

December 7, 2004 Minutes of the Northern Sky Astronomical Society
Attendance and Introductions: No new members, 11 present, 3 students
Meeting called to order at 7:08pm by Matt Goltz

Meeting Agenda was approved with no additions

Old Business

Astronomical League and \$5.00 club dues

Members brought forth concerns of privacy with regards of Astronomical League membership. Wanted to know why information was collected. Astronomical League stated they would not share information about people with 3rd parties, but wanted people's email, address, phone, name. Stated information was to announce to members about star parties and events hosted by nearby clubs.

A question was brought up as to how the Astronomical League would know about who our members are, answered with level of honesty should be maintained with League.

League by-laws clearly states within it that all members of a affiliated society need to be members counted within the league. We cannot separate astronomy club members from Astronomical League members.

Reason for the club joining the Astronomical League was primarily because we wanted to be covered under liability insurance for observatory and star parties. Member wanted to know what the status was of that project; nothing has been done on the club observatory.

Decision to table the joining of the league until sufficient information is gathered pertaining to the League's use of personal information gathered primarily why phone numbers

Terry will research these questions and present at the January or future meeting.

Ray entered a motion to table this topic for purposes of researching the problems and re-visiting the issue in the future.

Dean seconded the motion, club passed.

Membership

Terry made a motion to make annual dues 10.00 per year, which would cover costs associated with joining the Astronomical League if we decided to do that, otherwise the money goes into club account.

Ray seconded the motion, it passed 10:1 with concerns

Concerns:

Tim had brought up the club revisiting the idea of joining the Dark Sky Association, once again the concerns that were brought forth had to do with what the club would get out of joining. This idea was set aside for future discussion.

Dues starting January will be \$10.00 per year (Jan-Jan) Rates will be prorated for mid-year members.

VP Position.

Since 3 students were present, the club decided to revisit this at next meeting.

NDSP

Next NDSP meeting will be combined with December meeting, and held in January.

Milly has found two speakers, Jim Zimbelmen from National Air and Space and John Hoganson from the state Geological survey.

Milly introduced a motion to allow committee to spend up to \$300.00 on speaker hospitality including travel costs.

Ray seconded the motion

Motion was passed

Jen Rogers spoke about the star party themes, and will place ideas on the Yahoo server Ideas for the t-shirt design also will be placed on the site, these will be voted on by members as in previous years. Send designs to ndsp05@hotmail.com.

Advertising will begin in January, Jen mentioned she will go abroad and advertise.

A check for ND Jaycee's was written and given to Terry to hand off to Kim Michelsen of the state Jaycee's

Popcorn

Applications due on Dec 8

NSAS will submit application.

Dakota Space Society Cassini Program

Club thinks they can assist DSS in program, Matt will find out details.

Milly presentation on Mars Express & Mars Rovers

Presentations can be downloaded at

<http://balloons.space.edu/~milford/presentations>

Jay Arnold built a super wedge for telescope

Information can be found at www.majwedge.com

Wanted heavy stable wedge for telescope

Discounted club price \$299.00 actual costs around \$600.00

Handles Jay's 10-inch well thinks it could hold up to 100 lbs.

Received interest from the Meade Advanced Product Users Group

NEW COMET!

Comet Machholtz is visible in night sky currently 5.66 magnitude

Will skim Orion region, into Taurus and on to Perseus to become circumpolar

Trips

Tim Young wants the club to travel to the Badlands observatory in South Dakota

Robotic 26-inch telescope

Located 60 miles east of Rapid City, SD

10 people interested, depending on date

Possible funding from UND, Dean will check on this

Milly brought up American Astronomical Society meeting in May

Located in Minneapolis

May 25-June 2

Checking to see if UND will cover costs associated with registration

Registration is pricey, not a lot of interest in club unless costs dropped

Dean brought up Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in March

Less expensive than AAS

Again UND could cover some costs

No real interest in this either, but Dean and Milly will be going anyway

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM, dinner was at the Ground Round.