

Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of June 20, 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 Digby Kirby
Ed Scholes Sorin Jeff Tropeano Dan Wray

Absent: Treasurer - Luis Uribe Ron Pearson

Observatory Representative:

Dr. Robert Stencel

Other Members and Guests:

Hugh Davidson, Volunteer Coordinator Dennis Cochran
Darrell Dodge, Website Administrator Johnny and Eileen Barela

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.

Chamberlin Business: Dr. Stencel reported that the outgoing chancellor has approved his request to establish an endowment for University of Denver astronomy staffing at the observatory. He thanked Stuart for creating the new focuser adapter for the 20", and Chuck for producing the operator recertification certificates. He noted the receipt of a voicemail request for an outreach event, which will be forwarded to Ron Hranac and Naomi. Another request from a boy scout troop will be handled by DU and Ron Hranac. He noted that the reservation system is booked solid into the autumn months, but actual attendance has been only running at 50%. He asked for wide distribution of the posters and fliers advertising the 120th anniversary celebration.

Treasurer's Report: Received via email and included in the Online Updates that follow.

Old Business

120th Anniversary Celebration: A final planning meeting is slated for Saturday July 12 at 5:00 p.m. at Chamberlin. The schedule is coming together. Jeff confirmed that Marc Straub will be in attendance with his Cool Science tent and demonstrations. Press releases have been sent to more than 110 media outlets. Jeff had Luis translate it into Spanish for the publication Viva Colorado and talked to a reporter from 5280 Magazine and UniverseToday.com. He will send a tickler ten days prior to the event. Posters are available now and approximately 500 fliers are on hand. Jeff requested \$150 for running targeted Facebook ads that could reach as many as 360,000 people who live in the Denver area and have indicated specific interests on their profiles. His request was approved. Chuck is ordering the oversize check for the presentation ceremony. Ron Hranac directed Stuart to instruct Luis to cut a check for \$5,000 to DU, rather than waiting for the event itself. Darrell reported that the special webpage is online. Dr. Stencel will have as many as six people assisting in the collection of funds. Sorin reported that about 130 people attended his presentation at Denver Comic Con, and 50 fliers were taken. He will be distributing fliers when he makes a presentation at Nerd Nite Denver as well. Zachary Singer is confirmed as the photographer.

Survey Results: At Jeff's request, the recommendations coming from the survey committee will be presented at the July e-board meeting.

Picnic: The DAS summer picnic will be held on Sunday August 10 at Bear Creek Lake Park. Dan Wray reserved the pavilion at Pelican Point for the entire day. Members are to bring all their own food; DAS will provide charcoal for barbecuing (grills are located on site). The entry fee is \$7 per car or \$5 per car for seniors. Available activities include volleyball, horseshoes, fishing, swimming, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, sailboarding, horseback riding and archery. Members are encouraged to bring solar telescopes for viewing.

2017 Astroncon/DAS Participation: Lowell Lyon with the Salt Lake City Astronomy Club contacted Ron Hranac to ask about DAS possibly participating in the preparations for the event, specifically if we are still interested in coordinating with vendors. He explained that Lisa Judd has joined their club and is still working on the vendor piece, but that he anticipates it will require a committee of four to five people before long, as interested parties are beginning to make contact with him. It was agreed that DAS is interested; however, we do have questions and concerns. Ron Hranac agreed to communicate that message.

Dark Sky Site Lease Renewal: Darrell advised that we need to determine a new lease rate. After some discussion, a **motion was made and passed** to offer Mr. Weisensee \$450 per year. Darrell noted that the storage of astronomy equipment is listed as an approved usage of the property in the lease, and Mr. Weisensee has no objection to the use of a cargo container for that purpose.

New Member Welcome Letters: A revised version of a previous letter has been created by Jeff and Ron Pearson. Ron Hranac will review it upon return from his vacation.

Finance Committee: Dennis Cochran volunteered and was accepted unanimously by the board as the third member of the committee. Dena reported that Jennifer Roberts (fiance of Leon Roybal) has volunteered to serve as the merchandise salesperson at Open Houses.

Membership Database: During discussion about the pros and cons of keeping the DAS member list on Google Drive, several points were made. Most people were opposed to the idea of setting up an account that any of several people could access because changes that are made need to be trackable to the person making the changes. Security concerns were addressed, including the possible loss of data due to a server failure. It was noted that Google has a redundant server system in multiple locations, and it was agreed that it was highly unlikely that any event within the Google system would cause a loss of data. Additionally, in the event of a situation that rendered the membership chairperson unable to continue their duties, anyone with access could simply copy the existing membership file to a spreadsheet, modify it as necessary, and upload it to start over fresh without losing any information. Dena agreed to research the possibility of getting a Google account in the name of Denver Astronomical Society, using the club's 501(c)3 status, in order to have the drive set up under the club name rather than in her name.

New Business

Office Equipment: It was agreed that a replacement needs to be purchased for the obsolete printer in the DAS office, and that a crosscut shredder needs to be purchased to allow the discreet destruction of outdated member records and other expired club paperwork. Jeff agreed to research and make recommendations for these purchases.

Next Meeting: The next e-board meeting will be held on Friday, July 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and passed at 9:11 p.m.

Online Updates - June 2014

Subject: Quartermaster's Report
From: Ed Scholes
Update: No scopes on loan. Items at the Dark Sky Site have been tagged with asset stickers and recorded. Thanks to Linda for helping tag items and to Darrell for helping locate items. Next stop is Chamberlin.
Board Action Require: None

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Subject: IT
From: Scott Leach
Update: Nothing to report
Board Action Required: None

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Subject: Yahoo Listserve
From: Ron Pearson
Update: Y-Groups update: two new members, total now 156. I saw some messages about Joe's spam emails, and moderated status. Greg will have to update any status on that as haven't been able to follow it while traveling. Y-Group moderators need regular access to updated membership spreadsheet/roster to approve new member requests to join denverastro y-group. Moderators request that the DAS Membership spreadsheet be accessible through a DAS Google drive account and not a PERSONAL Google account that requires everyone that needs access to have personal Google accounts to get updated roster information. Same as is done for Paypal, the Webresve service, and all other business accounts.
Board Action Required: Yes

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Subject: New Focuser for 20"

From: Stuart Hutchins

Update: Not sure if this is the appropriate place for this notice, but today I completed anodizing the the new 20 inch focus adapter that I've been machining. It is ready for install. Digby and I are scheduled to install it Friday afternoon before Eboard meeting. The tasks are:

1. Remove the existing plate and focuser.
2. Tap thru the tailpiece flange holes through with 10-32. (they are now mixed 8-32 and 10-32).
3. Enlarge the center hole in the baffle inside the tailpiece to 3.5 inches so as to clear the focuser tube.
4. Mount the focuser on the new adapter and the adapter to the tailpiece.

Results reported at eboard.

Board Action Required: None (?)

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Subject: External Outreach

From: Naomi Pequette

Update: We had 7 outreach events scheduled for June. We had a table and solar viewing at Majestic View Trail Days, 2 night viewing events on Mt. Evans, a panel at Denver Comic Con, a talk for a group of Cub Scouts, a talk at Nerd Night Denver, and a daytime event at Wulf Creek Rec. Childcare Center in Evergreen scheduled. I turned down two other requests for outreach this month.

Sorin reports that there were approximately 100-150 attendees at his panel at Comic Con and about 50 flyers were picked up. Most events are in the second half of the month, and I do not have a report on them yet.

We have had trouble recruiting volunteers this month. At this point I have no volunteers for the event in Evergreen. I have suggested cancelling or rescheduling the event to our contact at Wulf Creek Rec. but she would really like to go forward. I may try to reschedule for later in the week so that I can bring up my telescope and the club's PST. However, this was a paid event and I wish we could have had more volunteers.

We have no external outreach events scheduled at this time for July.

Board Action Required: None

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SUBJECT: 120th Anniversary Celebration Advertising

FROM: Jeff Tropeano

UPDATE: Today (June 19th) I issued the press release for our 120th anniversary celebration. Below is the list of outlets I sent it to.

5280 Magazine

Advertising & Marketing Review Magazine

Altitude Sports & Entertainment

Associated Press (AP) Denver Colorado

Chalkbeat Colorado

Chinese American Post

Colorado Biz Magazine

Colorado Chinese News

Colorado Episcopalian

Colorado Expression Magazine
Colorado Golf Magazine
Colorado Homes & Lifestyles Magazine
Colorado Leader
Colorado Parent Magazine
Colorado Real Estate Journal Magazine
Colorado Statesman
Colorado Urban Home Magazine
Denver Business Journal
Denver Catholic Register
Denver Life Magazine
Denver Politics
Denver Post
Denver Post YourHub
Denver Urban Spectrum
Denver Voice
Dig In Colorado
Divot Magazine
DU Clarion
El Hispano de Denver
El Pueblo Catolico
ENR Mountain States Magazine
I-News Network
Indulge In Denver Magazine
Intermountain Jewish News
KBDI TV 12 (PBS)
KCEC TV 50
KCFR FM 90.1 (NPR)
KCNC TV 4 (CBS)
KDVR TV 31 (Fox)
KETD TV 53
KGNU AM 1390
KHOW AM 630
KKFN FM 104.3 (Fox)
KKZN AM 760
KMGH TV 7 (ABC)
KNUS AM 710
KOA AM 850
KRKS FM 94.7
KRMA TV 6 (PBS)
KRMT TV 41
KTVD TV 20 (MyTV)
KUSA TV 9 (NBC)
KUVO FM 89.3 (NPR)
KVOD FM 88.1 (NPR)
KWGN TV 2

La Voz Nueva de Colorado
Mile High Sports Magazine
Modern In Denver Magazine
MSCD Metropolitan
Out Front Colorado Magazine
Prime Time for Seniors
Snowboard Colorado Magazine
State Bill Colorado
UCD Advocate
Viva Colorado
Westword (AAN)
Yellow Scene Magazine

I have received a few responses asking for details, and will keep the board informed. I have also posted the event to DAS Social Media pages.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: I would like approval for advertising funds of \$150 (or more! :)). With this budget, I can produce online banner ads on Facebook that target people in Denver with science / astronomy / steampunk interests. According to Facebook, this would target 360,000 people. With \$150, we can budget \$5 per day, which will cover a random 25% sampling of that audience.

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SUBJECT: Social Media
FROM: Jeff Tropeano
UPDATE: Continued growth on Facebook / Twitter presence. 668 FB followers, 164 Twitter.
BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: None.

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SUBJECT: Membership Survey
FROM: Jeff Tropeano
UPDATE: Would like to defer an additional month on the delivery of our results and recommendations.
BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: None

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Subject: VNH Scholarship Program
From: Tim Pimentel
Update: We have received two applications, and a third possible inquiry. Not much else to share.
Board Action Required: None

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Subject: DSS Rattlesnake Mitigation
From: Darrell Dodge
Update: We are working to complete 4 tasks: 1) control weeds and grass; 2) clear junk that provides habitat for snakes and rodents; 3) fill in large pit; 4) snake-and-rodent-proof buildings with

1/4-inch hardware cloth attached to the exterior walls and buried in pea gravel out to 36-inches. We have completed Items 1 and 2 of the recommendations, have made good progress toward Item 3, and have about 75% of the work done on Item 4 (observatory finished; warming hut trenched.) A hitch in our progress was caused by the discovery that the new skirt on the warming hut is concrete and impervious to staples and may be damaged by larger nailed staples, making it difficult to attach the 1/4-inch screen to the building base. Based on recommendations from members, we will be sandwiching the screen with wood strips, held in place with screws in drilled holes. Once the screen is installed, the remaining task is fill in the shallow trench with pea gravel. A work party this weekend was cancelled due to lack of participation.

It appears that the populations of rodents and rattlesnakes are being at least partially controlled at the present time by bull snakes, but it's not clear how long that will last.

Board Action Required: None Stated

Subject: Dark Site Lease Extension

From: Darrell Dodge

Update: When I obtain EBoard agreement on a dollar amount for the increased lease payments, I will send a draft copy to Henry for his review. I will be going out to the Dark Site on Saturday to inspect the buildings and fill in the deep trench at the warming hut entrance, which constitutes a safety hazard. I will be at the Dark Site on the Dark Sky Weekend, weather permitting.

Board Action Required: None Stated

Subject: Treasurer's Report

From: Luis Uribe

Update:

Standing Accounts Balances as of 2014-06-20

1st Bank Accounts

Type of Account	Ref No	Amount
Checking	X9663	\$18,614.24
Checking	X1049	\$3,765.27
Premier Time Savings	X9213	\$10,535.77
Time Deposit Savings	X3552	\$5,174.32
Denver Credit Union		\$65,749.74

Transactions in April

PayPal	Amount	Fee	Total
Memberships	420	\$ 12.52	407.48
Donations	0	\$ - 0	0
Current Balance			\$2,565.24

Mail

Mail-In Membership	\$ 72.00
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Mail-In Donations	\$ 21.00
Mail-In Subscriptions	\$ 98.85
Total	\$191.85

Public Night	Number	Fee	Total
Adults	228	\$ 3.00	\$684.00
Children	33	\$ 2.00	\$ 66.00
DU Students	1	\$ - 0	\$ - 0
Total Entry	262		\$750.00
DAS Donations	1		\$ 21.00
Total			\$771.00

Payments	Description	Amount
Digby Kirby	Keys	\$ 31.67
Hartford Insurance	Insurance	\$765.00
Julie Candia	Jacket Refund	\$ 84.00
Robert Stencil	Head Count	\$589.00
Signal Graphics	Newsletter	\$388.50
Darrell Dodge	Heater	\$114.00
Luis Uribe	QB Man, Instrc	\$ 50.00
Astronomy League	Membership	\$1,660.00
Total		\$3,682.17

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Subject: Mt. Evans Outreach
 From: Luis Uribe

Update: The outreach at Mt Evans last night when very well. The event was held at Summit Lake at an altitude of 12,836 feet (3,912 meters), which may make it the highest astronomy public outreach anywhere; unless there was one at Pike's Peak. Naomi, Ricardo and I represented DAS and we had 44 attendees. The event was held Thursday, 2014-06-19 from 21:00 to 23:00.

I'm planning on doing a write-up for the Reflector with pictures provided by Ricardo. See you all tonight.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: None