

**Denver Astronomical Society**  
**Minutes of April 29, 2016 E-Board Meeting**

**Officers Present:** Ron Hranac – President, VACANT – Vice President, Jeff Tropeano – Secretary

**Board Members Present:** Joe Gafford, Jack Eastman, Johnny O. Barela, Dan Wray, Lindsay Shaw, Ed Scholes

**Observatory Representative:** Dr. Robert Stencel

**Absent:** Ron Pearson, Chuck Habenicht, Michael Nowak – Treasurer, Ken Sturrock, Stuart Hutchins

**Members and Guests:** Eileen Barela, Ivan Geisler, Mark Palmer, Hugh Davidson, Zach Singer

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**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.

**New Agenda Items:**

None.

**DU's Historic Chamberlin Observatory Business:**

Dr. Stencel gave an update on Chamberlin Observatory business. The clocks in the observatory classroom have been repaired and are functioning. All scope operators, scope operator assistants, and trainees, must attend certification and certification is coming up on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM and is required to attend. Hugh Davidson to send an email to all of the public night members. Mercury transit is coming up on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Bob will be at the observatory and have the telescope ready by 8:00 AM. There hasn't been much feedback about DAS bringing solar telescopes on the park. Dave Tondreau and Dena will be in the park. The dome room floor is very rough and may need repair, especially in the Northeast corner. The college facilities department is suggesting a major floor repair, at some expense. Dan and Stuart are going to look into the repair to determine if they may be able to do it.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Michael Nowak gave the DAS Treasurer's report update. VNH donation letters need to be sent for \$100 or more, and Jeff Tropeano needs to send those letters. Michael wrote a check for the VNH fund and gave it to Jeff Tropeano. Ron Hranac asked if some of the funds should be transferred into a CD. Michael will take a look at current interest rates on CDs to determine if transferring the funds into a CD or an online savings account would be preferred.

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## OLD BUSINESS

### Membership Survey Results - Next Steps:

Mark Palmer attended the board meeting to discuss ideas on Amateur Telescope Making activities. Mark has experience building a telescope, and be interested in coordinate or exploring an Amateur Telescope Making activity. Lindsey suggested another survey, or organizing on the listserv, an amateur telescope making subgroup. Mark volunteered to coordinate and organize. Dan suggested perhaps leading a class building a telescope from a “kit” similar to what was done a few years prior. It wouldn’t necessarily require mirror grinding.

Ron Hranac gave the member survey results presentation at the last membership meeting, and opened the floor for discussion about what our next steps are. Dan Wray suggested that the next major thing to tackle is to get younger members with families into the club. Digby should reach out to Zach about the next “learn to use your telescope” talk that he’ll do. Lindsey mentioned that Facebook calendar events are becoming much more popular. DAS should put more calendar events on Facebook. A Facebook event for the “learn to use your telescope.” Ed Scholes mentioned that there are a lot more women active in the club, and suggested putting together a special women’s event. Eileen mentioned the DMNS did a STEM program dedicated for just women and girls. Eileen will find out if DMNS is planning another women’s STEM group that DAS could participate in, perhaps asking Naomi.

### Open Positions:

The Vice President position is still open, and no volunteers have come forward. Dan reiterated the idea that other volunteers should take some of the duties and responsibilities from the VP, such as picnic planning, and holiday party planning. The only VP duties that are truly required is organizing the speakers. Ron Hranac called for volunteers to organize the summer picnic, got no volunteers, and it was suggested to write a blurb in the newsletter and listserv to find volunteers.

Lindsey asked if there are speakers lined up for future meetings, and it seems that there aren’t. Stuart mentioned a few speakers have fallen through recently. Ron should follow up with Stuart to determine if there is a shortage of future speakers.

### Recently Filled Positions:

Jeff Tropeano is new chairman of VNH, Dena and Lindsey are on the VNH committee, Eileen is now librarian, and Digby is New Member Ambassador.

### Mercury Transit:

There isn’t enough interest in a formal event for the Mercury Transit.

### Club Jackets:

Dan Wray has ordered club jackets, and will be issuing the jackets to the members that paid. 14 were ordered from AB&C Enterprises.

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## NEW BUSINESS

### Partnership with Vertex Music Festival:

Jeff Tropeano forwarded an email from the Vertex Music Festival asking if the DAS wanted to participate in the music festival. Ron Hranac suspects that the music festival is asking if the DAS wants to pay to a partner in the music festival. If that's the case, we won't participate. If they would like volunteers, then Julie will organize with them to collect the typical stipend and determine if we should volunteer.

Lindsey noticed August 5 – 7<sup>th</sup> stargazing on canoes on the Gunnison river organized by DMNS. Also, DMNS called out for volunteers for the upcoming solar observing event on Space Day on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jeff to follow up with Sorin on brochure designs.

Jeff suggested that we go through budget process again in the next month or two. Jeff will send Michael last year's budget documents for review.

**Next E-board Meeting:** Friday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Chamberlin Observatory.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 8:46 p.m.

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## MOTIONS

(none)

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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:

- Hugh to send an email to all of the public night members.
- Michael will take a look at current interest rates on CDs to determine if transferring the funds into a CD or an online savings account would be preferred.
- Jeff needs to send VNH letters.
- Digby should reach out to Zach about the next "learn to use your telescope" talk that he'll do.
- 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.
- Jeff will send Michael last year's budget documents for review.

## PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

- ✓ Michael will transfer approximately \$600 to the VNH fund. Details are in Stuart's list of membership meeting speakers that have elected to donate their stipend.
- ✓ Jeff will send out an e-mail to the listserv to look for folks that are interested.
- ✓ Jeff will email Darrell to shop for a Lavoisier mic.
- Michael will look into POS systems to do this, perhaps including Zozi, or Square.
- ✓ Lindsey will reach out to Julie, the public outreach coordinator, to see if there are any local school groups interested in the Mercury transit.
- ✓ Jeff will reach out to Zach and the Listserv to find interested for the new member ambassador role.
- Ken will install skype on the presentation machine in preparation to test it an Olin overflow plan.
- ✓ Michael Nowak will write a check to the VNH fund and give it to Ron Pearson.

## ONLINE UPDATES

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### Subject: Membership Report

Reported by: Dena McClung

Report:

*The membership list was recently culled, removing 147 members who have not renewed. Among those who have not renewed are Chris Campbell (a regular poster on the listserv), Roger Clark, and volunteers John Doran and Tim Kish.*

*As of this morning the membership total is 355 members. There are 12 honorary members, 23 student members, and 320 regular members.*

*Dena*

E-Board Action: *None.*

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### Subject: Quartermaster's Report

Reported by: Ed Scholes

Report:

*One scope on loan*

E-Board action: *None.*

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**Subject: Listserv**

Reported by: Greg Marino

Report:

*Listserve:*

*We have started the process of culling the listserve membership. This is a slower process because only about half the listserve members use the same email address they use in the roster or are otherwise identifiable. Current total is 229.*

*Greg*

E-Board action: *None.*

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**Subject: IT Report**

Reported by: Ken Sturrock

Report:

*As far as I know, DAS computer equipment works without problem. David S. requested the observatory laptop password to update a program that he normally uses. We had discussed moving the an auto-pay plan for the observatory internet account but am unsure if this was done.*

E-Board action: *None.*

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**Treasurer Report for March 2016**

**Standing Accounts March 31 2016**

**1st Bank Accounts and Investment Fund**

| <b>Type of Account</b> | <b>Ref No</b> | <b>Amount</b>             |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| General Fund Checking  | X9663         | \$33,574.71               |
| Dark Site Checking     | X1049         | \$3,276.02                |
| Premier Time Savings   | X9213         | \$10,562.07               |
| Time Deposit Savings   | X3552         | \$5,178.87                |
| <b>Total</b>           |               | <b><u>\$52,591.67</u></b> |

**Deposits**

**Total**

General Fund Checking Acct X9663

Deposits from mail, Open Houses, Public **\$1,863.60**

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Nights, Zozi          |                   |
| Transfers from Paypal | <u>\$2,500.00</u> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$4,363.60</b> |

| <b>PayPal</b>                                     |               |            |                          |
|---|---------------|------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Tranasctions in March 2016</b>                 | <b>Number</b> | <b>Fee</b> | <b>Total</b>             |
| Regular Memberships                               | 44            | Renewals   | \$1,477.00               |
| Student Memberships                               | 1             | Renewals   | \$12.00                  |
| Total Banquet Reservations                        | 45            | \$25.00    | \$1,125.00               |
| Donations to VNH                                  |               |            | \$25.00                  |
| Donations to Dark Site                            |               |            | \$25.00                  |
| Donations to General Fund                         |               |            | \$25.00                  |
| <b>Balance of Reservations Paypal at March 31</b> |               |            | <b>\$4,254.16</b>        |
| <b>Balance of Treasurer Paypal at March 31</b>    |               |            | <b>\$805.38</b>          |
| <b>Total Paypal Funds at March 31</b>             |               |            | <b><u>\$5,059.54</u></b> |

| <b>Mail (March &amp; April)</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Fee</b>    | <b>Total</b>           |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Mail-In Membership              | 4             | Renewal & Reg | \$129.00               |
| Mail-In Student Membership      | 0             | \$12.00       | \$0.00                 |
| Banquet Payments                | 2             | \$25.00       | \$50.00                |
| Donations to General Fund       |               |               | \$9.00                 |
| <b>Total</b>                    |               |               | <b><u>\$188.00</u></b> |

| <b>Public Night &amp; Open House (March &amp; April)</b> |               |            |                       |
|--|---------------|------------|-----------------------|
|  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Fee</b> | <b>Total</b>          |
| Public Night Guests                                      | 259           | Various    | \$48.00               |
| Open House Guests  | 0             | Various    | \$0.00                |
| Total Entry  | 259           |            | <u>\$48.00</u>        |
| Donations at Open House/Public Night                     | 0             | 0          | <u>\$0.00</u>         |
| <b>Total</b>   |               |            | <b><u>\$48.00</u></b> |

| <b>Payments</b> |                            | <b>Description</b> | <b>Amount</b>          |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Dena McClung    | Reimb for mailing Observer |                    | \$22.54                |
| Signal Graphics | Newsletter Printing        |                    | \$130.00               |
| Ron Hranac      | Reimb for Trophies         |                    | <u>\$278.48</u>        |
|                 |                            |                    | <b><u>\$431.02</u></b> |