

Lowbrow Officer's Meeting

June 9, 2021 7pm

Attendance:

- Charlie Nielsen
 - David Jorgensen
 - Liz Calhoun
 - Amy Cantu
 - Doug Scobel
 - Jack Brisbin
 - Jeff Kopmanis
 - Joy Poling
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1. Detroit Observatory collaboration (w/ Gary Krenz - Bentley Hist. Lib)
 - a. Major remodeling and addition
 - b. Would like to have Lowbrows have a meeting in the new facility
 - c. Might be looking for telescope operators, guides from Lowbrows
 - d. Might be nice to have a "home" to keep materials, kits, etc (a closet)
 - e. Concerns:
 - i. Parking around Ann/Observatory
 - ii. Observatory access due to Hill (steep grade)
 1. A: full disability access to all areas
 - iii. Probably opening in Fall '21
2. Swap Meet (re: Paul Walkowski)
 - a. Good stuff went away fast when doing it at meetings
 - b. Annual? every-other-year?
 - c. Generally, it was a "collection of stuff that was layin' around"; people brought the same unwanted items each year.
 - d. Ford Club has a successful swap meet
 - e. GLSG has a swap meet
 - f. Bring up idea at next General Meeting
3. Award Pins
 - a. Charlie has 3 years worth
 - b. NSN sends 3 per year as long as we're active
 - c. Candidates:
 - i. AATB: Awni Hafedh, Jeff Kopmanis, Adrian Bradley, John Wallbank, Brian Ottum, Doug Bock
 - ii. Communications/Outreach: Jeff Kopmanis, Joy Poling
 - iii. Newsletter: Don Fohey
 - iv. Camp Bert Shirley: Jim Forrester
4. Observatory Update
 - a. Cave telescope
 - i. New focuser installed
 - ii. Telrad fixed
 - b. McMath

- i. RTC Battery FLAT: date and time kept getting lost
 - 1. Bent internal battery clips down for firmer grip
 - 2. New battery while we had it apart
 - ii. Cleanup of small building
 - 1. Installed external starlink antenna (instead of dome)
 - 2. Mold removal, chalkboards out
 - 3. Prof. Jim Cutler (Aero Engin):
 - a. Sept: looking to start class on spacecraft design, held at classroom in radio telescope building; using small antennas; has 30 students; finalized in August
 - b. Live in-person meetings are possible in September
 - c. AT&T tower project is not happening
 - d. Removal of brush around both radio Observatory building fence lines so security cameras can see everything (began June 7)
 - e. By September, we *should* be able to hold Open Houses again
 - f. Both radio observatory buildings have security and there is one bright light at the larger building, which will be controllable on Open House nights.
 - 4. Washtenaw County broadband group is working on obtaining Federal Funds to increase broadband service to remote areas.
 - iii. "Observatory Tree Removal" group
 - 1. Jack and 4 others
 - 2. Weather has been rainy, but should clear up soon
 - iv. Access road improvements
 - 1. Graded, flattened out; ruts filled
 - 2. Smooth from N. Territorial to asphalt
 - 3. Brush clearing may clear some of the road pathways as well
5. Treasurer
- a. Covid-considered membership carry-overs: 6 (none have hardship)
 - i. Q: When to revert to original policy? (sending 3 renewal notices before dropping)
 - ii. Suggestion: go back to original policy when we have in-person meetings and open houses.
 - b. Give choice of renewal or dropping them (final renewal notice)
 - c. Two carry-overs are "One-and-done": typically join and do not renew after a year
 - d. Discussion of special case of Wendy Butler/John Grey
 - e. Doug offered to step down come April elections to allow someone to be in-person
 - f. RASC handbooks to be ordered in Fall
 - i. Liz volunteered to be the RASC dropoff location
 - g. TCF acquired by Huntington; will become official Huntington on Oct 12
6. Young Astronomer website
- a. Jack is the registered domain name holder
 - b. Domain registration should be transferred to the Lowbrows
 - c. Track origins of hits - Google Analytics
7. Communications

- a. Jeff Kopmanis will be absent for July General meeting
 - i. Official Hosts with UM ID's have been added to the Lowbrow Meeting config so that they could be an official UM owner/host for the meeting.
 - ii. Adrian Bradley and Brian Ottum have been contacted to run OBS YouTube pipeline

TODO:

1. Liz is going to check out parking near Detroit Observatory
2. Charlie will bring it up at next General meeting
3. Jack's work at the observatory (see above)
4. TCF/Huntington signers may need to sign new Huntington cards
5. Jack/Krishna: Add Google Analytics tags to Young Astronomers
6. Jack/Krishna: Transfer domain from Jack to Krishna
7. Jeff: Clean up Zoom/OBS/YouTube documentation for use by alternates in July