

SAS Board Meeting Minutes 5/23/05

Attendees: Thomas Vaughan, Steven Von Rompaey, Rod Ash, Burley Packwood, Chris Karcher, Scott Cameron (via phone)

1. Dark Sky Site

- An offer has been made to the club for a property on Badger Mountain near Wenatchee. The property might be offered at an extremely attractive price, possibly even as a donation. Discussion was made as to the advantages and drawbacks of this site. The major and primary advantage is the cost of this property. The area was visited by Thomas Vaughan and Scott Cameron and is suitable from the perspective of natural beauty, sky visibility and suitable areas for telescope use. Light pollution should be acceptable except for the possible interference from nearby Wenatchee. The drawbacks are: The distance (3 hour driving time from Seattle) making it difficult for a single night of observing. Access is poor due to road condition – high ground clearance necessary and possibly four-wheel drive necessary and winter snows may make accessibility impossible for periods of time. The costs of road improvement were discussed. A large amount of gravel would be required at large expense. The board agreed to place this site on the list of possibilities but to proceed with fundraising and continue the search for a suitable property with better access.
- Funds are accumulating towards dark sky funding with several memberships and one \$2300.00 donation. At approximately 80% of the projected down payment, the step to begin securing a loan guarantee can begin.
- A move was made and voted on affirmatively to grant honorary SAS membership to Skip Murray to allow his participation as a Dark Sky Site member, in light of his important contributions to the club.

2. Official greeter at general meetings

- A request was made at the last general meeting for volunteers but no one has yet stepped forward. It was agreed that this job might be rotated among board members and a badge will be made (Bruce Kelley) for this purpose. An alternate should be designated to accept memberships when the treasurer is not present at the meeting. Use of credit card or “Pay Pal” for membership payment was discussed as a possibility.

3. Youth Group

- Ways to improve youth group participation were discussed. Best advertisement is the SAS web site. Local school newsletter exposure was suggested and advertising in neighborhood newspapers will be looked into by Rod Ash.

4. Increasing membership

- Exposure and advertising at Pacific Science Center will be pursued. Burley Packwood will contact PSC. Bulletin board space and a spot to make SAS literature is suggested.
- SAS web site exposure is best means of making information available. Pictures of SAS activities are needed. Benefits of club membership should be stressed. A suggestion was made to review, perform repairs and maintenance on and post web site pictures of the club’s telescope library to help attract new members.
- The monthly newsletter is of primary importance. A new newsletter editor is needed. The board agreed to offer free SAS membership to the newsletter editor as a way of encouraging volunteers. The idea of sending a reminder to members when their membership is about to expire was proposed.

5. Manastash Ridge

- Availability of UW observatory at Manastash for SAS usage was reported to be a dwindling possibility. Stephen Van Rompaey can make contact to determine status.

6. Meeting minutes. Board meeting minutes from the April board meeting were approved by members present.