

# **Minutes of the University Lowbrow Astronomers for May 20, 2005**

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## Lowbrow Astronomy Club Meeting Minutes, 05/20/05

Submitted by Bobby Gruszczynski

Mark Deprest gave a fine presentation on - what else - comets. Mark also gave due praise to DC Moons and the Observatory Committee for their work in the 24" mirror recoating effort. Also kudos to Doug Scobel for being recognized by the astronomical league for his completion of the Herschel 400.

The Kiosk dedication at Lake Hudson has been postponed until June 4th. There is a 3'x4' space available for all of the clubs to post items of interest. That means that we get an 18"x24" slice. We will need to actually see the kiosk and then determine how best to utilize the space. The current suggestion is to use a reasonable replica of information from the Lowbrow Flyer.

VP Reports:

BG - none.

Paul Walkowski - GLAAC is looking for speakers and volunteers for the "Constellations tour" for the annual Star Gaze. Please contact Paul if you are interested. The dates are September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (corrected from September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>) These dates also do not conflict with BFSP, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Forrester - none.

Tom Ryan - Solicitation for newsletter articles. Also, he had a computer crash, but has mostly recovered.

Dave Snyder - Recap from officers meeting, the decision made to contact and remove nonmembers from the lowbrow.astronomers list. The officers will contact nonmembers before any action is taken.

Bernard Friberg - Discussed the mirror recoating situation. It appears that the recoating job is going to be satisfactory. Also, talked about the tree situation east of the observatory. The cutting has opened up more light pollution from that area, so there will be no more trees cut there. We may consider cutting a few more trees elsewhere. There may be an Ash or two also on the grounds.

DC Moons - Open house discussion - current dates:

4 June	1 October
11 June	8 October
2 July	29 October
9 July	5 November
6 August	12 November
13 August	3 December
3 September	10 December
10 September	7 January 2006

There was much discussion over "public" vs. "members-only" dates and the availability of members for manning public open houses. The consensus was that the Lowbrow open houses provide a public service and should remain as is. Assurances were given that there would be sufficient manpower would be available to handle the regular open houses. There are enough keys available, along with the ANCO email list, to satisfy members-only nights on off nights. Also, a suggestion was made to make the public more aware of what objects will be the main target of an open house, i.e. planets & bright objects, or "faint fuzzy" nights.

*Tom Ryan added the following:*

*To which I will add that my own notes named the dates of*

*01 Oct*

*29 Oct*

*05 Nov*

*03 Dec*

*as open houses to be advertised as "Deep Sky Objects" nights, so the public will know that the Lowbrows manning the telescopes will be looking at faint fuzzies.*

There was also much discussion concerning both raising dues and soliciting donations to help out with the final cost of replacing the worm that drives the McMath, and perhaps even starting a separate fund for general McMath maintenance. Much discussion ensued and there will certainly be more before a final decision is made. DC Moons started the fund with money out of his own pocket, and several members followed suit. Many thanks to you all!

Meeting Adjourned.

**Lowbrow Astronomy Club**  
**Officers' meeting minutes**  
**05/20/05**

Present: Jim Forrester, Dave Snyder, Paul Walkowski, Charlie Nielsen, Bernard Friberg, Tom Ryan, DC Moons, Bobby G.

The majority of the meeting centered around repair/replacement of the worm that drives the 24" McMath telescope. Paul Walkowski has had the worm examined by the transmission & gear engineers at Eaton, and the consensus there was that it needs to be replaced. Mike Kurylo has produced a mechanical drawing of the gear and bids will be solicited for replacement. Estimates so far range from ~\$700 to "every bit of \$2000". There was some discussion about soliciting the University for financial help, but it was readily recognized that this was probably not a good idea. In the meantime, DC will carefully make minor repairs to the worm so that it will be serviceable while the new one is being made. His estimate is to have the telescope in service no later than the end of June.

DC is ready to go before that general membership to discuss both raising dues and soliciting donations to help out with the final cost, and perhaps starting a separate fund for general McMath maintenance.

Next up was the recoating of the 24" mirror and John Causland's 18". It appears that the coatings look good, many thanks to DC and Bernard for their dedicated efforts to achieve these results. Discussion of reimbursement for DC and Jim Wadsworth for the expenses incurred in transporting the mirrors between Ann Arbor and Chicago. The consensus was to pay the current Gov't rate of 40.5 cents/mile. Still to be discussed with Kathy.

Speakers. June, July, August, September are relatively set, with John Kirchhoff set for his standard July show and tell, and Ken Burton for August. Based on Rudi L.'s schedule, he will go in June or September, and Bobby G will take the other slot.

Lastly, there was discussion of the current email list structure. The proposal was made to change the lowbrow.astronomers list to members only. Discussion of how to contact those involved, and how to keep nonmembers of interest (Rudi L., etc) apprised of club doings ensued. Dave Snyder was going to look into contacting those to be removed before actually doing anything. Also, need to check with Kathy to verify membership.

Meeting Adjourned.