

Minutes from the March 1, 2011, board meeting of the Howard Astronomical League (HAL)

The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM at the "Pasta Blitz" restaurant in Ellicott City.

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

Chas said that there is a problem with the wording of our bylaws as they relate to Astronomical League membership. The current wording says that members are automatically made members of the Astronomical League, which is not the case. The bylaw needs to indicate that members may opt in to AL membership. Chas will distribute the recommended change to the Board by e-mail.

Peter said that the club's Maryland sales tax exemption expired 2-1/2 years ago. Peter has the necessary form and will renew the exemption.

The Howard County Greenfest will be held on April 2. Bob has the HAL display boards. Joel and David Stein will arrange to have solar telescopes at the event. Bob will post to the Yahoo group a request for additional volunteers at a date closer to the event.

Star parties are scheduled for March 12 and 26 and April 2. Bob was to have hosted the Boy Scouts of America on the 12th, but he will be out of town. David Stein will step in. Howard Community College astronomy students will attend the April 2 public star party with instructors.

There is a children's event at the library on April 12. David Stein will ask for volunteers.

Observatory: Joel Goodman said that construction engineers must sign off on the architectural design. The engineering firm may work pro bono. The architectural plan is complete. We have to decide whether the County or the club will own the observatory building. The consensus was that we should donate the building to the County while HAL retains ownership of the dome, the telescope and mount, and other equipment located inside the observatory. If we donate the building to the County we will still be responsible for maintenance.

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Bob asked if we need themes for the summer star parties. The consensus was that we do not.

The President adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

David E. Illig
Secretary

Kindly report errors and/or omissions.