

Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes for December 1st 2018

Observatory Park



Call to order:

President George Trimble welcomed 34 members and guests to the annual CVAS holiday gathering at 6:00 pm.
After dinner a meeting was brought to order at 6:45 pm.

Presentation:

CVAS Member Steve Fishman gave a slide presentation of his trip to Arizona in September. Venues included the red rocks of Sedona, the Grand Canyon and a visit to Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff. Lowell provides is primarily famous for Percival Lowell's observations of Mars with a 24 inch Alvan Clark refractor and Clyde Tombaugh's discovery of Pluto with a 13 inch astrographic camera.

Secretary's Report:

November minutes are posted to the website – approved by Oral Vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Steve Fishman reported the following:

Bank Balance	\$3687.59
Marty Fund	\$5687.00
John Gorka Fund	\$600.00
North Observatory Automation Fund	\$625.00
Petty Cash	\$12.00
Total	\$10,458.37

Expenses for the month:

Electric 49 KHW Actual	-\$63.78
Total	(\$ -63.78)

Email reminder to be sent to current members one month before dues expire.

Observatory Director's Report:

Sam Bennici said the Observatories are in good order for the Winter and advised Members to be cautious of "wet" ground if attempting to drive up to the Main Observatory.

Sam asked that Members submit to him any CVAS equipment they may have at home and he will create an inventory.

Plans to clean out and move unused equipment from the Warm Room to have space for Meetings/Presentations during inclement weather.

Observations Director's Report:

Gus Saikaly presented the Monthly Sky Calendar. It has been posted on the members page and the E-mail sent out.

Editor:

Chris Powell obtained software to format the Valley Skywatcher. He asked for submission for the Spring edition.

Awards:

George Trimble presented the following Awards:

Poetry Contest = Bob Hunt

Above and Beyond Awards = Russ Swaney and Ron Baker

Backbone Award = Marty Mullet

Old Business

Land Purchase (Marty Mullet) - Surveyors expected to complete this month. Lease option and/or Land Contract offer being explored.

16" GOTO retrofit (Russ Swaney) – all electronics and hardware ready to install, waiting on improved weather conditions

Dec 20th CMNH Solstice Event ("Think and Drink") at Cleveland Museum of Natural History. CVAS will have two table display and demonstrations. Typical attendance is over 1000 people.

January 19th Chili Cook off

Mirror Grinding sessions – location being sought (heat and water). Phil Sherman offered to donate a Focal Tester to this endeavor.

Dobsonian Bases - Please advise Marty Mullet interested in building your own.

New Business:

Becky Parkin, Asst. Chief of Outdoor Education for Lake Metro parks asked for assistance with “telescope training” (16” Mead SCT on a pier with wedge in a Dome.
Chuck Story volunteered to assist.

Brim Microbrewery Think & Drink Event scheduled for Spring

President George Trimble reviewed his Meetings with Each Officer

Working paper: Ideas for Tactical and Strategic Planning for 2018 & Beyond

Infrastructure – Drill water well / septic system

Warm Room – Move everything but Chairs and Desks to have room for meetings during inclement weather

New Shed – To store Telescope and other items currently in Warm Room

Paint – N. Observatory, Shed, Dome

Bookshelves for library

Chris Stalder Progress?

Secure Presentation screen and whiteboard for Warm Room

Backbone plaque in warm room with past recipients – Historian to provide list.

Joe Massar to determine what's required to send images of telescope to screen in warm room.

Education

Make Planetarium available for observatory directors use.

Interest groups would meet early before meeting

Research & Technical Observing –

“Directed Observing” -exoplanets, spectroscopy, national, data mining - please submit “interests” to George.

Financial/Business

Meetup

Think & Drink / Wineries

Escape Room: Murder at the Observatory

Outreach & Growth

New Website in design phase – smartphone layout

Meetup \$10.00/month

Community Service

Sky scouts

Next Monthly meeting:

Will be January 5th at Observatory Park.