

# Stardate: 040211

## CMAS Minutes of the meeting

Board meeting opened at 6:00pm

John Thomas reported that he had contacted SMAS about going in half toward the purchase of John's Meade 2045 for a StarWatch door prize. SMAS has approved the purchase and the scope will be the main door prize at StarWatch this year.

Ken Ferguson reported that the company we had supply the porta-potties for StarWatch has been sold to out of state interests and is no longer available to us. Ken will look into other companies to supply them, however the costs are expected to be higher than last year.

Rollin Grey announced that he has taken over the duties of secretary from Terry DeBates with Terry's blessings. Rollin will continue publishing the Inter-Stellar News, the club's newsletter.

Rollin Grey brought a few samples of the club newsletter for approval by the club. Everyone liked the format of the newsletter and discussion followed about the publishing of it. It was agreed that the newsletter would be sent to members via e-mail and hard copies limited to those without e-mail and a few copies to be handed out at the meeting. Jonathan Logan and Terry DeBates stated they could get additional copies for star party handouts, printed at no cost to the club.

With the Astronomical League raising their membership dues and the anticipated cost of the club newsletter, it was decided to raise the club dues by \$3.00. Club dues are now \$15.00 per year and need to be renewed by the June meeting.

We had a visitor. Neil Sumo came to the meeting seeking information about obtaining a clock drive motor. He brought the equatorial head from his tripod to show us and stayed for the meeting.

Our upcoming events for February are:  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> at the Twilight Tech Café starting at 5:00pm  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center from 6:00pm to Midnight

Upcoming events for March are:  
Regular meeting the 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
Twilight Tech Café on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm  
The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center the 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to Midnight  
The Messier Marathon is the 20<sup>th</sup> at Goetz Road from /dusk to Dawn. Dress warm!

For April the events are:  
Twilight Tech Café on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00pm  
Regular meeting is the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center the 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to Midnight

In June, the 8<sup>th</sup> brings a transit of Venus across the Sun at sunrise. The event is NOT visible from Montana. John Thomas will be heading for Fargo, North Dakota for the event and invites anyone and everyone to join him. Our regular meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> and John is certain he won't be back in time for the meeting.

StarWatch is set for July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Harley Park in the Little Belt Mountains. The top door prize will be an older Meade 2045 telescope as well as other prizes. Register for your chance to win!

Last note: The club's Star-B-Que is set for August 14<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars!