

From: halofficers@yahoogroups.com on behalf of [Davoud](#)
To: [HAL Officers](#)
Subject: [halofficers] Minutes of the April, 2010 HAL Board Meeting
Date: Monday, April 26, 2010 8:32:05 PM

Minutes from the April 5, 2010, Board meeting of the Howard Astronomical League (HAL).

The meeting was held at the Pasta Blitz restaurant in Ellicott City at 7:00. The meeting was attended by President Bob Prokop, First Vice President Ed Sabala, Treasurer Peter Friedman, Observatory Chair Joel Goodman, Webmaster Chas Rimpo, Event Coordinator David Stein, 2nd VP Tim Laswell, and Secretary David Illig.

Bob raised the question of event and appearance requests from schools and other civic bodies as the number one item on the agenda. He wondered if there was repository for all appearance requests? There is not, other board members agreed.

Joel said that a special event is one that comes from the county or state. It was suggested that Events Coordinator David Stein establish a HAL volunteer list to deal with requests, as not every member is suited to deal with public events. Ed Sabala suggested that no special action is needed; in most cases we can invite groups that want to observe to attend our star parties. It was agreed that we could tailor activity at star parties to satisfy special interests by dedicating some telescopes to the group that requested the event. As for talks requested at schools, Bob Prokop says that he has both the time and the interest to do school presentations.

Joel is working on further organizing and formalizing the childrens' Celestial Searchers club.

There are two public events coming up: Howard County Greenfest will be held on 17 April. We need three more volunteers in addition to David Stein for this event, and we also need solar 'scopes. Bob will recruit volunteers. The Howard Community College Skywatch is scheduled for 20 April. Peter Friedman is the point man for this event, and Joel and Bob will also attend.

The question was raised as to whether there are HAL brochures available at Company 7 & Hands-On Optics. It is believed that there are, but the next visitors to the two locations are requested to check.

Chas suggested that should have a new member survey in which members may list their interests, skills, and the like. It was also agreed that we need a welcome kit for new members. Ed Sabala said that he will prepare a welcome kit in the form of a PDF that can be e-mailed to new members..

The Observatory Project: Joel went to have a look at the Glenelg observatory and he now envisions a simple silo-type structure to support our telescope dome, plus a square building attached. The architect will also visit Glenelg. Joel informed the

Board that we will need a structural engineer to sign off on the suitability for the foundation for its extended purpose.

At some minutes after 8:00 P.M. President Bob Prokop looked through the front window of the restaurant and announced that Venus and Mercury were visible in a very clear sky high in the west. The meeting was abruptly adjourned.

David Illig, Secretary

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