

Old Business

Observer Editor opening: Cyndi Bray has offered to take the job when her obsolete computer is replaced in a few months, or sooner if DAS has one available that she can use. Ron Hranac will clarify with her the need for an editor, not a newsletter designer. Luis has some editing software that he can make available if she needs/wants it. Jeff recommended having Cyndi, Luis and Patti Kurtz meet to discuss the scope of the work. Ron will also communicate the expectation of the amount of time needed to do the job.

Office Equipment: Jeff will be making the purchases of the All-In-One printer and the shredder for the DAS office. Ron Hranac instructed him to purchase extra toner and a paper cutter.

Open House Merchandise Sales: Jennifer Roberts will continue in this role.

Google Drive Use by Non-Profit Organizations: This discussion was deferred until the November meeting.

Public Night Team Recommendations: Hugh advised that the group at the meeting wanted to do pre-pay as an option, and not make it mandatory. He would like the teams to test this from January through March. It was clear that volunteers wish to resolve the no-show problem. The fee increase (\$1 per head) will go into effect January 1. Refunds to people who do pre-pay will only be given if DAS elects to cancel the event. Hugh agreed to meet with Scott Leach to discuss implementation. It was suggested that email reminders be sent 24-48 hours in advance of each PN to those who have made reservations.

Dark Sky Site Lease Renewal: The renewal period is from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2022. Ron Hranac signed the lease. The termination clause is in the original lease.

Dark Sky Site Maintenance: Darrell reported that all buildings have had skirting installed except the north end of the warming hut. Stuart mouse-proofed the observatory. A storage building needs to be discussed. Dan saw shipping containers on Craigslist for \$3,000. Whatever structure is selected will need to be placed on a pad and anchored.

New Member Welcome Letter: Ron Hranac *still* needs to finish editing it. The letterhead has been finalized. Darrell reported that the sending of the letter can be automated using PayPal.

New Business

November Member Meeting: Members need to be solicited to do presentations at the annual Show-and-Tell meeting. It was noted that it should include astrophotographs. Joe will talk about highlights of the Okie-Tex Star Party.

Replacement Brochures: An updated version needs to be produced, reflecting the club's post office box as our mailing address, and stating the new public night fees that go into effect in 2015. Some material at S&S needs to have information corrected. We need to ensure that Dr. Stencil and Cathie Havens are given the correct information for anything that they produce. Eileen and Ron Hranac will work on this issue.

Banquets: Stuart circulated menus obtained from Embassy Suites to help board members make decisions on the meals and other options that the hotel offers. The Holiday Banquet is scheduled for December 6, and meal orders are due two weeks prior to that (November 21). Sign-off and payment are due three days prior. We will probably use their microphone, but bring our own projector and screen. Stuart and Digby agreed to meet with Embassy Suites ASAP to negotiate a price comparable to last year's deal. **A motion was made and passed authorizing an expenditure of not more than \$2,700 for the total cost.**

Stuart brought up the Spring Banquet, and stated that we will need to address planning for it no later than December.

2015 Budget Discussion: Ron Hranac advised the board that they will be working on the 2015 budget at the November e-board meeting, and finalizing it at the December meeting.

Next E-Board Meeting: The next e-board meeting will be held on Friday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Chamberlin Observatory.

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

DAS Online Updates, October 2014

Subject: Quartermaster's Report
Reported by: Ed Scholes
Report: No scopes on loan at this time.
E-Board Action: None Required

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Subject: Van Nattan-Hansen Scholarship
Reported by: Tim Pimentel
Report: The committee has unanimously decided not to award a scholarship this year. We had three applicants. However, the applications were either not complete, presented too informally, or not in the field of the physical sciences.
All applicants have been notified and were encouraged to pursue their educations in their chosen fields.
E-Board Action: None Required

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Subject: IT
Reported by: Scott Leach
Report: The accounting computer recently received a new hard drive and was restored. <\$100.00
Also a Norton Internet Security License was purchased and has already been installed onto the accounting computer and will be installed onto the remaining computers in the weeks to come. I have a new 9-5 job now in addition to my business, so if possible I would like to arrange to take the other computers home with me to perform installs in my spare time.
E-Board action: Determine when the ready room computer and library computer can be removed from service for updating. Preferable over a weekend. 18-19 excluded.

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Subject: Yahoo Groups Listserve

Reported by: Greg Marino

Report: Main Denverastro Group: 2 new members, 1 member resigned, total 167 members. 2 membership requests rejected due to insufficient information to identify the individual, and no response to emails from the moderator requesting more information.

E-Board action: None required.

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Subject: Dark Site Lease

Reported by: Darrell Dodge

Report: Henry and Nora Weisensee have signed off on the 5-year Dark Site lease extension, which provides DAS with use of the site from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022. The lease cost is \$450 per year, with a \$15 per-month charge for electrical power, as approved by the EBoard.

E-Board Action: Signing of the lease extension by the E-Board president.

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Subject: Dark Site Maintenance

Reported by: Darrell Dodge

Report: Work to rodent- and snake-proof the warming hut and observatory was largely completed in August and September. In the observatory, Stuart Hutchins fabricated a metal ring for the base of the pier (reducing the gap to 1/8-inch) and a metal seal for the power outlet at the top of the pier. He also shielded the main power cable under the observatory with flexible metal conduit. Several members, including Scott Leach and Mike Hotka, finished most of the hardware cloth skirt, trenching, and back fill with pea gravel that had been initiated by a large work party in June. Joe Gafford sealed seams in the roof of the warming hut where mice may have been entering. Possible rodent entry points in the skirt around the observatory and the finished sides of the warming hut were identified and sealed. The North end of the warming hut will be finished on the Dark Sky weekend in October. About 24 field mice were either relocated or killed near or inside the buildings this summer, much less than anticipated. No rodent activity has occurred inside the Brooks Observatory for two months. Mowing of the site -- a key element in rodent control -- was done twice by David Delassus (June and September). Other members cleared grass and weeds on the edges of the observing pads several times. The large pit near the vault toilet was filled and tamped down.

E-Board action: None required.

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Subject: Holiday Party reservations, entertainment and expense authorization.

Reported by: Stuart Hutchins

Report: For this year's Holiday party on Dec 6 I was able to reserve last year's venue, the Embassy Suites Denver Southeast at 7525 E. Hampden Ave. Basic minimum charges are very close to last year - \$1300. Most of that is paid for by the reservation fee paid by attendees. Menu selections are similar and prices are slightly higher than before. Cancellation penalties are in effect now and will escalate as the date approaches. There are also additional charges for audio/visual equipment and any changes to orders in the last week or so.

Dave Schlichting, DAS member and NASA MAVEN Educator Ambassador who spoke at the General Meeting in September will present addition NASA material on MAVEN now that it is in orbit around Mars and instruments are being checked out.

Last year Carol Shouldice's barbershop quartet performed their holiday season music, and I approached her about repeating this year. Unfortunately, they are missing a member now and cannot do it. Now, DAS is not a religious organization (we call it a Holiday Party so as to include all members) but I propose to boldly go where no DASer in my time has gone before and have a sing along with a few well known holiday season tunes. Carol S. and Sharon Hines, also a member of High Country Chorus have enthusiastically agreed to lead singing if we do it. There are a couple of options for enough accompaniment to give most people a chance to sing in the same key if they wish. In shopping this idea so far, I am surprised to find a majority of people have some musical background and would like to do it.

E-board Actions:

1. Approve up to \$1800 expenditure on the DAS credit card to secure the reservation. The card is not charged until the event, and the attendees tickets actually pay for most of the final bill as in years past. Presently this liability is on my personal credit card. I want to move it to the club.
2. Feedback and guidelines on the singalong proposal.
3. Start advertising the Holiday Party to membership and open the online reservations with deadlines so that I can submit the Banquet Event Orders to Embassy Suites in a timely fashion.

Subject: Spring Banquet Reservations.

Reported by: Stuart Hutchins

Report: I need to act in December (latest) to get the venue we want for Spring Banquet. The credit card used for major DAS functions should be the DAS credit card in the name of the Treasurer -- not any officer or E-board member. Luis has received by now (I believe) the new card in his name as Treasurer. I ask approval to encumber that card with up to \$1800 to secure that reservation. I will make the contacts. The reservation contract will actually have to be executed by Luis Uribe as named cardholder with his signature and ID information. Again, the bulk of the expense is actually paid for by the attendees.

E-board Action: Approval of encumbrance of the DAS credit card up to \$1800 to secure reservation at Embassy Suites Denver Southeast for the Spring Banquet in 2015.

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Subject: Chamberlin Observatory Report

Reported by: Dr. Bob

Report: My wife reminded me of an event this Friday evening that we are obliged to attend, basically in parallel with E-board. Hence, the following will have to suffice for the Director's report this month. We can discuss any loose-ends during Open House on Sat., the very next evening.

TELESCOPE STATUS

It has been refreshing to have some decent weather for Open House events over the past few months, which has helped boost the attendance figures for the year. Other than some chronic problems, the telescope seems to be functioning well enough, following the spring major rehab. Recent work included tightening some of the linkage for the RA clamp, which seems to have improved hold.

SOLAR ECLIPSE PLANS

Very near term is the partial solar eclipse, late afternoon Thurs Oct.23 (roughly 315 to 615pm). I plan to invite groups of DU students to attend, provide mylar viewers and a solar scope or two, but would appreciate any help DAS members can provide - either as qualified 20 inch scope operators (using the large solar filter) and/or with solar scopes of their own in the park. We haven't done much advertising so far, but chances are fair that we'll have clear-enough skies that day. If I'm not sequestered by jury duty that day, I plan to arrive after 3pm and will make contact with morning/noon TV weather folk to promote same as a public event.

WHITEBOARD

Ron Mickle requests replacement of the blackboard with a modern whiteboard. Reasons to do so include that whiteboards have advantages, and that DU can pay for the replacement because it supports DU classes. Reasons not to do so include that a blackboard is more in character with the vintage of the building, chalk is still plentiful and doesn't dry out like whiteboard markers. We could quibble about which offers better contrast for the viewer, etc. I'm undecided, but welcome input from Public Night lecturers on any strong preferences. However, the final decision rests with DU.

E-Board Action: Not stated.

Subject: Social Media

Reported by: Jeff Tropeano

Report: 726 Facebook Fans, 188 Twitter Followers. Information about the Solar Eclipse has been posted to several Social Media outlets: A Facebook Event, Twitter, and a few posts on Reddit. The Solar Eclipse event is currently one of the top posts on r/Denver and r/Colorado on Reddit.

E-Board action: None required.

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Subject: Treasurer's Report

Reported by: Luis Uribe

Report: The following report include public night, open house, sales, memberships and payments for the months of August and September. The 'head tax' to DU includes both 2nd and 3rd quarters (\$504 and \$1789 respectively). Please contact me if you'd like to see breakouts, more detail or scans of source documents for any of the items below.

Treasurer Report

Standing Accounts 01 OCT 2014

1st Bank Accounts and Investment Fund

| Type of Account | Ref No | Amount |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Checking | X9663 | \$13,132.44 |
| Checking | X1049 | \$3,643.49 |
| Premier Time Savings | X9213 | \$10,535.77 |
| Time Deposit Savings | X3552 | \$5,174.97 |
| Principal Fund (2nd Qtr Rprt) | | \$67,014.89 |

Total **\$99,501.56**

Deposits **Total**

General Fund Included in balance above \$1,234.35

Transactions in Aug'14 and Sep'14

PayPal **Amount** **Fee** **Total**

Memberships \$853.90 \$ 25.63 \$828.27

Donations 0 \$ - 0 \$ - 0

Current Balance **\$ - 0**

Mail **Amount** **Fee** **Total**

Mail-In Membership \$ - 0

Mail-In Donations \$ - 0

Mail-In Subscriptions \$ - 0

Total **\$ - 0**

Public Night **Number** **Fee** **Total**

Adults 153 \$ 3.00 \$459.00

Children 46 \$ 2.00 \$ 92.00

DU Students 0 \$ - 0 \$ - 0

Total Entry 199 \$551.00

DAS Donations 7 \$ 21.00

Open House \$662.35

Total **\$1,234.35**

Donation VNH

Payments **Description** **Amount**

Signal Graphics Print Supply \$106.16

Dr. Bob -- DU Head tax \$2,293.00

Alperstein & Covell Attorney \$ 22.00

Total **\$2,421.16**

E-Board action: None required.