

# Minutes of the University Lowbrow Astronomers for the Year 2015

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- General Membership Meeting, June 19, 2015.
- General Membership Meeting, August 15, 2015.

Note: It is possible that additional minutes were printed in one of the newsletters, look at the month in question and the next few months. Minutes are most likely to be found the month after. So the December 2015 minutes would most likely be in the January 2016 newsletter, but could be in the December 2015 or February 2016 newsletters.

Minutes of the University Lowbrow Astronomers club meeting of June 19, 2015.

President Charlie Nielsen introduced tonight's speaker: Kurt Hillig, longtime Lowbrow.

Kurt Hillig: Kurt had taken a trip to area around Scottsdale Arizona, in 2012. He showed photos from this trip which included visits to

- The Lowell Observatory
- The Petrified Forest
- Meteor Crater
- Grand Canyon.

Kurt talked about how the Lowell Observatory conducted their star parties. The star parties didn't work as well as other star parties we've participated in, primarily because the Lowell Observatory is run more as a museum than as a venue for star parties.

Alex Kazerooni from Eagle Fish Yoga proposed having Yoga & Music sessions at Peach Mountain. This would involve bringing people for these sessions (at most 20 people at a time), would last an hour and be completed before dark. This could happen either during an open house or at other times. An open house is scheduled for the day after the meeting. Chris Sarnecki is the coordinator for this open house. He said the forecast not good; however he agreed to open up Peach Mountain for Alex and his Yoga group even if the open house is cancelled.

President Charlie Nielsen: On June 27<sup>th</sup> we have an event at the Leslie Science Center. Lowbrows need to bring telescopes (note that this collides with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July party at John Causlands's, also held on June 27<sup>th</sup>). On June 30<sup>th</sup> we have a conjunction of Jupiter and Venus. The tentative plan is to do something on Ashley Street as we've done for other events in the past. This will be visible for several days; from shortly after sunset until the two planets disappear below the horizon. The two planets will be as close as they will get on the 30<sup>th</sup>, but they will be almost as close for a couple days before or after the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Vice President Dave Snyder: Dave is Virtual Treasurer for the evening. There are 124 memberships and \$5485.36 in the kitty.

Newsletter Editor Jim Forrester: Jim needs articles.

At a previous meeting, Treasurer Doug Scobel discussed the possibility of having "lowbrow" caps. We discussed having a design on the cap: we had settled on using a design consisting of the words "University Lowbrow Astronomers," the design looks like this:



There were two possible styles of caps. Because Doug couldn't make it to the meeting, Doug gave Jim two sample caps (one in each of the two styles) which Jim showed to the attendees. The samples did not have the design (that will come later), but such a design could be applied to either cap. Once the final design is settled and we decide on a style of caps, there is a company that will make the caps. They will set up a webpage where interested parties can order and pay for as many caps as they want. There will be some (to be determined) time limit on the ordering process.

Vice President Ken Ruble: Previously we had discussed getting someone from Planewave to give a talk to the club and/or organizing a trip to plane wave, but there is no news on that.

Observatory Director Jack Brisbin: There has been a lock on the door to the McMath Observatory since the building was built, but the lock was never used (at least not within the memory of any of the current lowbrows); the building is secured via a padlock but never via the lock on the door. For reasons that are unclear, Jack recently found the door locked and was unable to get into the building. It is not known who if anyone has a key. Until this is resolved, we will not be able to get into the McMath building. The plan is to get a locksmith to open the building. Once that happens Jack hopes to get 3 keys to McMath building. He also hopes to get more gate keys (we currently only have one key).

While we don't know why the door is locked all of a sudden, Jack speculated that it may be related to recent work on the control building to the radio telescope. As part of the college of Engineering taking control over the radio telescope, the control building needed to be upgraded. In the process, the latter building was gutted. It is possible this is related to the building suddenly being locked. Jack discussed working on the fire extinguisher in the McMath building. It was checked on last year.

Webmaster Krishna Rao: There is a domain lowbrows.org which was set up a while back, and Krishna briefly discussed this. It is possible to access the main club web site via either <http://www.umich.edu/~lowbrows> or <http://lowbrows.org>. The later simply redirects to the former. However we have never publicized lowbrows.org nor have we done anything else with the name lowbrows.org.

Norb Vance: Sept 17-20 is the Great Lakes Star Gaze. Next month's meeting will be held on the campus Eastern Michigan University. We will meet at the planetarium then move to Sherzer Observatory.

Brian Ottum: At a previous meeting Brian brought posters made from photos taken during a recent Messier Marathon session. He has more posters tonight.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Dave Snyder.

Lowbrow Meeting  
Friday August 15, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in room 2306 of Mason Hall with 14 attendees and began at 7:55pm.

Doug Scobel made a motion that \$300 dollars be donated to GLACC for Astronomy at the Beach. There was no discussion as this event is well known to the membership. Paul Walkowski seconded the motion and the motion passed with an oral affirmation. Treasurer Doug Scobel will send a check.

Officers Reports:

Charlie Nielsen

There are no further August events and the next scheduled activity is the September open house.

Dave Snyder --- No Report

Jim Forrester

Needs newsletter articles. His efforts to open Peach Mt. for member observing on any clear evening was successful. Many non members showed up for the evening of the Perseid's meteor shower. He does not know how they found out about a member only event.

Doug Scobel

Reported a roster of 127 members and approximately \$5900 in the treasury.

He reminded everyone that members can receive Astronomy and Sky and Telescope magazines thru the club at a discounted price. Members need to contact him to place a subscription.

Lowbrow Logo hats are orderable until midnight Sunday.

He will send an email to the membership explaining that this year he will require payment in full before ordering RASC handbook and or calendars.

He explained a confusion issue regarding a lifetime membership for Mike Wadsworth, a resident of Minnesota, and the son of deceased lifetime member Jim Wadsworth. After a short discussion. out of state dues being \$5 per year, a consensus was reached for a lifetime membership.

He has a request for a Lowbrow sweatshirt and they are out of stock. During discussion there seemed to be interest. He will looking into what it would cost for pullover shirts, pullover hoodies with a pouch and zippered hoodies with pockets.

Don Fohey

Went to Port Crescent State Park for the Perseid's meteor shower. Several members of the Toledo club were present. The skies were dark and he would return there again for observing.

Ken Rubel

He had difficulty locating an unlocked door to the building.

Krishna Rao

The Facebook page has been more active. Much of the activity was around the Perseid's meteor shower.

Jack Brisban

He will be on vacation and Jim Forrester will have the gate key. The next open house is Sept 5th. He explained that Dave Jorgenson is working on an operator instruction booklet for the club 17" telescope.

Christopher Sarnecki presented "Astronomical Devices Gleaned from the Olde World" a very enjoyable talk on astronomical devices he has seen in museums and buildings during his travels throughout Europe.

Adjourned approximately 9:30pm