

**Denver Astronomical Society**  
**Minutes of August 15, 2014 E-Board Meeting**

**Officers Present:** President - Ron Hranac Vice President - Stuart Hutchins Secretary - Dena McClung

**Board Members Present:**

Jack Eastman Joe Gafford Chuck Habenicht Ed Scholes Sorin Dan Wray Ron Pearson

**Absent:** Treasurer Luis Uribe Digby Kirby Jeff Tropeano

**Observatory Representative:** Dr. Robert Stencel

**Other Members and Guests:**

Dennis Cochran Johnny and Eileen Barela Brad Gilman Ron Mickle Tricia Smedley Joe Palaia

**The meeting was called to order** with a quorum present at 7:30 p.m.

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

**DU's Historic Chamberlin Observatory Business:** Dr. Stencel mentioned that he's had reports of the 20" RA control not locking, and that he was testing it during the meeting. A gentleman named Ray Riddick is building a Springfield equatorial mount but cannot finish it; he's looking for someone to take over the project. Dr. Stencel announced that a CDOT meeting will take place on August 28 to take comment on the impact of the annoyingly bright LED billboards that are cropping up around the Denver area. He also requested that members donate their old issues of *Sky and Telescope* to him for giving away, and asked that someone bring ones from S&S Optika to Chamberlin for him.

Ron Hranac reported that the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of DU's historic Chamberlin Observatory was well-attended, with plenty of people listening to the indoor presentations and participating in the outdoor demonstrations. Approximately 100 people had their photographs taken with the 20" and nearly \$300 was collected. There was no media coverage. Three hundred and nine people attended the Open House that evening.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was received via email (and is included in the attached updates). Brad reported that he's working on a computer model to play with the budget numbers.

**New Business**

The regular order of business was suspended to accommodate a presentation by DAS member Tricia Smedley, who is launching a Kickstarter project entitled "Denver Kids Need Space." She plans to have star parties for youngsters who are being treated at Childrens Hospital.

**Old Business**

**DAS Picnic Recap:** With 35 people (about half the normal picnic attendance), the turnout was disappointing. After some discussion, it was suggested that another member survey be done to determine why turnout was so low.

**Office Equipment Recommendations:** Ron Hranac presented the suggestions that Jeff had made, followed by a brief discussion. Ron suggested that the e-board go with the Fellowes shredder and the Brother All-In-One machine. **A motion was made and passed approving the expenditure.**

**DAS Merchandise Sales:** After an inventory was completed by Jennifer Roberts and Eileen, Jennifer sold mugs and pins at the most recent Open House, netting a total of \$14. Jack recommended that DU put up copies of the book, *Denver's Great Telescope* for sale as well.

**Google Drive Usage:** The discussion of this issue was deferred to a later meeting.

**Public Night Issues:** The issues of using Paypal for online payment of public night fees and when to increase the fees was deferred due to the absence of Hugh Davidson, who is out of the state.

**Dark Sky Site Lease Renewal:** Darrell is preparing to take a new lease agreement to the landowner.

**New Member Letter:** The new member letter is in Ron Hranac's hands for final editing. It was requested that the board be informed as to when and how it will go out to new members. Stuart presented some examples of suggestions for DAS letterhead, on which the New Member letter will be either printed or created for online distribution. Stuart agreed to create more versions and post them online for the board's consideration.

**Finance Committee Reserve Recommendations:** This issue was deferred until a later meeting.

### **New Business**

**The Denver Observer Editor:** In two emails, *Observer* editor Patricia Kurtz had first stated that she needed to take a few months off, then stated that she could only continue to edit the newsletter for a fee of \$350 per month. A discussion ensued about whether or not the DAS should pay someone to do this job, and what other options are available. The consensus by a show of hands was that since the DAS is an all-volunteer organization, we do not wish to set a precedent by paying anyone to produce the newsletter. It was noted that "newsletter by committee" does not work, so the job would need to be taken over by another member. Luis has volunteered to consult on the newsletter, and has assisted Patricia in the past. It was agreed that we will take Luis up on his offer. Ron Hranac stated that Patricia needs to be awarded for her excellent work; he will thank her and advise her of the board's decision.

**Colorado Astronomy Day September 27:** DAS will once again bring solar scopes and volunteers to DMNS for the daytime celebration. Ron Hranac will ask Naomi Pequette to solicit volunteers for telescope operators and presentations via the listserve. The evening portion of the celebration will be the monthly Open House at DU's historic Chamberlin Observatory.

**October Auction:** The auction is scheduled for Saturday October 11. Setup will take place at 11:00 a.m. and bidding will begin at 1:00 p.m. Ivan Geisler will be the auctioneer.

**October Partial Solar Eclipse:** On Thursday October 23, eclipse observing events will take place both at DMNS (with volunteer support from DAS) and at DU's historic Chamberlin Observatory. It was recommended that the latter be held in lieu of the regularly-scheduled Public Night. It was noted that a decision on that schedule change needs to be made before the October reservation system goes live. Dr. Stencil has a supply of solar viewing equipment, and he recommended that we get our Social Media on board to advertise the event.

**Dome Room Display Computer:** It was noted that the laptop appears to have died. Scott Leach will be asked to assess the situation and determine what needs to be done. **A motion was made and passed to authorize the expenditure of up to \$50 for a new hard drive, or up to \$500 for a replacement laptop, if necessary.** Quartermaster Ed Scholes is to be advised of any equipment change.

**Zach Singer:** Dena passed on a request from Jeff and herself for a recognition gift for DAS member and 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration photographer Zachary Singer in light of his major contribution to the success of the event. A Volunteer Participation Prize of \$50 was approved.

**DAS Fliers:** It was decided that we need to use up the current stock of third-sheet materials before ordering more fold-up brochures. All upcoming changes will need to be incorporated in any new materials that are ordered.

**Next E-Board Meeting:** Ron Hranac suggested that the September e-board meeting be canceled because he and a few others would like to attend the Mineral and Fossil Show instead. By a show of hands, enough others indicated that they preferred to stay on schedule and meet in September. It was agreed that Stuart would chair the September meeting in Ron's absence.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made and passed at 9:52 p.m.

### **Online Updates August 2014**

Subject: Yahoo Groups Listserves  
Reported by: Greg Marino  
Report: As of August 12, we have 164 members on the main DenverAstro listserve and 16 on the E-Board listserve. 7 new members in the last month. Dena as usual continues to do an excellent job at putting new members into the online roster quickly. This makes researching Listserve membership requests easier. The one member who was previously on moderated status has been returned to normal status.  
Eboard action: None Required

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Subject: Quartermaster's Report  
Reported by: Ed Scholes  
Status: One scope on loan. C5 + GC3 mount. Mike Hotka used the PST for an outreach program at Red Feather Lakes in conjunction with the Longmount group. It's now back home. Thanks Mike. Most everything else is under control.  
Eboard action: None Required

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Subject: VP Report - Speaker for 9/5 meeting  
Reported By: Stuart Hutchins  
Report: The speaker for Sept general meeting is new DAS member Dave Schlichting. He is an astronomy and space science teacher at Eaglecrest High School in Centennial. He is also a NASA MAVEN Educator Ambassador. His presentation will be on the MAVEN space mission. He is checking that his slides, provided by NASA, are not restricted from broadcasting on You Tube. I am attaching his bio and picture to this report.  
Lisa provided me with her contacts for Embassy Suites for the Christmas Banquet. If eboard agrees, I will contact them and reserve the venue for this December. Hope it's not too late!

Eboard Action: Embassy Suites again?

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Subject: Printers and Shredders

Reported by: Jeff Tropeano

Report: I've recommended the following Printers and Shredders based on reviews and price. Grumpy and Ron #1 have pointed out that the expensive color printer is probably overkill, and that the purchase should be a 3-in-1 printer/scanner/copier.

Cross-Cut Shredders:

(recommended) \$266: Fellowes Intellishred SB-99Ci -- 17 sheet capacity - will shred CDs and DVDs. 4 out of 5 star reviews on Amazon. <http://bit.ly/1sKNpzn>

\$89: Dynex - 10-Sheet Crosscut Paper Shredder -- 10 sheet capacity. 4.5 out of 5 star reviews. <http://bit.ly/1oTxVY6>

Laser Printers:

\$199: Brother Printer MFC7860DW Wireless Monochrome Printer with Scanner Copier & Fax -- 27 ppm -- 4 out of 5 star review on Amazon. <http://amzn.to/1r3BiPC>

(recommended, but doesn't have scanning or photocopying) \$719: HP Laserjet Enterprise 600 M601DN -- 45 ppm (fast!) -- 4.5 out of 5 star review on Amazon. <http://amzn.to/1oTzyoU>

E-Board action: Choose a scanner and printer for purchase, or ask for more research.

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SUBJECT: Social Media

REPORTED BY: Jeff Tropeano

DETAILS: Social Media going well -- 696 Facebook fans, 182 Twitter followers, 2,956 video views on YouTube (!!).

I haven't yet published the Mike Carroll meeting video to YouTube. The editing is not yet complete, but should be done in the next week.

After that, I'll start on the Mike Roos video.

E-BOARD ACTION: No action required

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SUBJECT: Google Drive / Online Documentation

REPORTED BY: Jeff Tropeano

DETAILS: Unfortunately nothing to report here. Please delay to next month's meeting.

E-BOARD ACTION: Provide forgiveness.

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SUBJECT: Member Welcome Letter

REPORTED BY: Jeff Tropeano

DETAILS: I've provided an updated Member Welcome letter to Ron Hranac for review.

E-BOARD ACTION: Ron Hranac to review and approve (or provide comments on) letter, and begin using.

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Subject: IT  
Reported by: Scott Leach  
Details: Second issue may be a moot point but there is a domain name that Wayne Green had secured while he was in charge of the IT. It was brought to my attention by Phil Hugger at Indra's. The name of the domain is discovery.org and it is in danger of expiring and lapsing if action is not taken shortly. Darrell seems to think that it may be Wayne's personal thing, but I thought I should bring it to your attention since this business occurred before I was around so I have no knowledge of Wayne's activities.  
E-board action: Decide on who owns the domain and then if you want to keep it and let me know.

### Treasurer Report

#### Standing Accounts

##### 1st Bank Accounts and Investment Fund

Type of Account	Ref No	Amount
Checking	X9663	\$13,569.12
Checking	X1049	\$3,741.47
Premier Time Savings	X9213	\$10,535.77
Time Deposit Savings	X3552	\$5,174.32
Principal Fund (2nd Qtr Rprt)		\$68,242.71
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$101,263.39</b>

#### Deposits

#### Total

General Fund Included in balance above \$925.20

#### Transactions in April

PayPal	Amount	Fee	Total
Memberships	480	\$ 15.92	\$464.08
Donations	0	\$ - 0	\$ - 0
<b>Current Balance</b>			<b>\$3,235.91</b>

#### Mail

#### Amount

#### Fee

#### Total

Mail-In Membership			\$ - 0
Mail-In Donations			\$ - 0
Mail-In Subscriptions			\$ - 0
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ - 0</b>

#### Public Night

#### Number

#### Fee

#### Total

Adults	114	\$ 3.00	\$342.00
Children	70	\$ 2.00	\$140.00
DU Students	5	\$ - 0	\$ - 0

Total Entry	189	\$482.00
DAS Donations	3	\$ 30.00
Open House		\$346.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$858.25</b>
<b>Donation VNH</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>

<b>Payments</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Chuck Holenicht	Print Supply	\$106.16
Stuart Hutchins	Donation	\$ 22.00
Mr Carroll	Stippend	\$ 50.00
Sec of State Colorado	Fee	\$ 10.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$188.16</b>