

Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of May 8, 2015 E-Board Meeting

Officers Present: Ron Hranac – President, Stuart Hutchins – Vice President, Michael Nowak – Treasurer, Jeff Tropeano – Secretary

Board Members Present: Sorin, Chuck Habenicht, Joe Gafford, Jack Eastman, Ed Scholes, Johnny O. Barela, Dan Wray

Observatory Representative: Ron Mickle

Absent: Ron Pearson, Ken Sturrock

Other Members and Guests: Brad Gilman, Darrell Dodge, Dennis Cochran, Eileen Barela, Hugh Davidson

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 7:30 PM.

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

New Agenda Items: None

DU's Historic Chamberlin Observatory Business: Ron Mickle presented the note from Dr. Stencel attached below. Dr. Stencel and Ron Mickle strongly encourage the Denver Astronomical Society to use the bullhorn and tickets for Open Houses, especially those that are very well attended.

Stuart Hutchins reported that David Shouldice re-soldered the potentiometer in the Telrad and identified some dead spots in the pot switch. There is "potential" that the Telrad can be repaired. Stuart and others will check the Telrad after the meeting to see if it is operable.

In response to the request to de-clutter the ready room office, it was mentioned that the old DAS printer has been removed from the ready room office, but only weighs about 40 pounds. Some empty boxes and boxes of files have also been removed.

Ron Mickle also mentioned that the lecture at the community college of Aurora happens every quarter, and is always well attended. Dr. Stencel presented "Astronomy in the Time of Climate Change" at the lecture. He suggested the Denver Astronomical Society help advertise these quarterly lectures, since they are usually astronomy related. He also offered to post flyers of Denver Astronomical Society membership meetings in the display cabinets at the community college. Ron also offered to forward the Constant Contact messages to the Community College of Aurora faculty listserv and observatory group.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Nowak presented the Treasurer's report attached below. Michael provided the report, and verified all of the account balances via online banking. Jeff Tropeano asked Michael to research if the Public Night prepayments are being accounted for in the Treasurer's report. The prepayment system was set up after Luis's tenure, so it's possible that this extra PayPal account is

not accounted for in the report. Michael will research and be sure it's included.

Ron Hranac confirmed with Luis Uribe that Luis would take care of the State Department registration as well as the Denver Astronomical Society tax filing.

Luis Uribe must accompany Michael Nowak to the bank to add Michael as a signatory on the Denver Astronomical Society bank account. Stuart also mentioned that Michael should be added as a signatory on the Denver Astronomical Society credit card. This should be done before Stuart has to pay for the holiday party so that the card can be used for the catering.

Stuart mentioned that Daniel Bisque, May's guest speaker, is donating his \$50 speaker's fee to the VNH Scholarship Fund.

Ron Mickle mentioned a great article in Astronomy magazine about handheld laser pointers, and suggested that the Public Night teams read it. Misuse of handheld laser pointers is a very serious offense, with serious consequences. Ron Hranac suggested that it be republished in the Observer.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Night Reservations, Fees: Ron Hranac spoke with Scott Leach about sending the automated e-mail reminder through the reservation system. Scott requested that Ron write some language, which Ron has delivered to Scott. The Denver Astronomical Society refund policy remains as-is: No refunds, unless the Denver Astronomical Society cancels the Public Night. Darrell Dodge confirmed that on the reservation system ledger, a single click on a reservation would refund the PayPal payment. Ron Hranac suggested that Michael Nowak handle this task as the club treasurer. Stuart Hutchins suggested that the team lead should initiate the refund, since the team lead makes the executive decision of cancelling the Public Night. The team lead should contact Michael Nowak to issue the refund. Hugh Davidson will contact the Public Night team leads informing them that, in a cancellation, they should contact Michael.

Stuart Hutchins mentioned that last Tuesday, there was a single reservation of 30 people. Nobody showed up for the Public Night. The 30-person reservation did not prepay. It was suggested that if you reserve the entire evening, it should require a prepayment. Ron Hranac reminded the group that the team leads decided as a group to keep prepay optional, as opposed to required. Stuart Hutchins asked if there was an official policy to offer a rain check (not a refund, but allow them to reschedule), and Ron Hranac responded that this is done only in situations where people escalate to the observatory or the club. Stuart Hutchins asked that it be written and made official so that new volunteers can be easily made aware of this policy. Jack Eastman suggested making pre-payment required. To close the discussion, the e-Board suggested revisiting the policy of not requiring pre-payment for Public Night in a couple of months.

Ron Hranac asked Hugh Davidson about Team 2 being short, and requiring new volunteers. Hugh confirmed that the team is short, and Hugh will write a blurb to be put in the newsletter for new volunteers.

IT: Ron Hranac gave an update on his conversation with Scott Leach. Ken Sturrock will be taking over the IT responsibilities, and Scott Leach will help with the transition. Scott was willing to continue his responsibilities, but Ron wanted to help relieve his load with some additional help because of Scott's busy schedule.

Dark site annual lease and electrical payment status: Darrell Dodge or Michael Nowak doesn't know if the annual lease and electrical payment has been sent to Henry, the dark site property owner. Michael Nowak will follow up with Luis to see if it's been paid. If it hasn't it needs payment ASAP.

Picnic (July 25): It was decided in the previous meeting to have the spring picnic at Observatory Park similar to previous years. The Denver Astronomical Society will host a BBQ where the club will provide meat, plates, soda, etc.... and the membership to bring potluck items. Stuart Hutchins will follow up with Lisa Judd to find out the names of some catering and barbeque companies that can provide services. Eileen suggested that Ron Hranac confirm that the park will not be used for another event in the spring, which has happened in the past, where the neighborhood association was also having an event at the same time.

NEW BUSINESS

HD Video Camera: Now that the general membership meeting lectures are being recorded and posted online, Ron Hranac suggested that the Denver Astronomical Society purchase an HD video camera to improve the quality of the videos, and not rely on Darrell Dodge's personal camera. Darrell Dodge suggested it be an HD camera that has a remote microphone capability, as well as large storage. Sony chips work better in low light situations. Joe Gafford mentioned that he purchased a JVC (with a Sony chip) a few years ago for only \$350 - \$400 dollars that works very well. Ed Scholes made a motion to purchase an HD Video camera, tripod with a video head, and microphone kit, with a Sony chip, for up to \$500, seconded by Jack Eastman. Ron Hranac and Darrell Dodge will shop for the camera and purchase it. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Darrell Dodge mentioned that the last membership meeting (Software Bisque) was not well attended, and although the content of the presentation was great, the audience was small. Stuart Hutchins is intentionally trying to broaden the scope of the membership meeting lecture topics as per member feedback.

VNH Scholarship Committee: Ron Hranac asked that the e-Board approve new committee members as per the request of Ron Pearson below. Joe Gafford moved to make John Anderson and Jeff Tropeano members of the VNH committee, seconded by Jack Eastman. No discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ron Hranac asked that Michael Nowak follow up with Luis Uribe and Ron Pearson on the Q1 VNH account transfer that is outstanding.

Stuart Hutchins asked if Michael Nowak has access to the donation information, which he does not. Michael will follow up with Luis to make sure he has the appropriate access.

Next E-board Meeting: The next e-board meeting will be held on June 19 at 7:30 PM. at DU's historic Chamberlin Observatory.

Jeff Tropeano will not be able to make the meeting, and asked that someone act as note taker for that meeting, since he will not be able to attend. Jeff Tropeano will ask Dena McClung to cover.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and passed at 8:45 PM.

MOTIONS

- A motion to purchase an HD Video camera, tripod with a video head, and microphone kit, with a Sony chip, for up to \$500, was made by Ed Scholes, and seconded by Jack Eastman. Ron Hranac and Darrell Dodge will shop for the camera and purchase it. **The motion passed unanimously.**
 - A motion to make John Anderson and Jeff Tropeano members of the VNH committee, was made by Joe Gafford, and seconded by Jack Eastman. **The motion passed unanimously.**
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SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

The follow Action Items are indicated in the meeting minute with underlined text, and are aggregated below:

- Michael Nowak to research if Public Night prepayments are being properly accounted and reported on in the treasurer's report.
- Luis Uribe will accompany Michael Nowak to the bank to add Michael as a signatory on the Denver Astronomical Society bank accounts.
- Hugh Davidson will contact the Public Night team leads informing them that, in a cancellation, they should contact Michael.
- In a few months (July / August), the e-Board suggests revisiting the policy of not requiring pre-payment for Public Night in a couple of months. Hugh Davidson should coordinate this discussion with the Public Night team leads.
- Hugh Davidson will write a blurb to be put in the newsletter for new volunteers for Public Night team 2.
- Michael Nowak will follow up with Luis to see if the Dark Sky Site lease and electrical bill has been paid. If it hasn't it needs payment ASAP.
- Stuart Hutchins will follow up with Lisa Judd to find out the names of some catering and barbeque companies that can provide services.
- Michael Nowak will follow up with Luis Uribe and Ron Pearson on the Q1 VNH account transfer that is outstanding.
- Michael will follow up with Luis to make sure he has the appropriate access to the donation information for VNH.
- Jeff Tropeano to ask Dena McClung to cover for him for the next e-Board meeting.

PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

- Dr. Stencel will put a pair of thick gloves in the ready room in the event someone needs to grab a bat.
- Ed Scholes will check to see if the DAS has a Telrad to donate to the 20" Clark telescope.
- ✓ Jeff Tropeano will send Mike the financial materials that Luis compiled a few months ago: Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, Budget.
- ✓ Darrell Dodge will link the editor@denverastro.org address to Zach Singer's email.
- ✓ David Shouldice will ask the membership for an old laptop to donate and running the ad in the newsletter and DAS listserv.
- ✓ Ron Hranac will discuss the IT responsibilities and potential change with Scott Leach.
- Ron Hranac will follow up with Luis on the Q1 funds transfer.
- Darrell Dodge will e-mail the interested folks to form up the new Dark Sky Site committee.
- Stuart Hutchins will coordinate the Spring Picnic.
- ✓ Jeff Tropeano will introduce Chris Spears and Justin McHeffey (CBS 4 Weather) to Stuart Hutchins via e-mail.
- Stuart Hutchins will provide a written report of the Spring Banquet to the e-Board listserv.

ONLINE UPDATES

Subject: External Outreach

Reported by: Lindsey Shaw

Report: On April 12 myself, Ken Sturrock and Dave Catlin conducted outreach at the Frank Shorter Race4Kids Health 5K and Expo in Broomfield. Ken and Dave manned a couple solar telescope while I handed out DAS flyers. We probably reached out to 100 or so folks there (many people were in a rush to and from the race).

This past week Dena deposited a \$100 donation check from Candelas Swim and Fitness Club at Townview. Unfortunately however, the star party at Candelas has been postponed twice due to less than optimal weather. I'm working with our contact there to reschedule. I will make sure that this happens since we already deposited their check.

Upcoming events:

1. May 7: Jennie King will be presenting a lecture on the "Mythology of Constellations" for Aurora Quest K-8 students.

2. May 9, 9am-3pm: Scout Day at Dinosaur Ridge in Morrison. DAS will have a booth, solar telescopes and an interactive activity for the Scouts.

3. May 31, 10am-4pm: Space Day at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. We will have solar telescopes and a booth with an interactive activity. Greg W. just emailed me and will be printing star maps to have at the booth (Naomi has approved this).

E-Board Action: *None Required*

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Subject: VNH Scholarship Committee Report

Reported by: Ron Pearson

Report:

1. Financial reporting mailing address of LPL Investment fund was changed from home address of past Treasurer Brad Gilman to the VNH PO Box and email.

2. The VNH committee met on April 25th at Chamberlin Observatory at 6:30pm. Committee members were all in attendance included Brenda Wray, Tim Pimentel, Ivan Geisler and Ron Pearson. Two new prospective committee members, and Jeff Tropeano also attended. Another possible new member could not make the meeting. We reviewed the financial status of the VNH Funds and issues around access and mailing addresses so the reports get to the committee in timely manner. We then reviewed the application process and By-Laws for the prospective new members of the committee and discussed a number of questions and possible changes we could consider and perhaps make in the future re the application process, advertising to students and schools and changes to the financial funds. The two new prospective members want to continue on the committee. The meeting adjourned at about 7:30pm. Another meeting date was not set but will likely occur after the application deadline passes and we review any applications received.

E-Board Action: Approval of two new committee members; Jeff Tropeano and John Anderson as per the VNH By-Laws. No 1st Qtr. donations to the VNH Fund have been transferred or accounted for by the DAS Treasurer. This still needs to be completed.

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Subject: Membership Report

Reported by: Dena McClung

Report: *As you requested, here are our membership numbers:*

As of May 7, we have 332 total members including 308 regular members, 13 student members, and 11 honorary members. Since the last e-board meeting, we've had 9 new members and 3 renewals (included in the total number above). Those numbers are all current - paid up through the end of the year. It does not include those who have not renewed.

I do have a question for you. We are still sending Observers to some "technical" members, mostly organizations, that are no longer carried on our list. But in addition, we have Dr. Bob and Henry Weisensee who were listed as technical members, but are not included on that list. Can you verify that you want those two to not be counted?

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Subject: Quartermaster's Report

Reported by: Ed Scholes

Report: *The PST is checked out to be used at Dinosaur Ridge this Saturday.*

E-board Action: *No action required*

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Subject: IT

Reported by: Scott Leach

Report: *Reservation system needs descriptive text and refunds language. Also, since refunds need to be processed manually, the website tells patrons to contact us directly for refunds. Who will be that contact person? What is there phone number? Until I know this information the site still says NO REFUNDS.*

E-board Action: *See above*

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Subject: Observatory Update

Reported by: Dr. Bob Stencil

Report: *Hi Ron & Ron,*

A few thoughts on the agenda:

- [1] The March open house was crowded and lines got very long. It was suggested we restart the numbered ticket and bullhorn announcement scheme to reduce wait times for the May 23 open house. Could we plan accordingly?*
 - [2] There have been no further reports of dome sticking problems, but we did reduce the friction on the RA lock and lubricated places to reduce the force needed for the Dec slow motion. Reports of problems can be made on the logbook pages.*
 - [3] DAS should begin planning for the late Sept total lunar eclipse which is a nicely timed evening event.*
 - [4] Recent voicemail included a request for telescopes to appear at a summer camp at an Aurora church. Forwarded to Lindsey Shaw as the DAS outreach coordinator for action. Also, Ron M will be present to help deliberate any other issues affecting DU.*
- Remittance check for 2015Q1 use of observatory ("head tax") received this week, at DU from Luis Uribe. Thank you for this important source of support to keep the programs going.*

E-board Action: *No action required*

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Subject: ALCor and Roster Report

Reported by: Darrell Dodge

Report: *The DAS 2015 roster was printed and hand-delivery to accessible members is being done before mailing. The total printing cost was \$372.00. Reimbursement will be requested. Mailing will be completed by mid May 11th.*

The list of all DAS members who had paid for renewal as of April 18, 2015 was sent to Mitch Glaze, who maintains the AL club member roster lists, which are used for billing member societies and mailing the Reflector magazine. An updated list for final billing will be assembled in June for the DAS Treasurer and the AL.

CC Mailings and Web Site

The Web site was updated for May and cc announcements for the April and May Observers and General Meetings were sent out to a culled mailing list of renewed members. New Member Welcome Emails were sent to all new members in April and early May.

E-board Action: *No action required*

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Subject: Dark Site

Reported by: Darrell Dodge

Report: *Clouds and rain; Marathons washed out; nothing to report*

E-board Action: *No action required*

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Subject: Upcoming Meeting Speakers

Reported by: Stuart Hutchins

Report: *John Bally, contacted first by Jack, says he has quite a bit of new astronomical information. I asked him about speaking June 5, but he is not available until after October. I'll try to set him up for the Holiday Banquet Dec 5.*

Contacted Chris Spears and Justin McHeffey at cbs news/weather following Jeff's introduction. Invited either of them to talk for June 5. Waiting to hear back.

New Horizon's Pluto encounter is July 14. Pre-images are already in the press. Planning to get someone to show/interpret the first science data July 31 or more complete on Aug 31.

E-board Action: *No action required*

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Treasurer Report

Treasurer Report for April 2015

Standing Accounts April 30 2015		
1st Bank Accounts and Investment Fund		
Type of Account	Ref No	Amount
Checking	X9663	\$10,185.42

Checking	X1049	\$3,602.14	no a
Premier Time Savings	X9213	\$10,556.80	
Time Deposit Savings	X3552	\$5,176.92	
Principal Fund		\$67,014.89	
Total		\$96,536.17	

Deposits		Total
General Fund Checking Acct X9663	4/9/15	\$742.00
	4/28/15	\$326.00
		\$1,068.00

PayPal			
Transactions in April 2015	Number	Fee	Total
Memberships	8	\$(8.72)	\$279.28
Banquet	0	\$-	\$-
Donation Darksite	0	\$-	\$-
Donation General	3	\$(4.24)	\$147.76

Current Balance **\$17,072.92**

Mail	Number	Fee	Total
Mail-In Membership	2	\$36.00	\$72.00
Mail-In Donations	0	\$25.00	\$-
Mail-In Subscriptions	0	\$32.95	\$-
Total			\$72.00

Public Night, Open House, Etc.	Number	Fee	Total
Public Night Guests	102	Various	\$139.00
Open Night Guests	15	Various	\$15.00
Total Entry	117		\$154.00
DAS Donations - Candela's Star Party	1		\$100.00
Total			\$254.00
Donation VNH			\$-
Darksite Fund			\$-
General Fund			\$-

Payments	Description	Amount
University of Denver	First Quarter 2015 Head Tax	\$988.00
Signal Graphics	Printing	\$130.00
Darrell Dodge	Constant Contact	\$240.00
Chuck Habenicht	Reimbursement for Various Expenses	\$207.81
		\$1,565.81