

Minutes from the April 4, 2011, Board Meeting of the Howard Astronomical League (HAL).

The meeting was convened at 7:06 P.M. at the "Pasta Blitz" restaurant in Ellicott City.

The meeting was attended by President Bob Prokop, Treasurer Peter Friedman, Webmaster Chas Rimpo, Event Coordinator David Stein, Observatory Chair Joel Goodman, member Tony Matesi, and Secretary David Illig.

Bob opened the meeting by saying that he had signed the renewal of the cooperation agreement between HAL and Howard County.

Bob asked how our participation in Greenfest went. Joel replied that we had a good location and saw many visitors. Many people expressed an interest in the club, and people indicated that they understood the light pollution problem. Our participation cost was \$25.00.

April 12 Library event: David Stein said that volunteers should be there early. There will be a first quarter moon, and David will do a program about the moon. Saturn is a possible telescope target, but may not be high enough.

Bob will send a sympathy card to the Poplinger family due to the death of Charles Poplinger. Mr. and Mrs. Poplinger remained members of HAL after moving from Maryland to California.

Membership Cards: Chas reported that the web-based system works.

Joel said the question of whether the observatory platform will be wood or steel is yet to be decided. If we're looking for pro boon work it will be easier to find carpenters than a steel fabricator. Joel noted that studies show that people are less likely to apply graffiti to a surface that has a design painted on it, and there was discussion about having a design painted on the observatory dome to discourage graffiti. The Board liked the idea of painting the HAL logo on the dome, but no decision was made. Joel also said that someone in the club needs to be responsible for the dome prior to installation. He talked to Technical Innovations and they are willing to assist. They want to know the year it was made.

Bob asked if will we be allowed to hold star parties at Alpha Ridge during restroom construction The consensus was that we will be able to do so, as there are areas suitable for setting up other than our traditional area.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

David E. Illig, Secretary