

01/06/10 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Present: Phil, Pete G., Gordon, Harry, Red, Jeff, Art, Jon

Call to order: Approximately 7:05 PM

Minutes read and revised per Red's email. Gordon moves to approve. Red seconds. Voted for.

Treasurer's report provided by Red. Jon moves to approve, Harry seconds. Voted for.

Old Business (10 min):

- * Membership renewals. - see discussion of constitution.
- * Budget for 2010 - Red supplied a suggested budget with typical categories.
 - Discussion of publicity budget.
 - Budget items discussed and filled out.
 - Gordon moves to approve. Jon seconds. Voted for.
- * Pete G. added a stud to the club equatorial mount to allow the azimuth adjustment bolts to work.

New Business (20 min):

- * 2010 club officer elections. Who may be interested in running for a position? See below for Constitution review.
- * Saturday at the Planetarium event (February 20th). See flyer.
- * Astronomy Day April 24th. Daytime solar and nighttime observing as usual. Paul to set up portable observatory.
- * Night sky network. Discussed and agreed to utilize. See <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>. Clubs can use this to schedule events, and non-members can even use it to request an outreach event.
- * Observatory update. Nothing to report.
- * Funding issues. Jon D. reported on the history of funding for the Hobbes observatory.
- * Constitution review.
 - Article III Section II states officers to be elected in March. Red is going to write a proposed amendment to move membership dues and office elections to Jan 1. As per the constitution, this should be put in the next newsletter for review by members.
- * Discussion of sending minutes and agenda separately from newsletter. Going to leave it for now.

Observing/equipment reports from members (20 min).

No public present. Watched presentation by Phil on night sky network.

Adjourned around 8:45pm.

MWR

12/0209 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Present: Phil, John B., Pete, Gordon, Jon, Harry, Red, Lloyd, Jeff, Art, Jonathan R. (new), Mary Beth, and Aaron Schmidt (representative from Human Powered Trails, Inc.)

Call to order: Approximately 7:05 PM

Minutes read and treasurer's report provided by Red (balance \$1,394.00). Jon moves to approve, Harry seconds.

Miscellaneous Business Addressed:

Correction necessary: Pete stated solar project was for powering a freezer, not a house.

Suggestion made by Phil that on the newsletter the recommendation is made that members print out a copy and bring to the meeting as a reference.

Dues structure - Phil asked Red about his perceptions regarding the current structure. Red is neutral, but stated that the IRS focuses on the calendar year for memberships, versus vernal equinox to vernal equinox. May need to correlate the two to ensure offices are covered.

Check over membership list - those present checked information.

Red shared that there are 28 paid memberships, with a total of 35 members, and that even though we have lost several, we have brought in some new ones. In addition, he expressed concern about retaining members.

Official Old Business:

Phil provided overview of trip to Wyalusing with Red to meet with the Starsplitters about their observatories. He indicated that they heat with propane, have a dome and a roll-off, and in ten years collected approximately \$90,000. Also, they work in partnership with the DNR, and have the same size member base as LCAAS.

New Business:

1. Trip to Gordon's observatory and reevaluation of site at Grandad's Bluff was discussed. Gordon's telescope that could be utilized as an interim scope was seen, and his observatory layout and structure. Following that, the proposed observatory site was evaluated by a few members, with the following results:

--Pete felt the site would be fine.

--Jon stated that there is a washed out sky to the west somewhat, but that not much would be gained by an alternative site.

--Red felt that sky conditions were similar at Gordon's.

--Jon also reminded us of the need to be in proximity to the population base.

2. Review of steps to follow in the progressive building of the observatory by Phil:

--Step 1: Finish site review and if acceptable, get approval from Park Board to use in 2010 for observing sessions. Also, ask the city to mow out an area to put scopes on east of trail.

--Step 2: If successful with Step 1, get approval to build basic observatory structure, etc.

--Step 3: Proceed to the addition of classrooms, and other parts of the facility.

3. Aaron Schmidt from Human Powered Trails, Inc. presented basic information about HPT in a shared discussion format regarding their willingness to partner with LCAAS on the observatory project in a mutually beneficial way:

--Aaron is the new contact person for us.

--Human-powered trails are shared-use in the blufflands.

--They work with Myrick/Hixon and the La Crosse Park Board.

--When they build trails, they need to be concerned about plant and animal species, overall environmental impact, and developing sustainable, low impact, environmentally friendly trails.

--They are excited about the proposed observatory as they feel it would draw attention to Human Powered Trails, and that it would be a good fit.

--HPT would like to work hand-in-hand with us in regards to finances, fundraising, etc. as they have the experience and contacts to do so.

--HPT is 100% volunteer, as is LCAAS.

--HPT has access to someone that could do CAD drawings, and they already have a basic building drawn up for their needs, which would include a storage area and an overhang off the building for a protected outdoor area.

--HPT would also ultimately like restroom facilities, electricity, and water.

Suggestions from Aaron regarding their past proposals:

--Ask for more than what you are willing to accept.

--Break proposal into parts so that those evaluating it have some choices.

--Basic approval process is Myrick/Hixon, Park Board, then the city.

--MUST get on the agenda for their board meetings, and attend.

--If Myrick/Hixon approves (master plan may restrict land use--no permanent structure at the site. currently), then Park Board likely to approve, but may have some questions.

--Approval process may take six months to a year since may need to answer questions, make revisions, etc.

Miscellaneous Additional Information regarding HPT and proposed site relevant to LCAAS:

--City could mow area for us (they mow the grass trails up there, and HPT takes care of woods trails).

--HPT has a small excavator with certified users and they could level off an area for us (Phil recommends just mow for now).

--Mowed area would need to be at least 36'x24' for starters, and 12' should be allowed between scopes.

--Building may take 2-3 years, and we may end up with separate buildings up there for each group.

--HPT knows funding is available, and believes that by working together, we may be more apt to make a building happen.

--If a multi-use building is put up (community center, HPT. observatory), need to consider lighting (increased for non-astronomy purposes for safety, but low level for LCAAS and HPT). May need to make recommendations in project proposal with restrictions during astronomy use.

-- They are interested in a green building, both for materials and power.

Summary of Discussion with HPT: HPT is more than willing to work together with LCAAS and believes that this would be an ideal partnership to benefit all parties involved, and the community. Aaron would like to evaluate observatory site with Phil, and others who would like to attend, and to be

put on our e-mail list for information and correspondence (Phil will take care of).

Other:

--Business meeting concluded 8:00 PM.

--Phil presented December's night sky to club members and eight public attendees for the program, four of which were children or teens.

--No observing took place due to clouds.

MBM

11/04/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Mike R., Harry, Jeff, Mary Beth, Duane, Art, Jon, Mike J., Pete, Gordon, John B., Karen

Called to order 7:03pm.

Minutes read. Harry moves to approve, Pete seconds, approved.

Treasurers Report ~\$1342.06 Gordon moves to approve, Mary Beth seconds, approved.

Dues are due on Vernal Equinox March 20th, 2010.

Old business:

New website is up.

Discussion of observatory site. NWS isn't willing to install running water due to expense and liability.

New business:

Red reported on visit with Star Splitters club at Wyalloosing State Park. 15 ft dome with small roll off building and 6 concrete pads. Club house 26 x 30 with electrical and propane heat. It is important to get a written agreement on property and other issues. Park mows and provides a pit toilet (~\$40,000). State parks are closed at 10:00pm. Building was \$58,000. \$41,000 dome. \$7000 for insurance. Electrical \$4400. \$4200 in fund raisers. Over 10 years, they've had over \$90,000 in donations. They do two public events per month at \$2 per head. Their facility provides a precedence with WI state parks. Need an angel. Star Splitters are about our size with 30 members and maybe 10 active. Dues are more. Could use a portable generator at first - latest ones are very efficient. Would start with concrete pads. Still need to confirm that weather station lights can be shut off or covered.

Gordon has a 10 inch SCT on an equatorial mount (frankenmount) that club could use.

Meet on 13th with rain date of 14th at Gordon's to see light situation on Grand Dad's Bluff. 7:00pm.

Pete was given the club equatorial mount in order to resolve the misaligned azimuth adjustment post.

Business meeting adjourned around 8:00pm.

Presentation by Phil on Stellarium and night sky.

No observing due to cloudiness.

10/07/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Mike R., Harry, Jeff, Mary Beth, Lloyd, Randy, John, Mike J., Pete, Gordon

Called to order 6:12pm.

Minutes read. Harry moves to approve, John seconds, approved.

Treasurers Report ~\$1300. Harry moves to approve, Mike seconds, approved.

Phil bought a Coronado PST (for himself!)

Discussion of new website.

Phil reported on the La Crosse County Library event at the West Salem library and the experimental forest and also the MVC event at St Joseph's Ridge.

John Boland noted the upcoming Distinguished Lecture series at UWL.

Upcoming events.

Saturday, October 24 Astronomy Day event at park near EcoCenter. (Solar and nighttime observing.)

Presentation by Dave Whiteley

Discussion of general observatory notes.

Had had students do an analysis of what it would take to build and run an observatory.

Vibration happened when they connected conduit from pier on 2nd floor to 1st floor box.

Recommends Ash Domes. Other domes may not be as sealed.

Have to check building code on ramp slopes and door height.

If dome attached to building should be on South side so avoid heat from building.

Hobbs on county park funded by university, maintained by county and CVA, operated by CVA.

Electrical should have master switch.

What we can do (i.e. access, codes, etc.) may depend on the source of funding (public vs private)

Nicely setup observatory can be about \$400,000. \$100,000 is about bare bones.

Gordon suggested an adjustable height pier - using one at UW now that works very well.

Discussion of Dave's personal observatory.

Pier is 42 inches deep.

Have to watch total sq feet for sake of permit.

Used wood platform with 2 inch gap to peir.

Business meeting adjourned about 8:15pm.

09/02/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Mike R., Red, Gordon, Art, Harry, Jon, Pete, Lloyd, MaryBeth

Called to order 7:07pm.

Minutes read. Jon moves to approve, Harry seconds, approved.

Treasurers Report Red 825.36. Total income 29?.??.

Jon moves to approve, Mike seconds, approved.

Club scope was delivered to Steve Gorkowski and he gave us an equatorial mount. The mount needs to be gone over and tuned up.

Discussion of Solar scope such as the Coronado PST. Mike R. wanted to do a little more research, particularly on the lifetime of the element.

Discussion of prorating of dues. Prior minutes showed that we had voted to pro-rate quarterly. Could not remember if we had changed the start date, but Mike R. remembered discussions of leaving this tied to an astronomical event.

Upcoming events.

- La Crosse County Library
- MVC

Phil discussed with Steph?? October 24 Saturday event at park. (Solar observing.)

Discussion of observatory. Phil says there is interest and sources of funding. Is going to do scouting mission with Gar Amundson. Contact Phil if interested in accompanying.

Business meeting adjourned 8:00pm.

Presentation by Gordon on night sky.

Observing of Moon and Jupiter from well lit parking lot.

08/05/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Mike R., Red, John, Mike J., ?

Called to order 7:30pm

John moves to sell club scope for \$300. Red seconds. Voted for.
Will ask for his mount also.

Treasurers Report Red 825.36 since May 20.

Discussion of Hans (Horst) Facius.

Upcoming events (see newsletter).

Discussion of Winona Astronomy Club and Persied observing at Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge.
Winona State Univ Astronomy Club Dr Jennifer Anderson

Discussion of La Crosse Parks and MVC and possible sites and observatory. Dome vs rolloff.

Business Meeting Adjourned 8:10pm

Presentation by Phil

John CRM Fly-In August 7 - They would would be happy to have LCAAS members help (parking cars, etc.).

05/06/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Mike R., Gordon, Red, Harry, Jon,

- Called to order at 7:15pm.
- Minutes read and approved.
- Treasurer's report by Red. Balance is \$804.36. This year's dues income was only \$279. Red filed the IRS Form 990. Can be done on the net.
- Gordon – Might still want to send letters to the physics department on the value of keeping the public planetarium programs going.
- Discussion and approval of 2009 budget.
- Mike moves to get offers for the club 13.1 inch modified Coulter. Red seconds, approved. John moves to amend the motion to research fair prices. Mike seconds. Passed.
- Discussion of upcoming schedule.
KVR July 24-25.
Hixon Forest July 28 – 29?
Sparta Boys and Girls Club August 17 - 21.
MVC Sept 18 -19 probably at St. Joseph's Ridge.
La Crosse County Library September ?? West Salem Experimental Forest.
- Adjourned

- Next meeting on Wednesday June 3, 2009?

04/01/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil & wife, Mike R., Gordon, Pete & wife, Red, Harry, John, Steve, Jon & wife, Art, Dave O. & wife, Dean, Unknown, Unknown

- Called to order at 7:15pm.

- Treasurer's report by Red. Balance is \$633.36. Gordon moves Pete seconds to approve. Voted for.

- Gordon – Last day as of May 30. Planetarium may be continued under Physics department. Gordon to supply mail addresses of people to whom letters should be sent. April planetarium program on Einstein.

- Dave Oesper's Presentation:

Demo of glare of unshielded light vs use of hood.

Comparison and evolution of different lighting technologies. Lumens per watt and lifetimes.

Glare is worse with white light and the blue component. But can use less lumens to see well (consider the Moon in a dark area).

LEDs work better the colder.

Rhine Germany turns off lights weekday nights 1:00a to 3:30a. No increase in crime.

4 to 1 rule.

Crime went up at night and down during day when lighting was increased in several cities.

Yahoo Group DarkSkyCommunities.

www.darksky.org

- Discussed having observing for Astronomy Day at Babe Wiegert park.

- Next meeting on May 6, 2009.

03/04/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Mike R., Gordon, Pete, Red, Harry, John, Steve, Todd, Karen, Jon

- Called to order at 7:05pm.
- Discussed minutes from 02/04/09. Red moves Gordon seconds to approve. Voted for.
- Treasurer's report by Red. Balance is \$633.36. Gordon moves Pete seconds to approve. Voted for.

Gordon – Hixon forest scheduled for July 8, Wednesday. Observing will not be optimal for the times requested.

- Karen Kroll does astronomy programs for the La Crosse County Library at various branches and times on Wednesdays in June, July and possibly Fridays Sept. She would like club members to bring scopes and answer questions. Call her at 781-9568 for info on dates and times.

Gordon could schedule a planetarium date for this.

- John talked to Steve Carlyon in the parks department. Could arrange to keep parks open longer. Property on top of bluff – they would be willing to mow the field but we would need permission to cross private owner's property. Phil suggested city farm.

- Include IYA site in newsletter and Yahoo group.

- Jon reported on CVAS Winter StarFest 2009. Pictures are at <put website here> 30 club members and 60 public. Jon has contact who is licensed to sell IYA t-shirts. CVA got commissioned poster of M101 of Spitzer, HST, and Chandra images. Their 24 inch ? telescope is a combination of Navy and Air Force engineering with a thick quartz mirror. Cool down can be challenging even with the fans!

- Red asks for \$42 for PO Box for year. Approved.

- Red discussed insurance at Radio Club events - they pay \$320 per year for \$1M liability coverage.

- John B. knows professor at Whitewater studying structure of Milky Way. Maybe we could ask him about being speaker.

- Pete needs to clean his 12.5 inch mirror. Red will send article and has extra cleaning solution. Obsession has had a video of this.

- John B. volunteers to be Vice President. Pete moves to elect officers as stands, Jon seconds. Voted for.

- John B. - City of La Crosse is looking at lighting ordinance. For now, it deals with objectionable light between neighbors.

- John B. has Tele Vue 2 inch Everbrite with 1.25 adapter for sale. Mirror isn't perfect.

02/04/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Mike R., Gordon, Pete, Red, Mike J., Rick, Jon, Harry, John

- Called to order at 7:05pm.
- Discussed minutes from 01/07/09. Red moves Jon seconds to approve. Voted for.
- Treasurer's report by Red. Balance is \$633.36. Gordon moves Mike seconds to approve. Voted for.

Old Business:

- Astronomy Day is May 2nd. Gordon talking to KVR for Friday night with Saturday night as a rain date. Saturday afternoon at Riverside, with Sunday afternoon as a cloud date.
- Gordon has room until June. The planetarium is funded through June, after which it may be closed.

New Business:

- Request for volunteers to hold office with vote at March meeting. All positions are available.
- Discussed 2009 observing schedule. It was decided that although we should have public observing on the 4th weekend, we should leave it flexible as to where.
- Gordon trying to reach West Salem to set up another school forest event.
- Gordon also aware of possible Hixon Forest opportunity.
- Gordon knows of a private school in Viroqua interested to come to public observing.
- Mike J. has opportunities with the Scouts. Possibly Camp Decorah this summer and various troop meetings.
- Jon has a lead on DNR possibility and IYA t-shirts.
- On Saturday night, March 21 the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society is having Pete Peloquin with the program "What Is Radio Astronomy". See CVAstro.org for details.
- Also, Paul Kinser is going to give his "Getting Started in Astronomy" program at CVA on May 16.

Observing Reports: - Special Presentation

- Paul Kinzer and the International Year of Astronomy/Astronomy Day.
- April 4 is 24 Hours of Astronomy. We're going to go to Riverside Park from 10:00a to 2:00p and then 7:00p to 11:00p (or park closing). There will be several bright targets to see.
- Discussed the "Telescope for Everyone". Decided there was no point in ordering one since they were in need of a huge sponsorship before the scope could be produced. Discussed maybe having someone bringing a cheesy old scope to public events this year in order to show people what Galileo might have seen.
- Could do a "Telescope amnesty" for people to bring in old scopes.
- For public observing nights, make sure to invite public to bring their own scopes, although they're welcome to look through club members' scopes.
- Paul brought his DIY scope for a possible giveaway at the end of the year in a drawing from people who signed up at events during the year.

01/07/09 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Art, Dean, Mike R., Pete, Red, Mike J., Rick, Jon, Frank, John

Called to order at 7:15pm.

1) Discussed and approved minutes from 12/03/08.

2) Treasurer's Report

- Read and approved. Balance is \$618.36.

3) Old Business:

- Discuss Red's request to change constitution such that no expenditures are to be made without being in the budget or are one time approvals. See below.

Red moves that the LAAS may adopt a budget, for a period up to one year, that, when approved by a vote of the membership at a regular meeting, shall authorize the Board members and their properly appointed subordinates to purchase goods or services for the LAAS and shall authorize the Treasurer to issue payment for such goods or services to the limit specified in the budget.

Phil seconds. Passed.

Red moves that the elected officers of the LAAS may, by majority vote at a meeting of those officers, authorize purchases of goods or services up to a limit of \$100 without a vote by the membership.

Phil seconds. Passed.

- Astronomy Day is May 2nd. Will try to setup for Friday night at KVR with Saturday night as a rain date. Saturday afternoon at Riverside, with Sunday afternoon as a cloud date. Gordon to contact KVR. No report from Gordon.

- Gordon has to reapply for the room in January. Phil to check.

4) New Business:

- International Year of Astronomy. See above for Astronomy Day.

- Discussion of LCAAS member Paul Kinzer's seminar/book signing and his new book Stargazing Basics. Phil, Mike R., and Jon reported. He will be coming to Feb 4 meeting.

- Request for funds for Dave Oesper talk on April 1.

Red moves Mike J. seconds for \$50 honorarium and dinner and to move meeting to Hackberrys at the co-op. Passed. Phil to set times for dinner and meeting.

- Setup schedule for 2009 Observing. Schedule to be published on web site.

- Discussions on publicising our one weekend per month observing. Generally at CRM field but open for alternates.
- May Banquet. Red moves to move annual banquet to the April 1st meeting. Dean seconds. Invitations to be sent snail mail. Red suggests to include former members.
- Dean invites LCAAS to come to Spring Grove Syttende Mai (Norwegian holiday) celebration on May 15, 16 at a site to be determined. Would like to get 2 scopes. Open to public.
- Dean is having StarBQ south of Spring Grove August 21 and 22. Open to Astronomy Club members.
- John B. to coordinate an event with the La Crosse recreation department.
- March Elections.

5) Observing Reports - Special Presentation:

- Red gave more detailed background information on the presentation Phil Yehle had given on the Virtual Observer program. He gave a report on the book "Visual Astronomy of the Deep Sky" by Roger N. Clark, Ph.D. How the eye functions from dark to very bright.
- Red had to add a heater to his laser to get it to function in the cold. He does not have the lithium battery version. He does not feel that AA lithiums are worthwhile, since they use diodes to reduce the voltage of the lithium cell.

6) Hardware Reports:

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Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45pm

Next meeting date Wednesday, February 4, 2009. 7:00 PM Room 201 Cowley Hall at UWL.

12/03/08 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Art, Gordon, Mike R., Pete, Sam, Red, John.

Called to order at 7:01pm.

New members (to meetings) were present so we did intros.

1) Discussed and approved minutes from 11/05/08.

2) Treasurer's Report

- Read and approved. Balance is \$609.00.

3) Old Business

- Phil purchased 2 years of the domain LCAAS.org.
- Discussion of Constitution. Mike moves to approve all changes. Red seconds. Voted for.
- Red wants to put in wording regarding the approval process for spending. Red moves to amend the constitution that no expenditures are to be made without being in the budget or are one time approvals. Mike R. seconds (Simple majority).

4) New Business

- John would like the club to make sure that additional get-togethers/observing sessions are publicized.
- Astronomy Day is May 2nd. Will try to setup for Friday night at KVR with Saturday night as a rain date. Saturday afternoon at Riverside, with Sunday afternoon as a cloud date. Gordon to contact KVR.
- Gordon has to reapply for the room in January (the 7th).
- Discussion of LCAAS member Paul Kinzer's seminar/book signing and his new book Stargazing Basics.
- Red discussed the rules of non-profit organization and political influence (as per IRS). We should be okay to promote Dark Sky Initiatives.

5) Observing Reports

- Phil discussed an article in Astronomy Technology on visibility of M97 (Owl nebula) with regards to seeing, aperture, magnification, exit pupil, etc.
- Several members saw the Jupiter, Venus, and Moon conjunction.

6) Hardware Reports

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Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45pm

Next meeting date Wednesday, January 7, 2009. 7:00 PM Room 201 Cowley Hall at UWL.

11/05/08 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Harry, Gordon, Mike R., John, Rick

Called to order at 7:05pm.

1) Discussed and approved minutes from 10/01/08.

- Mike gave report of meeting with Coulee Region Modelers. They seemed happy with the \$50 donation. The property owner is happy to have us after hours. They've had vandalism and our presence could be a deterrent. He doesn't want to be notified in advance; says he can tell it's us when he sees the red lights! The CRM was enthusiastic about the possibility of our volunteering to help with their annual show, since that would allow them to have more time for doing their thing.

2) Treasurer's Report

- Read and approved. Balance as of October 21 is \$556.38. Dues income this year is \$379.

3) Old Business

- Discussion of Constitution. Make initials to be the historical LCAAS. Mike moves Gordon seconds. Voted for.

- Rick said LCAAS.org is available as domain name.

- Changes discussed and revisions made.

- According to Article VI we must mail changes again to members before voting on it.

- John moves to postpone review method of appropriating money for normal expenses until Red is present. Phil seconds. Voted for.

4) New Business

- Discussion of internet site. To buy domain name: NameCheap.com, GoDaddy.com, Weebly.com, etc. Mike moves to buy LCAAS.ORG for up to 3 years at about \$10.00 per year. Gordon seconds. Voted for.

- Mike asked that we use OpenOffice to setup a database for the club. The current club membership information is in an Excel 200? spreadsheet, which is not ideal for managing membership data, and is expensive to purchase, and is not available to most users (although the data can be exported and transferred in various formats). OpenOffice is free and is available to nearly every popular computer and operating system. This would make it much easier to do newsletter addressing among other things. The consensus was to do it.

5) Observing Reports

- Phil and Mike. Phil continues to use his tracking platform with the 12 inch dob. Mike continues to get more familiar with his Sky Commander and started surfing NGC objects in various constellations.

- John and Mike. One student from John's wife's astronomy class came out. It was very windy but the Celestron 80ED seemed very steady on the CG5 once it was lowered to chair height. The student, Vanessa(?), was very attentive and seemed to enjoy all the usual targets we threw at her. The highlight was seeing the Moon in the same field with Jupiter with John's ultra-wide 26mm(?) eyepiece. You could even see Jupiter's moons.

6) Hardware Reports

- Gordon got a Meade AR5 and is very happy with it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting date Wednesday December 3, 2008. 7:00 PM Room 201 Cowley Hall at UWL.

10/01/08 LCAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Harry, Gordon, Mike R., Red, John

Called to order at 7:10pm (a class in room 201 ran overtime).

1) Discussed and approved minutes from 09/03/08.

2) Treasurer's Report (Red)

* Read and approved.

3) Old Business

* Discussion of upcoming events.

* Next Coulee Region Modelers meeting is at ABC Hobbies on Tuesday, October 7(?).

* 4th weekend observing is on website.

4) New Business

* Review Club Constitution

- According to Article VI we must mail changes to members before voting on it.

- Article V. Want to change to not specify a day. Once a month with June, July, August to be observing sessions. Mike will do this.

- Article IV

- Section V. Define it better and add executive board. Phil will do this and mail to Mike.

- Section IV. Drop statement on Astronomical League. Mike to do.

- Article VIII Section II. Regarding influencing legislation, this would prevent things like Dark Sky initiatives. Red will clarify according to actual IRS Rules but after election.

- Red would like to clarify the rules for spending club money. Contingency funds, especially for office supplies, were recommended. He'll do but after election.

* Red moves to discontinue post office box. Seconded by Gordon. Due to inconvenience. Would have mail forwarded to new designatee. Voted no.

* Red moves to approve funds for PO Box. Seconded by Gordon. Phil will pick up mail for now and get bills to Red. Must get key for Phil. Voted yes.

* John B asks for discussion of current web presence to be put on next meeting agenda.

* Mike moves to cut a check for \$50 to Coulee Region Modelers. John seconds. Voted yes. Should put in card.

5) Observing Reports

* Mike talked about observing Jupiter and use of an aperture mask. The main bands are more clear and additional bands can be seen. Could see Red Spot easier with mask.

6) Hardware Reports

* Phil demonstrated his Sky Window for binoculars. Frame holds binocs pointing down at a mirror. Includes holder for green laser.

* Gordon showed pictures of his homemade equatorial mount and Meade LX50 10 inch SCT. Mount is modified Pacific Instruments and uses LX200 drive parts. Gordon machined several parts. His MallinCam shows color in nebulas and stars. Seems sensitive to seeing conditions though.

Next meeting date Wednesday November 5, 2008 at 7:00 PM in Cowley Hall Room 201.

09/03/08 LAAS Meeting Minutes

Phil, Hannah, Gordon, John B., Harry, Dean, Red, Jon, Steve, Craig, Mike

Introductions.

1) Treasurer's Report (Red)

Current balance \$661.38

2) Club Objectives / Goals for 2009

Discussion on retaining 501 (c) (3) status. It was agreed that we should continue as such. Phil was just concerned that when election for officers comes up that we have volunteers. Our constitution requires us to have a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Or Secretary/Treasurer.

Discussion on public outreach.

- Should have publicized monthly date. Phil moves to do this for club and public invited. Red seconds.
- Friday with Saturday rain date.
- 4th weekend.
- Don't know for sure if we can do Flying Field with general public. John B. would go to Coulee Region Modelers meeting to talk to owner Al B. Same for Mike R.
- Dean makes open invitation to his site and Eagle Bluff.
- Red moves to use Dean's site. 45 minute drive. Seconded by Harry. Dean amends to once in fall and once in spring. Voted for and passed amended motion.
- West Salem school event on Oct 3 at Sparta.
- John would like assistance with Astronomy Class observing on 3rd or 4th Monday or Wednesday of Sept.

3) Observing Report.

Dean saw Io occluded by (?) Jupiter. Saw ISS with 8 inch Celestron SCT at 80x and could see solar panels.

4) Next meeting date Wednesday October 1, 2008. 7:00 PM Room 201 Cowley Hall

LAAS Minutes 04/02/08

7:06PM Called to order by Phil

Phil, Red, Craig, Mike R., Rick M., Gordon, Jon D, John B., Zach.

Minutes from 03/05/08 approved.

Treasurer's Report (Red): Bank balance \$353.38. See hardcopy.

We're out of Tri-Folds.

Mike R. to email membership form to Phil. On form, add some type of prompt for charitable contributions

Red moves to do quarterly pro-rating on new memberships and keep it full year for renewals. Craig seconds. Voted yes.

Gordon moves to make due date on April 1st. John B. seconds. Voted yes.

Phil to contact Bob about reasoning for Associate membership and check the By-Laws.

Star Parties (Craig):

- Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) April 9 (moved from April 19 due to full moon), 7:30p to 10:30p. To meet at QuickTrip on Mormon Coulee Road past Walmart at 6:00p. See Craig if questions on car-pooling. Phil to put together an observing plan. kvr.state.wi.us has an event flyer.

- MVC still being planned for May 9.

- Only 1 person signed up at Platinum Disc, so it's on hold for now.

- Astronomy Day May 10 10:00a to 2:00p. in Riverside and 8:00p to ?. Rick suggests to use alternate site for night observing.

- Banquet on May 7 at Forest Hills (La Crosse Street and Losey Blvd).

Discussion on making the Yahoo site for members only. Or can use private email.

Rick to add Planetarium link to websites.

Jon D. reported on Chipawa Valley Astronomical Society activities. See cvastro.org

Discussion on website.

John B suggests to change constellation art from Pleiades to Leo (the lion) to represent the start of the astronomical year (vernal equinox) from our area.

General business closed at 8:35p.

Phil has a sky quality meter on order.

Craig brought his new Takahashi TSA-102 (4 in refractor).

Minutes 03/05/08

7:12PM Called to order by Phil (Mike R. was late setting up a-frame signs).

Phil, Craig, John B., Mike R., Dean J., Rick M., Gordon.

02/06/08 minutes.

Eclipse observing was a success. There are writeups on the Laxastro Yahoo group.

New business.

Going to put application on web site. Mike R. to send text file to Rick.

Have 9 members still on regular mail. Gordon will send hardcopy applications.

Astronomy day:

- Rochester to do 2 nights - First in city and next at Eagle Bluff.

- MVC site is St Joseph ridge - should have a road to transport equipment. Friday night May 9, with rain date of Saturday.

- Saturday May 10 we'll observe in Riverside Park 10:00a to 2:00p weather permitting. Gordon to do publicity (Riverside only).

Banquet instead of May 7 meeting (1st Wednesday). Members discussed various places and selected Forest Hills. To put a rsvp date in newsletter 4/16/08.

Kickapoo Valley Reserve (La Farge) requests someone to lead observing on Saturday, April 19 (full moon?). Gordon to follow up.

Craig has invited employees of Platinum Disc to a Star Party time and date to be determined.

John would like to make photos open to public. Have to have username and password on Yahoo group and Rick doesn't have room on the club website.

John suggests we investigate new designs for the club logo.

Magazine subscriptions should be available for club members who directly contact the magazine and mention that they are club members.

John's wife is going to do the astronomy course.

8:27pm observing reports:

Dean: Been out 4 times in Feb. Has a bunch of Herschel objects. Shooting for 3 years. Messier marathon is Friday March 7. Going to be cold!

Meeting adjourned by Phil at

Minutes for LAAS meeting on 02/06/08.

Attendees: Phil, Gordon, Red, Craig, Rick, Mike R., Mike Zoeller, his wife, & son, John.

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM by Phil.

Officers Introduced.

Old business approved.

All officers present agreed to have names on website.

Red read treasurer's report. See hardcopy.

Highlights:

Magazine subscriptions seem to have been duplicated and/or not reimbursed from club members.

Current balance = 236.48

37 paid members.

Gordon: Room 201 is reserved through end of May.

Rick to do calendar for meetings through May; new moons from April to October.

Club to donate time or money to La Crosse RC Coulee Region Modelers club. \$50? Red moves to wait until we get new dues. Gordon second.

Okay to collect dues now for next year. Mike R. moves to drop Associate. Rick seconded Voted against. Need to define Associate Membership.

Archery club mentioned as possible observing site.

Lunar eclipse. Red moves to conduct public event. Gordon seconds. Vote approved. Gordon to check angle at library.

Red moves to appoint small committee to pick location. John seconds. Craig and Phil to decide. 8:47p at 21 deg e. 10:00p 40 deg se. Gordon finds Library is out. Craig to try Walmart but iffy. John to walk UW campus to check for alternative.

Craig - Mississippi Valley Conservancy May 9,10 observing. Can be put on their big list or separate list. Members can choose to be members. Put link on website. Put Mike R. on their list.

Astronomy Day May 10? Tentatively at Riverside during day and possibly night if not conflicting with MVC (see above).

Phil adjourned meeting at 8:00PM.

Various discussions followed including a presentation by John Boland on a star party he had attended.

Duly submitted by secretary Mike Rowlands.

Minutes for LAAS meeting on 01/07/08.

Dear members and Others,

This is to inform you of the results of the January meeting. The main agendas of the meeting was to elect officers for 2008. Only seven were there so as a group we decided to share the duties of the club. So beginning this year the following have been elected officers and other duties:

President ... Phil Yehle

Vice President ... Bruce Klubertanz

Treasurer ... Red Haines

Secretary ... Mike Rolands

Gordon Stewart ... Publicity

Craig Hill ... Events Coordinator

In attendance was everyone above, including John Boland. The meeting started at 7:00PM and adjourned at 9:00PM. It did not take that long to elect officers. We also, had great discussions about telescopes, club events, cars, politics, etc. This was also the club's Christmas party and it was fun to eat various Christmas dish goodies, that everyone brought.

The next newsletter we will outline the 2008 club activities.

Gordon Stewart

Acting LAAS President for the last time :)