

March 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes

By Dave Heard

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Vice President Dave Heard. 10 members & several guests were in attendance. New guests were Gene Griffith & Bob Ehle, invited by Art Schneider.

Treasury Report

The Treasurer wasn't present, but Alan Scruggs said that he had talked to Don and that there was no change.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

The only new business was a correction from Art Schneider's list of public observing dates & locations. Also the question was brought up about our plans for the upcoming Astronomy Day; we agreed to do as we have in the past & probably set up in John Stiff Park again. There will be more discussion next meeting. There was some confusion on us having to reschedule this meeting because of conflicts with the DHDC; as a reminder, the May meeting has also been rescheduled for May 8.

Observing Report

There were quite a few members & guests who showed up at the road side part one Saturday to observe. The evening started out with high clouds & wind, but all cleared up by sundown. The seeing was good & the overall session was really great!

Program

Frank Wilburn brought in his computer, screen, & projector & gave us a report on his remote observatory out of Santa Rosa, NM. He had time lapse video of some of the construction, which he & family did themselves. He then showed us around the complex, which includes the main 20" observatory, a smaller dome with a 4" refractor, small cabin, shop, solar array, & water collection point. Quite a set-up!! He even has remote cameras to monitor the site, plus an all sky camera with a fish eye lens to check out the cloud situation!

Frank showed us an album of astro photos that he has taken remotely at the site from Amarillo. To say that we were REALLY impressed & somewhat stunned about the quality of the photos is an understatement! It's really impressive what a 20" in a dark sky environment can do!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm to transfer to the Pizza Planet for eats & drinks.

Editor's note: I wish to thank David Heard for taking the notes at this meeting during my absence. Again Thanks. Terry Zimmerman.