

Denver Astronomical Society
Minutes of August 26, 2016 E-Board Meeting

Officers Present: Ron Hranac – President, Leo Sack – Vice President (appointed), Jeff Tropeano – Secretary, Michael Nowak – Treasurer

Board Members Present: Joe Gafford, Ed Scholes, Chuck Habenicht, Johnny Barela, Jack Eastman

Observatory Representative: Dr. Bob Stencel

Absent: Ron Pearson, Stuart Hutchins, Lindsey Shaw, Ken Sturrock

Members and Guests: Ivan Geisler, July C., Eileen Barela, Leo Sack, Darrell Dodge, Roger Oakey (Colorado Springs Astronomical Society)

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 19:30.

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

New Agenda Items: July mentioned 3 outreach activities for September, but hasn't received any volunteers yet. One is an early morning event for a lecture. The others are evening events. July will send another request to the Yahoo group for volunteers.

DU's Historic Chamberlin Observatory Business: Dr. Bob gave an update on observatory business. Dr. Bob introduced Leo Sack who has joined as outreach coordinator for the observatory. Chamberlin is beginning a partnership with Cincinnati Observatory. Last month's open house (August) had 199 attendees, but there were problems with the lines. The scheme of calling numbers didn't work well since folks would go outside to view with the other scopes and not hear their number called. Leo recommended signage by the south door for calling groups by number.

Lots of things going on related to light pollution and LED lighting. Last month's speaker was Dr. John Barentine from International Dark Sky Association. There is also a new neighbor with a significant amount of poorly configured lights. Dr. Bob discovered that the City of Denver has no lighting regulation rules in place, although work was done in that area over the last 10 years.

Dr. Bob mentioned letter to the editor in The Reflector magazine mentioning dark sky quality metering. The SQM doesn't see the bluer LED light temperature, and reads a "darker" light, although the human eye senses the sky as lighter, and darker skies become more difficult or impossible to see.

There is an open house at the top of Mt. Evans this coming Monday, and Dr. Bob has invited those who are interested. Gathering at Echo Lake lodge at 7:30 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Nowak gave the treasurer's report, which is attached below. Ron reminded Michael to research current CD rates to determine if it makes sense to put \$10,000 from the General Fund into a CD.

OLD BUSINESS

Open Position (Vice President): Leo Sack attended the meeting to express his interest in filling the vacant Vice President position. **Jack Eastman made a motion to fill the vice president position with Leo Sack, Joe Gafford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

2017 Calendar: There has been no feedback or updates on the calendar, it is likely ready to be finalized. Ron reminded the group that we're not planning an eclipse event at the observatory. Leo recommended to put together a safe solar viewing program before the eclipse to spur the public interest. Dr. Bob recommended this be done at the July open house.

Equipment for Loaner Program: Ed Scholes contacted all of the iOptron vendors for a discount on the Mak mount. Woodland Hills will offer the best discount, at 5% and free shipping. The mount (Pro iOptron AZ) is normally \$1,299, but \$1,234.05 will be the discounted price. We would also need an additional saddle for the second scope. Load limit is ~30 lbs, Ed recommends keeping it to 25 lbs. The extra saddle is \$75.05. \$1,309.10 is the total price, and includes free shipping. **Jack Eastman made a motion to approve the expense to purchase the mount and saddle, Joe Gafford seconded.** The motion was passed unanimously.

Storage at Dark Sky Site: Darrell is checking with Henry the landowner, check with the county about a permit, prepping the site, deciding where on the property it will live, etc.... Ron recommended it be 3 or 4 folks, preferably folks that use the dark sky site. Chuck and Darrell will be involved in organizing the committee. They will reach out to the most frequent users of the dark sky site, such as Greg Wimpey, Joe Gafford, Ed Scholes.

Holiday Banquet Planning Update: December 11th, Sunday, has been finalized with the hotel. Ed is still working on the menu items and pricing. Darrell asked that he be involved with the planning of the layout of the room to ensure that he can make a good video recording of the speaker's presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Colorado Astronomy Day, October 8th: DMNS is not doing a Colorado Astronomy Day event in October. There is an open house that evening, but DAS could make a solar observing event as well. It would need to be promoted and advertised to ensure strong attendance. DMNS would be glad to promote it at the museum if DAS decided to do that. The board encouraged that DAS do a daytime event, and Ron called for volunteers to organize. July volunteered to organize people to set up scopes for the event. Leo suggested working with volunteers from the DMNS to do presentations or reenactments at the observatory.

Colorado Springs Astronomical Society Eclipse Programs: Ron showed a letter sent from the president of CSAS about a partnership with Glendo State Park for the eclipse next year. There will be campsites set aside for those people that will do outreach programs for the eclipse. Ron wants to put

the letter out to the Yahoo Listserv to solicit volunteers for CSAS. They're also looking for volunteers to do programs for some school districts in Wyoming.

Equipment Donations to DAS: Ron mentioned that we get e-mails / calls / letters throughout the year from people that have equipment and want to donate it to the organization. One of the suggestions has been to donate the equipment by bringing it to the auction in October, and donate some or all of the proceeds to the VNH Scholarship fund. Now that we are looking to purchase the storage unit for the dark sky site, and could have a place to store donated equipment, Ron asked does it make sense for us to accept more donations because we have a place to store it. An 8" Orion Dobsonian has been put up for offer for the loaner program. Jeff Tropeano offered to store it if it's a worthy piece of equipment.

Next E-board Meeting: Friday, September 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Chamberlin Observatory.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 8:44 PM.

MOTIONS

- **Jack Eastman made a motion to fill the vice president position with Leo Sack, Joe Gafford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Jack Eastman made a motion to approve the expense to purchase the mount and saddle, Joe Gafford seconded**

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

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

- Michael to research current CD rates to determine if it makes sense to put \$10,000 from the General Fund into a CD.
- Chuck and Darrell will be involved in organizing the committee. They will reach out to the most frequent users of the dark sky site, such as Greg Wimpey, Joe Gafford, Ed Scholes.

PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

- Ed will call the Embassy Suites DTC off of Havana to ask about available dates.
- Eileen will find out if DMNS is planning another women's STEM group that DAS could participate in, perhaps asking Naomi.
- Ron should follow up with Stuart to determine if there is a shortage of future speakers.
- Michael will look into POS systems to do this, perhaps including Zozi, or Square.
- Ken will install skype on the presentation machine in preparation to test it an Olin overflow plan.

ONLINE UPDATES

Subject: Quartermaster's Report

Reported by: Ed Scholes

Report:

Linda and I added a few more items to the inventory including the old C14 tripod, wedge and old fork mount that are in the Chamberlin basement. I wonder if there is someone that may really want or need these things? It would be fun to put them to use.

Two scopes are out on loan:

7" Maksutov and newly uncovered 5" Maksutov

E-Board action: *None.*

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Subject: VNH Scholarship Committee Update

Reported by: Jeff Tropeano

Report:

I wanted to give everybody an update on this year's VNH Scholarship.

We received five applications this year, all from fantastically qualified students. It's such a breath of fresh air to hear from good students so interested in astronomy and physical sciences. Of the five applications, two were from previous awardees. It was difficult to choose, but the committee felt strongly that we should choose one awardee for a large award this year.

The VNH Scholarship this year will be \$3,000 and will be going to a Matilyn Bindl, an impressive student from Belvidere, IL. During her sophomore year of high school, she was presented the opportunity to get both her high school diploma and her Associates Degree in Science at the end of her high school tenure. She'll be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison to obtain her Doctorate in Astronomy or Astrophysics.

We'll be writing an article in the observer about the award, and asking Matilyn to make a short video introducing herself, and accepting the award. We can play the video at a future membership meeting.

Thank you, and let us know if you have any questions!

- Jeff & the VNH Scholarship Committee

E-Board action: *None.*
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**Treasurer Report for July
2016**

**Standing Accounts July 31
2016**

1st Bank Accounts and Investment Fund

Type of Account	Ref No	Amount
General Fund Checking	X9663	\$37,240.41
Dark Site Checking	X1049	\$3,276.02
Premier Time Savings	X9213	\$10,567.34
Time Deposit Savings	X3552	\$5,180.81
Total		<u>\$56,264.58</u>

Deposits

Total

General Fund Checking Acct X9663	Deposits from mail, Open Houses, Public Nights, Zozi	\$844.23
	Transfers from Paypal	\$1,500.00
TOTAL		<u>\$2,344.23</u>

PayPal

Transactions in July 2016	Number	Fee	Total
Regular Memberships	13		\$468.00
Student Memberships	0		\$0.00
Donations to VNH			\$0.00
Donations to Dark Site			\$0.00
Donations to General Fund			\$0.00
Balance of Reservations Paypal at July 31			\$1,254.16
Balance of Treasurer Paypal at July 31			\$494.16
Total Paypal Funds at July 31			<u>\$1,748.32</u>

Mail	Number	Fee	Total
Mail-In Membership	0		\$0.00
Mail-In Student Membership	0		\$0.00
Donations to General Fund			\$0.00
Total			<u>\$0.00</u>

Public Night & Open House	Number	Fee	Total
Public Night Guests	0	Various	\$0.00
Open House Guests	0	Various	\$0.00
Total Entry	0		\$0.00
Donations at Open House/Public Night	0	0	\$0.00

Total		\$0.00
Payments	Description	Amount
Greg Wimpey	Reimbursement for Picnic	\$442.32
Signal Graphics	Newsletter Printing Inv #41727	\$130.00
	Second Quarter 2016 Head Tax care of Dr.	
University of Denver	Bob Stencil	\$1,053.00
The Hartford	Insurance Coverage Renewal	\$823.00
Astronomical League	2016/2017 League Dues	\$1,810.00
US Postal Service	PO Box 102738 Rental	\$68.00
Signal Graphics	Newsletter Printing Inv #41803	\$130.00
Van Nattan-Hansen		
Scholarship	Transfer Funds	\$135.00
Eileen Barela	Reimbursement for mailing the Observer	\$47.65
		<u>\$4,638.97</u>