



February 29th, 2008
Minutes of the DAS Executive Board

Attendees:

Officers: Wayne Green, Darrell Dodge, Keith Pool

Trustees: Jack Eastman, Dan Wray, Joe Gafford, Bryan Wilburn, Ron Mickle, David Shouldice

Others: Aaron Reid, Bill Ormsby, Dennis Cochran, Wayne Kaaz, Ivan Geisler

The February 2008 EBoard meeting was called to order by Keith Pool at 7:35 pm. The minutes of the January 8, 2008 EBoard meeting were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.

Chamberlin Observatory

Aaron Reid had nothing new to report on the Chamberlin grant work. Wayne Green relayed information from Dr. Stencel that nothing new was to be brought into the observatory until the end of restoration work. This would include office equipment, such as a copier or printer.

Librarian Phil Klos was told by Dr. Stencel that non-essential books, including the many volumes of almanacs owned by the DAS, should be removed from the library.

ALCor

Darrell Dodge passed out ballots for the AL MARS division election of officers. The voting occurred during New Business (below). This year's ALCON will be in Des Moines, Iowa on July 18-19.

Officer Reports

Treasurer

There was no treasurer's report because Brad Gilman was ill.

Secretary – Darrell Dodge

Eight new members joined in February and the total DAS membership (including honorary but excluding complementary memberships) is now 328. The *February Observer* had been proofread, printed, and mailed. A renewal reminder was mailed to members who were due or overdue. Darrell Dodge prepared a proposal for a DAS single-day registration date. This was later discussed during the "New Business" agenda item (see below).

Vice President – Keith Pool

Presentations are lined up for the spring and early summer, as noted in last month's minutes.

President – Wayne Green

Wayne Green reported on recent meetings with DU personnel associated with the observatory. He noted that DU now expects any press release or media contact mentioning activities at the observatory to be cleared with, and released by, the DU media contact, Chase Squires.

Wayne also mentioned that National Astronomy Day – May 10th – is the May Chamberlin open house night. He suggested that DAS should recognize the occasion more publicly this year. He suggested that we advertise with a press release saying either 1) “Join DAS for National Astronomy Day in Observatory Park” or 2) “DU in cooperation with DAS will host National Astronomy Day celebrations at Chamberlin Observatory” and send to Chase Squires at DU for approval.

Mr. Green reported that preparations for the spring banquet were set. The banquet will be held at the Columbine Unitarian-Universalist Church in Littleton. A lasagna and chicken dinner will be catered by Romano’s, an Italian restaurant in Littleton. Bryan White will present his 3-dimensional, multi-media slide show on comets and the aurora borealis. The cost to members will be \$20, payable to Mr. Green. A banquet flyer was prepared for the March newsletter.

Committee Reports

Outreach

Ron Mickle discussed the new outreach initiatives by the Astronomical League, the International Year of Astronomy and International Year of the Telescope.

Van Nattan Hansen Scholarship

No report.

Dark Site Committee

The Messier Marathon will be held at the dark site on two separate dates this year due to the early-month new moon: March 8th and April 6th.

Wayne Kaaz asked Wayne Green if the revised lease agreement with Henry Weisensee had been reviewed. Mr. Green said he would bring the agreement to the March 28th EBoard meeting for review and approval.

17.5-inch Telescope Project

In lieu of a report from Mr. Pearson, members discussed the 17.5-inch Telescope Project and increasing interest in an alternate site for a large, DAS-owned telescope. It was also noted that there was some interest shown by DAS members in Ron Pearson’s discussion of the mount design on the Yahoo discussion group.

Mr. Green asked if there was EBoard interest in building a society observatory. It was agreed to discuss this informally at dinner after the meeting.

Mr. Green noted that he had made DAS interest known at the DMNS for the historical 22.5 inch Celestron SCT, which is being stored in an unheated building at the Jefferson County outdoor lab.

Web Site

A proposal to move the DAS Web site to a new offsite Web server was made by Darrell Dodge, the DAS Webmaster. Under the proposal, the recently recaptured domain name “denverastro.org” would become the primary domain, although the old domain names “thedas.org” and “denverastrosociety.org” would still be associated with the new server. He handed out a written summary of the move, including operational and cost advantages. The new

monthly hosting fee would be \$2.95 (later, it was found that the cost would be \$2.00), and the server would provide 300 gigabytes of file space, along with 3000 gigabytes of bandwidth per month. Members raised questions about the existing architecture/system and the security of an offsite server. It was noted by Mr. Dodge that the Yahoo discussion group was not associated with the Yahoo Web server hosting the “denverastrosociety.org” domain, and that the new offsite server is with a large commercial hosting company and might be more secure in many respects than the present server at Chamberlin. The Chamberlin server would still be used to host the wireless system at the observatory and for various database functions. The new server would be able to host the existing Public Night and event reservation system because it has MYSQL/PHP capability. Mr. Green reviewed the projected cost figures and noted that the hosting costs would be much less for the new arrangement once the Yahoo hosting account was cancelled. Following the discussion of the proposal, David Shouldice moved that the proposal be approved, Ron Mickle seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

New Business

As a result of the DAS voting in the MARS region election, the entire slate of nominees was approved unanimously by the EBoard: Chairperson, Wayne Green; Vice-Chairperson, Virginia Kramer; Secretary-Treasurer, Gene Schemerhorn; Regional Representative, Vern Raben. Darrell will mail the DAS results to Jerry Sherlin before the March 15, 2008 election deadline.

Darrell Dodge handed out a draft copy of a proposal to have a single membership renewal date for the DAS. Because the newly elected Secretary (Mr. Pearson), and the Treasurer were not in attendance, Mr. Dodge did not want a motion or significant discussion to be made until they could read and comment on the proposal, which would require a slight revision of the bylaws. He will transmit a copy to of the renewal proposal to Mr. Gilman and Mr. Pearson before the next EBoard meeting (March 28th).

Jack Eastman raised a concern that members discussing sensitive technology at widely viewed events (such as the recent general meeting simulcast on Second Life) – should be careful to avoid breaking International Traffic and Arms Restrictions (ITAR) rules regarding transfer of sensitive technology to unauthorized people.

Mr. Eastman also noted that DAS is in arrears with the Western Area Astronomers (WAA), of which DAS is a member, because we are late with our \$20 membership fee.

There being no further business to discuss, Dan Wray made a motion to adjourn. Ron Mickle seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Darrell M. Dodge, DAS Secretary