

Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society

March 2012 Meeting at Sunnybrook Preserve

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Russ Swaney

Officers Reports:

Secretary: Roseanne Radgowski February minutes are available on the web site. Let me know if any corrections are needed.

Treasurer: Steve Fishman

Bank Balance \$7944.22

Marty Fund \$2,637.00

Petty Cash \$ 28.00

Total \$10,609.22

Expenses: 54.52 Phone bill

34.80 Electric bill

Chagrin Falls Jaycees donated \$500.

Check with Steve if you have any questions about your dues.

Steve asked if the club had thought about his suggestion which he presented at the last meeting that we invest \$5000 in a mutual fund paying about 7%. He states that he would put a stop in to prevent loss and would accept the risk personally. Members present discussed some pros and cons to this idea. Many did not agree that Steve should accept the risk and pointed out that if the club votes in favor of this idea it is understood that there is risk involved. As there were not enough members present to vote it was agreed that Russ would put the issue on the website so that all the members could vote on this.

Observatory Directory

Ken Fisher reports that the motor control board for the 16" is still in for repairs, he states that it starts up but fails with a load. The cost to repair it is \$350 compared to \$750 for a new one.

Editor:

Ron Baker was not present. Russ reminded anyone who would like to submit articles for the Spring edition of the Valley Skywatcher to get them to Ron by the middle of March.

Director of Observations.

Bob Modic did not make the meeting. His monthly sky calendar can be found at <http://rjmastro.net/skycal.html> .

Visitors:

We had two visitors.

Star Parties: Lake Metorparcs will be having a movie/ star party/ fundraiser at the Environmental Center on 3/24 only about 2 scopes are needed, club members may attend for \$20. They will also have a drawing to win a star party. The Geauga Parks had a 48

hour notice star party at the Rookery in February, about 100 people attended. It was their first experiment with a short notice and worked well. The club will hold a Messier Marathon March 16, 17 or 18th. Weather permitting.

April 20th there will be a movie and a star party at Observatory Park.

Old Business

Dan was reimbursed for the recoating of the 6" mirror \$60. Aaron Worley was also paid \$150 for the brochures he developed.

Discussion continued regarding the purchase of 1/10 of an acre from Shirley, Ian questioned why we would buy something that we are using for free. Those present seemed in agreement. Russ suggested that we file for right of first refusal in case the family decides to sell the land, he estimated that this would cost about \$25.

New Business:

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of joining the Astronomical League. They have a yearly convention as well as Observing Clubs with lists of objects to observe and pins for those who document what they've seen. The consensus was that there were not enough benefits to warrant the cost and that we could develop our own lists of objects that are reasonable for our sky conditions.

Ian suggested we have a banner for our star parties with our name and symbol. Aaron will submit some designs.

Discussion was held about the possibility of watching the Transit of Venus at Observatory park in June. On a historical note Russ mentioned that the transit was used by early astronomer to measure the distance from the earth to the sun.

Discussion was held regarding where to hold our winter meetings as several club members have expressed feelings that Sunnybrook Preserve is too far east. North Chagrin Metropark, Pen Glenn and West Woods were mentioned as possibilities. No decision was made.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05.