

Minutes – FOTO meeting October 10, 2019

Call to Order: 5:07; Present – Bill Haddon, David Markham, Eduardo Alatorre, David Velasquez, Tom Schleif, Barbara McIntyre. Angelo Parisi and Elisa Prather represented LCOE. Guest: David Firebaugh.

Absent: Tim Gill (VP), Emily Whittelsey (secy)

Meeting conducted during PG&E preventive safety power shutdown.

Minutes review: no review

Financial Report: David Markham, CFO, reports a balance of \$16,479.32 (Umpqua) and \$50,675.51 (money market account) Total: \$67,154.83 (less \$175 cash to pay machinist for mount for OC scope.

President's report:

LX-200/16 Update

Continued success with the scope; retains alignment; used regularly now for public nights and astronomy course; we are working on astrophotography.

Monthly Astronomy Course.

First two sessions completed with attendance of about 28 students, including several high school students.

Windows to the Universe/Special Events:

Prof Phil Scherrer spoke on Sept 24 on Mercury Transit and sunspots. Attendance approximately 50.

We will open Taylor for the Nov 11 Mercury Transit, 7:30 to 10:30 AM. Konocti Coffee will have coffee and pastries available for purchase.

Eduardo will contact Martin Bradley and David Beck (Mendo College) as possible speakers for October window to the universe; [both declined; no Windows event for October.]

Angelo Parisi is trying to arrange a speaker for 2020 on Planetary Protection.

Meteor-Cam Proposal from Prof. Beck, Mendo. College.

Eduardo described a proposal from Prof. Beck, Mendo College, that Taylor install a “meteor-cam” as part of the CAMS initiative run by SETI [Cameras for All-Sky Meteor Surveillance]. In June partial funding (of total \$1800) may be available from Mendo. One purpose of this student-participation program is to identify new meteor showers. Angelo expressed interest; Haddon wants Prof. Beck to make a presentation before funds are committed.

Night Vision Eyepieces. David Firebaugh will look into vision-enhancing eyepieces which use military night-vision technology.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Submitted: Bill Haddon, Acting Secretary FOTO