

Natal Midlands Centre (NMC) - Astronomical Society of Southern Africa

Minutes of Committee meeting held at John Watson's residence, Monday 19th January 2004 at 19H30

Present: John Watson (JW, Chair), Roger Clifford (RC), Frikkie de Bruyn (FB), Rogan Roth (RR),
Colin Kay (CK), Trevor Morley (TM)

Apologies: Willie van der Merwe (WM)

0. Corrections to previous minutes 17th November 2003

Item 9.7 to be deleted. Item 11 Spelling of 'Friday' to be corrected. TM

1. Matter Arising from previous minutes

1. See 4.1

New Matters Arising

None.

2. Planning

1. JW thanked RR for his December 'Radio Astronomy' talk.

2. Planned talks are:

February 11th 2004.. Quantum look at the early universeFB

• (FB requires overhead, flipchart and microphone-loud speaker)RR, TM

March 08th 2004 topic to be announced JW

April 14th 2004 1st presentation: Interstellar mediumFB

12th May 2004 Comets in 2004, Celestial objects, transit of Venus..... RR/guest speaker

9th June AGM

14th July..... Star Party (alternate date Saturday 17th July)

11th August 2004..... 2nd presentation: Instellar medium.....FB

3. Membership

1. Jorg vd Vegte, a Michaelhouse learner, has sent an incorrectly made out cheque. Cheque

amount was for R40.00..... JW

2. Jake Alletson is keen to join the NMC and wants to purchase a telescope. JW

4. Correspondence

1. Banner saga almost all resolved.

• Invoice and photograph to be sent to Mr Turk.JW

• NMC needs to change its bank account name to meet ASSA requirements. The meeting resolved that the bank account be named 'KwaZulu Natal Midlands Centre of ASSA' (abbreviation: KZNMC of ASSA). The bank account name is to be changed accordingly.RC

2. JW has received three sets of ASSA Council minutes by snail mail. Issues from these include:

• ASSA forming an education center

• ASSA S&T being queried

• Centres should have AGM's timeously before August so relevant detail can be provided to ASSA for ASSA AGM held in August month

• Centre annual reports to include membership details and Chairman's report.

3. The new Handbook had been received. Members are to contact RC.RR

4. JW had sent Brian Fraser NMC telescope details.

5. Girl Guides had been sent the dates for the Training Course.

6. RR had received email from Tim Chance. RR to reply and forward the email to TM for distribution.RR

7. JW received a Christmas card from Mr van Blommestein along with detail of craters in SA and lunar occultations.

8. Usual correspondence received from other ASSA branches. Passed onto RR.

5. Treasurer

1. R5112.70 current bank account total.

2. Original documentation of the NMC Lotto application to be located and followed up.....JW, TM

6. Stardust

1. Scrap book corner submitted by RC. This is list of recent articles in the popular press. RR

2. Time and celestial south pole details to be extracted from an old atlas acquired by RC..... RC

3. Prof Keith Gregor has submitted an article. RR

4. Chairman's Corner required.JW

5. Space article required..... TM

6. RR advised the meeting that he has been 'Stardusting' for about 8 years and will hand it on to a new editor around June at the start of the NMC new committee year).
7. JW commended those who have kept Stardust going over the years.

7. Library

1. Technical articles are available for binding. CK, TM
2. Girl Guides are not to be sounded out about a NMC library cupboard being placed in the hall as space is very limited.

8. PRO

1. FB has advertised NMC at Hayfields and Main Library. CK to advertise in Hilton..... CK
2. Publishing of old NMC adverts in the Witness has stopped and new adverts are being published. The Mirror's Pinboard is still publishing old adverts. We need to keep trying to get the publishers to manage the adverts correctly..... JW, WvdM
3. Star viewing weekends at 'The Cavern' were suggested as possible publicity for NMC and for interested NMC members.

9. Observatory & Instruments

1. Mowing, creaky wheel and wooden strips for hanging posters have and still are being attended to..... TM
2. Harry Turner will look at the 12" telescope. Telerad to be located and given to JW to get to HT. TM
3. Dancer to left at Observatory.
4. Quote for Orion lens to be obtained. RR, CK

10. Education

1. JW had obtained a R150 donation from Baynesfield NMC activities done in December.
2. Dates have been set for the Training Course starting and ending just before and after the school winter break.
3. Observatory open evenings are to be pursued. It was suggested that a viewing programme be considered. The programme could include stars and constellations that people could recognize by themselves, more props in the observatory, planets, folklore etc.
4. The observatory is to be manned on Friday evenings during the viewing programme regardless of the weather.
5. Scheduled viewing sessions – Underberg (evening 4-5th February) and Kings School (March)..... RR
6. RR has had an informal request from Rotary via PH and WvdM. They're to get back to RR with formal request notifying him of a date, venue etc.

11. General

1. Questionnaire summary ongoing. JW
2. A pertinent question, being 'what I am prepared to do for the NMC' should be included in future questionnaires.

Meeting ended at 20H58

next meeting: Monday 16th February

venue: Colin Kay's residence, Chalet Drive, Hilton, tel 033 – 343 1846