

SJAA Board Meeting Minutes

14th January 2017

- ☐ Call to order: 6:01pm
- ☐ Taking of attendance. [Absent: excused - LeeH], [Present: Davel, RobC, EdW, ViniC, GlennN, RobJ, BillO, Teruo]
- ☐ Recognition of guests: Swami, George, Bruce Bastoky, Wolf
- ☐ Approve prior meeting minutes. Motion to Approve by Teruo, Bill Seconds, all approved.

Reports

☐ Club Reports

- ✓ Treasurer (Rob J)
- ✓ Membership (Anand)

Davel Motions to accept the report, GlennG seconds, all approve

☐ Programs

- ✓ Astronomy 101 (David)
- ✓ Binocular Stargazing (Ed)
- ✓ Coders (Teruo)
- ✓ Donations (Dave)
- ✓ FixIt (Vini)
- ✓ Guest Speakers (Sukhada)
- ✓ Imaging Clinics/Workshops (Glenn)
- ✓ Imaging SIG (Bruce)
- ✓ Library (Sukhada)
- ✓ Loaner (Kanch)
- ✓ Publicity (Rob J)
- ✓ QuickSTART (Dave)
- ✓ School Star Party (Jim)
- ✓ Solar (Bill)
- ✓ Starry Nights (Bill)

Operations

- ☐ Upcoming Open/Close Schedule for Houge Park (using SJAA Operations Calendar)

Upcoming Key Events

12/31/16 2017 Meetup Events posted in Meetup (TU)
02/11/17 Board of Director Elections, Potluck, & Awards (RC, TU/MD, DI)
03/11/17 Officer Elections (RC)
03/12/17 Spring Swap Meet (who to run ??)
Action Davel: Add Swap Meet owner to the next agenda

Open Action Items:

What's Out Tonight, DI to research if donations are accepted.

SkyMaps.com RJ to take care of donation.

Action Davel: Neither complete. Carry over into next agenda.

Agenda Topics:

Unitron Event - Dave

Saturday May 20th, 2017

Bruce Bastoky has created a Unitron enthusiasts group and is having a group weekend May 19-21, 2017.

The following events are planned:

Fri, May 19th - Star Party

Sat, May 20th - presentations and equipment show and tell

Sat, May 20th - Another star party

We have two star parties that weekend and he would like to have his members bring their Unitron scopes to the parties along with the rest of the club. Davel has booked Houge for Bruce and his club on Saturday for their equipment presentations and so forth. We are happy to have them come to the ITSP for Friday. A lengthy discussion ensued about the Saturday night star party. Davel noted that they are free to attend the ITSP (and we will be glad to have them there), he has booked Houge Park for them, so there is nothing that we need to agree to beyond generally stating that we think event is a good idea and that we want to support it. Davel proposes that we offer the approval of the club for the Unitron Event. RobJ seconds, all approve.

Board Member Search - RobC

Discussion on search for new board members - with Wolf looking like he will put his hat in the ring along with Swami and Sukhada we will have 6 interested people, sufficient for our 6 openings. Yay.

2017 Elections - RobC

Status - we need to get the ballots ready. We have to decide to have 5 spots up for re-election 2017 or have 6 spots with the extra spot for Dave's vacated position.

We decide to have only 5 spots and to appoint a new member to replace Davel. Davel resigns from the board, so we are free to appoint a new board member. RobC proposes Wolf replace Davel, Ed Seconds, all approve. Welcome to the board Wolf! (Wolf will be up for reelection in early 2018 along with 3 other board positions)

Action RobC: Bring ballots next month with the 5 (or more*) candidates and a blank line for a write in candidate. Note that the voter can choose up to 5 of the options. *It is likely that we will not have additional candidates.

2017 Potluck - Teruo/MD

Teruo created a Potluck signup sheet. Link posted on Meetup.com event. (www.perfectpotluck.com, who knew?) Members who are attending the potluck are encouraged to sign up indicating what kind of dish they will bring. Marianne will bring general supplies (linens, silverware, etc...)

2017 Awards - Dave/RobJ

In progress - Dave and RobJ will work out the details.

ASP Girl Scouts Pilot Program - Davel

Something for the board to decide if & how to get involved.

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific is offering a training program on educating girls in STEM. They would like us to take the training class, and then make use of our new skills at a Girl Scouts star party.

Action: BillO try to find interested members via the observers group and other email groups.

Action: BillO will help pick a night for the training based on the interested members.

Solar Program - Batteries - Bill

Proposal for new 35 AH Batteries for the program.

The solar program batteries are not good enough for the new display along with telescope, etc. BillO is looking for budget to upgrade his batteries for some longer events. We all look to GlennN to put together a battery kit for the solar program. The estimated cost is less than \$300 for a pair for the two solar scopes. BillO proposes the \$300 budget for the battery. RobC seconds, all approved.

Action BillO/GlennN: Get the battery kits built.

Polar alignment is hard for solar scopes. BillO is looking for a low end alt-az mount to try with his solar scopes. If anyone has one he can borrow, he'd like to know. The first one he was looking at is an iOptron model that he has heard good things about. Wolf has a version of one and has had good luck with it. Teruo also has had good luck with one. BillO will look into it more before making a proposal.

2017 Solar Eclipse - BillO

August 21st, 2017

Bill wants to note that it is coming up and we will have to begin to make plans. There was a brief discussion of travel plans if we are interested. But mostly we are talking about hosting something locally where it will be a partial eclipse.

There is a proposal to buy and SJAA brand solar viewing glasses to distribute to local schools. We could buy many fewer and distribute them to people attending our local star parties. This is a contentious issue, many board members are worried about the liability of handing out solar glasses. There is also some discussion about schools, are they interested in operating a solar event. The board checked with Jim Van Nuland, who runs our school program. Generally the board is not big on the proposal to distribute solar glasses. Solar projection is much preferred by the old time club members.

Stepping back, this is a program that requires someone who wants to run it. Someone has to be willing to be a contact and try to get the word out to our school contacts and so forth. So before we move too far along, we will want an owner.

Action: Teruo will look for a candidate to drive any eclipse program before we vote on what the program will entail.

Open Positions - Dave

Membership Chair stepping down

Library Chair possibly stepping down

No immediate ideas on replacements.

Action Davel: Keep on the agenda for next month.

List of Club Assets - Dave

Asking everyone to complete list by end of year.

Task completed by Solar, Imaging, Quick Start

Need - Donations, Library, Fix It, and General Club lists to be completed

No significant discussion due to time.

Club Procedure Discussions

We had a last minute cancellation and didn't have a good way to:

- 1) Communicate to the public that it was canceled
- 2) Backup plan to allow inform the public that didn't get the message

Action: Davel will work out a process.

Action: RobC will create an @sjaa.net group for all club program leaders. (leaders@sjaa.net)

Club Calendar Operation

We have several club calendars to help us organize things. Davel and RobC to make sure all the board and officer accounts have the ability to view and edit the common club calendars. We will post directions to board@sjaa.net and possible to a Google Doc.