

Minutes of the First DFAC Meeting
Friday, May 12th, 2006
Heimhenge, New River, AZ

The following is a record of items discussed by our charter members.

Regarding our Lecture Meetings at Boulder Creek High School:

- Our Lecture Meetings will run from September through May, with the May meeting on a special agenda to allow for officer elections, club business, and special presentations by members on their equipment, methods, research, experiences, etc. The other meetings will host professional and amateur astronomers from local venues.
- Lecture meetings will start at 7 pm with a brief period of announcements and club business, immediately followed by our guest speaker. Allowing for Q&A, meetings will typically adjourn between 9-9:30 pm. We would prefer to have the doors open by 6:30 pm, but this is a detail yet to be worked out with BCHS.
- We will be meeting in the Career Center, which is in the Administrative building at BCHS. This room can seat a maximum of 40-50 people in comfortable chairs at round tables. The Career Center is conveniently located less than 100 yards from parking, and on ground level. Directions to this meeting location are provided on the Maps page of our website.
- Should DFAC grow to where more seating capacity is required, a mini-auditorium (capacity 100) is also available for our use.
- Meetings will be held on a day/date yet to be determined. Based on input from the May 12th meeting, the following day/time slots are being considered (in order of preference): Last Wednesday of the month; 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of the month; 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Monday of the month. A final decision needed to be made by the end of June. Additional feedback on this matter was solicited.

Regarding DFAC activities:

- We will hold members-only star parties several times each year at member residences and other north valley venues. This will be the primary focus of our club: the sharing of equipment expertise, techniques, observing experiences, and general astronomy knowledge.
- Once each year, DFAC will host an evening observing session at BCHS for the benefit of our gracious hosts and their entire school community. This will likely be a large event, with 100+ in attendance. As this is part of our reciprocal agreement with BCHS, all DFAC members will be expected to participate if possible.
- Additional observing sessions will be limited to north valley schools, youth groups, and community organizations. How many of these we will commit to was a matter yet to be determined, but the general consensus at the meeting was "no more than one every 2-3 months." Additional feedback on this matter was solicited.

Regarding DFAC structure and organization:

- In order to use the BCHS facilities, DFAC must hold liability insurance. This will be obtained from the Astronomical League at a nominal cost (yet to be determined as it depends on the number of DFAC members).
- The question of whether we needed to incorporate as a non-profit educational organization will be deferred for at least one year. Given the scope of our planned activities, this additional layer of complexity is not currently warranted on a risk/benefit basis.
- There will be an initial need for three officers, President, Treasurer, and Editor, to be elected at the May 2007 meeting. Dan Heim and Roger Serrato will handle these duties in the interim, but prospective members are encouraged now to consider whether they could serve DFAC in any of these positions. Additional officer positions may be added as DFAC grows over the years.
- Our newsletter, provisionally titled "DFAC News," will be published monthly from September through May. It will contain information regarding club activities, observing tips by members, and astronomy news. A sample issue was posted on the Newsletter page of our website. Is there any additional content you would like to see included? Can you come up with a less-generic title than "DFAC News?" Additional feedback on this matter was solicited.

The meeting adjourned around 9:30 pm. A few members lingered for a view of Jupiter through Dan Heim's 5" Takahashi apochromat. Seeing was adequate, but not great. Still, the view was nice, with a blue filter showing high-contrast banding. We were unable to see the recently reported new red spot.

The last guests left around 10 pm. DFAC is rising in the north.