

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CAPE CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11th August 1999

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

We have had another busy year. Team work played an important role again. Not only the Committee but also general members made contributions.

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

Again this has been our main activity.

FORMAL MEETINGS

There were 9 as follows :-

1998

Sept. Prof. Maarten de Wit	"Early Earth Environment"
Oct. Prof. Eric Harley	"Origins of Life"
Nov. Prof. Alan G. Morris	"Human Evolution in the Universe"

1999

Feb. Prof. David Aschman	"Mass of the Neutrino & Mass of the Universe"
March Dr. Tom Lloyd Evans	"Star Atlases for the Amateur"
May Dr. David Laney	"Ancient Sky-Watchers of the Americas"
June Prof. Tony Fairall	"Astronomy of the Pyramids" (Planetarium)
July Dr. Pierre Oosthuizen	Sunsat

We are indeed fortunate in Cape Town where we have easy access to numerous Specialists in Science in general and Astronomy in particular. Good attendances at these meetings has shown the keen interest of our members and others.

The INFORMAL MEETINGS

These were also reasonably well attended with new faces often seen amongst the regulars. Again there was a great variety with an accent on the History of Astronomy. Interesting video and audio tapes dealing with astronomy were also presented.

OTHER LECTURES

Our members also attended talks by VISITING LECTURERS.-
Prof. Roger Penrose , Prof. John Barrow , Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman
David Malin and Carolyn Shoemaker .

OTHER ACTIVITIES :-

BEGINNER'S COURSE

This has been reduced to once a month .

FIELD TRIPS

Star Parties . We have had several successful ones at the Ostrich Farm or
Conteman's Kloof Quarry .

Hermanus . Thanks to our former Committe Member , Steve Kleyn , we had
a fruitful week-end in October .

Annular Solar Eclipse on the 16th Feb. was watched by several members
from Rhodes Memorial .

Meteor Showers and Occultations was observed by some .

Members have drawn attention to the need to be security conscious in the
light of increased levels of crime . The safety of our members is paramount !

VISITS

CEDERBERG

Our trips to the Cederberg Observatory in Oct. last year and April this year
were again very successful and indeed memorable . Thanks to those who
arranged it and looked after us .

SUTHERLAND

In Nov. Despite problems , it was wonderful visit.

PLANETARIUM

Despite it being a holiday and Election Day , Prof. Tony Fairall made it
worthwhile .

PUBLIC VIEWING

We have found a venue in Sea Point . This activity is still too infrequent
and needs further attention .

The LIBRARY

The Library is being used more and more .

THE ASTROPHOTO COMPETITION

Getting world famous David Malin to judge our competition was certainly
one of the highlights of the past year . We must thank everybody who
helped to make it a successful evening . We will certainly remember it for a
long time to come !

WORKSHOP ON METEOR SHOWERS

This was conducted by Tim Cooper in Nov. Members found this very useful.

ASSA SYMPOSIUM

Hosted by us in April, gave us an opportunity not only to increase our knowledge but also to meet astronomers from other parts of Southern Africa

THE NIGHT SKY

Demonstration of the Night Sky by Tony Jones have been found useful.

OPEN NIGHTS AT SAAO

These are held on the 2nd Sat. of each month. Our members help in exposure of the general public to Astronomy.

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

THE "CAPE OBSERVER". Tony Jones, who had done a splendid job as Editor for some time, needed a break. Fortunately Mike Christianson helped out by volunteering to fill the vacancy, assisted by Tony Jones and Max Maxwell - Hafen.

THE TREASURER. Due to ill-health the person elected to this position was unable to attend. We were fortunate in getting the services of Dany Du Prez. We must also thank Chris Forder for continuing to help when we were without a Treasurer.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

We must aim at continuing the growth and development of the Cape Centre as part of ASSA.

We should increase our liason with the general public.

Maths and Science tend to be neglected in South Africa. It bears repeating that the fascination of Astronomy could be used to arouse interest in these subjects as well.

THANKS

To the outgoing Committee and other Members for their contribution to the success of the past year.

There has been an increase in the Subscriptions. However this has been a modest increase, thanks to :-

The SAAO for this rent-free venue and

Cliff Turk, who played a major role in the formation of The Trust.

CAPE CENTRE A.S.S.A.**INCOME & EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30 1999****INCOME**

SUBSCRIPTIONS	1476 00
DONATIONS	1034 00
POORBOX	1063 40
STOCK SALES	60 00
INTEREST	648 50

TOTAL INCOME	4281.90
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EXPENSES

ASTROPHOTO COMP	991 32
NEWSLETTER(INCL POST)	2248 39
PHOTOCOPIES ETC.	261 70
MEETINGS	56 54
SPEAKERS	59 28
XMAS PARTY	237 43
INSURANCE	60 00
BANK CHARGES	42 98
COST OF SOLD STOCK	42 99

TOTAL EXPENSES	4000.63
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INCOME OVER EXPENSES	281.27
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56'121
 79'41
 66'971

CAPE CENTRE A.S.S.A.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30/06/1999

ASSETS

F/DEPOSIT
SAVINGS A/C
STOCK TSHIRTS
STOCK MUGS
STOCK STICKERS
EQUIPMENT RON ATKINS
EQUIPMENT EYEPIECES
EQUIPMENT LARMUTH
EQUIPMENT PROJECTOR
LIBRARY CABINET

TOTAL

LIABILITIES

KEY DEPOSITS
VOLUNTARY BOX
GENERAL FUND

TOTAL

1999

3500 00
2156 43
315 26
244 53
38 00
2000.00
500 00
100 00
300 00
350 00

9504.22

50 00
1063 40
8390 82

9504.22