

## **Minutes of the Amarillo Astronomy Club Business Meeting**

**February 10, 2017**

### **Amarillo National Bank Plaza 1 Conference Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by President David Heard. All four officers (President David Heard, Vice President Kareem Dana, Treasurer Don Chrysler and Secretary Alan Scruggs) and fifteen members were in attendance. No guests were present.

Don Chrysler reported that including monies received tonight, the club's balance was \$2,265.71. This includes a payment made to Rich Merten for the second club website of \$64.90.

There were no observing reports given. Alan Scruggs mentioned the ongoing partial lunar eclipse as well as Comet P45 which will be visible in the early morning. Alan then read the minutes from the January business meeting. Art Schneider made a motion to accept the minutes without changes. David Heard seconded. The motion passed.

Under old business, David mentioned that somebody at the Don Harrington Discovery Center did find the club's 10" F4.5 dobsonian telescope. The eyepieces that went with it remain lost. Dave mentioned that he has two telescopes that he has acquired over the past few years that are available for loan: Danny Zumbrun's old custom built 13" dobsonian, as well as Bob Fowler's custom built 10" equatorial. The club 10" is also available for loan. Chat Davis expressed an interest in using it for a while.

Under new business, Kareem Dana stated that David Oliver is able to give a program on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> after all. That will be the club's April meeting night. Jim Fitch asked everyone to thank Will Ashcraft and Amarillo National Bank for the use of their large conference room. Art Schneider discussed the observing session he and Jim Rhodes put on at Hereford's Aiken Elementary School in late January. Approximately 450 students and teachers participated in daytime activities and presentations as well as an evening observing session. There were three solar telescopes set up (one white light and two Coronado solar telescopes, a 60mm and a 90mm), and three reflecting telescopes for the evening session (16", 12" and a 10"). Art next mentioned the first scheduled outreach event at Caprock Canyons State Park on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Three Rivers Foundation will assist. Art then discussed his trip to Quanah to evaluate the portable digital planetarium that the 3RF plans to obtain and set up at their Comanche Springs campus near Quanah. He ended by mentioning that the Don Harrington Discovery Center is putting on an astronomy-themed event during spring break (March 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>). The club was invited to participate, contact Mandi Reed for details.

Kareem Dana introduced Robert Ashcraft who presented the evening's program. Robert presented a tour of the club's Yahoo group website. This free site was established on January 20, 2000 by former club member Gerald Johnson. Robert showed the features available to the general public as well as those available to members only. Visitors only need to send an invitation to the administrators and be approved before they are able to access the "member's only" features. Currently, there are 151 members, but some are registered more than once (due to having changed e-mail addresses, etc.). Robert will go in and clean out some of the duplicates in the future.

Alan Scruggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kareem Dana. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.