suggestion:** It was suggested that an "in memorium" section be created on the DAS website.

**Next Meeting:** The next e-board meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m.

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