

**A.S.S.A. (CAPE CENTRE) - "THINK TANK" MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 2000
SUMMARY OF IDEAS - AS PER THE FOREGOING LISTS**

The previous two pages are hereby summarised in shortened form :

ATTENTION TO NEW MEMBERS AND BEGINNERS :

- 1) Committee members should wear "Committee tags" so that they can be identified by beginners
- 2) All new members should be spoken to and given encouragement
- 3) They SHOULD be handed a copy of the Rules of the Centre when admitted
- 4) Involve them in actual viewing of the night sky
- 5) Start up the beginners Courses again but dedicate one evening per month to this
- 6) Ensure that "lecture notes" are available for beginners on these evenings

OUT OF DOOR ACTIVITIES :

- 1) Open up the telescope next door after each meeting, weather permitting
- 2) Form interested sub-groups for double stars, meteor observing etc. and encourage
- 3) Increase the "side-walk" astronomy viewing - find separate venues for this if poss.
- 4) Tony Jones to be encouraged to give a weekly/monthly "What's Up" again in open
- 5) Encourage members to give talks to their children's schools
- 6) Encourage more "hands on" practical; astronomy and viewing

PUBLICITY ASPECTS :

- 1) Better contact with radio and the news-media (papers etc.)
- 2) Set up a Web page on someone's computer system
- 3) Create suitable flyers for handing out at any outdoor publicised activity
- 4) Ensure better publicity at the Planetarium - flyers again?

ADMINISTRATION ASPECTS :

- 1) Up date and revamp the membership list, circulate to all members with telephone numbers etc
- 2) Re-design the Centre Logo - submit designs for approval and action ?
- 3) Create a "hot line" list of telephone numbers and contactees
- 4) Clean up the Notice Board and make better use of it
- 5) Actively promote the library, revue some books therein and publish revue
- 6) Have a stock-take of saleable assets and actively sell these items
- 7) As and when new logo accepted, have car stickers produced for sale to members (or before)
- 8) Revamp the membership application form - include question as to particular interest
- 9) Try to involve the Committee members (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN!) more in out of doors activities

PRACTICAL WORK SUGGESTED :

- 1) Organise a work party (Saturday a.m.) to clean up McClean telescope fittings if required
- 2) Start up a telescope making class - mirror grinding etc. Where is glass etc. available today?

SOCIAL EVENTS :

- 1) Hold a "Bring and Braai" viewing social evening in Summer and in Winter
- 2) Continue the end of year social as before.
- 3) Encourage any ideas for other social events - good for meeting each other and "mixing"

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LIST OF IDEAS SUBMITTED AT AND BEFORE MEETING**

BEGINNERS : COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS re :

- Beginners' course to be a full evening per month
- Notes to be made available for beginners' course subjects
- Start up the Beginners' Course again
- Keep an eye on new members and keep them interested in returning
- Discuss likes and dislikes with new members
- Keep in touch with new members
- Teach new members the Constellations and planet positions
- One evening a month dedicated to beginners and a sky tour
- Continue observing evenings and INVOLVE beginners
- Dedicate one meeting per month to beginners
- Monitor and assist new members

OUT OF DOORS ACTIVITIES :

- Practical astronomy to be increased (use experienced observers)
- Chairman to be more involved - especially with outdoor activities
- Form internal groups interested in Meteors, Double Stars etc.
- Train observers in making and recording observations
- Start or encourage further Sidewalk Astronomy
- "What's Up" in the sky each normal meeting (Tony Jones)
- More practical astronomy - more "hands on" experience
- Take Astronomy to the Townships
- Encourage Radio Astronomy
- Make telescope available out of doors after meetings
- Set up fixed viewing evenings
- Encourage observational astronomy
- Continue organised outings
- Try to find better viewing site/s
- Give more talks to schools

MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION :

- Change meetings from Wednesdays to Fridays for school goers
- Check, revamp and publish the address list to all members
- More radio and newspaper publicity
- Re-introduce advertising on FMR
- Set up a Web page
- Create "Flyers" for any out of doors events
- Actively promote the Library
- Improve the Centre Logo
- Create a "hot line" telephone network
- Tidy up and more use of the Notice Board
- Update notices on the board
- Membership form to include note on personal astronomical interest
- Committee and/or members to wear name tags
- Hand membership cards to all members & new members
- Do a stock take of saleable items and advertise
- Better contact with other Centres/Societies
- Create a "promotion kit" with sample slides?
- Get coverage from the Cape Argus
- Advertise the Centre in the Planetarium

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PRACTICAL WORK :

- Organise a work party to clean McLean telescope fittings
- Start a group telescope making class

GENERAL COMMENTS :

- More commitment from event organisers (BE ON TIME!)
- Weekly meetings becoming too technical
- Have a quiz now and then
- Have a braai on a Saturday evening - plus viewing
- More "social" events such as a braai
- Visit and publicise the Planetarium
- More discussion at our normal meetings
- Review books in our library and publish in Newsletter
- Keep ALL talks to Astronomy or closely related subjects
- Another Astrophoto contest
- Talks to be on a practical, first hand experience
- Set contents standards for the talks
- Must informal meetings always be talks?
- Have dark sky viewing coupled with social
- Have an occasional "Hard Science" evening
- Workshops by experts on specialised subjects
- Have a summer and a winter braaivleis

Following the individual ideas, a short discussion then took place, a summary of this appears hereunder :

- 1) Create a roster for opening the next door telescope for after meeting viewing
- 2) Let Committee members act as "Chairman" for the informal meetings
- 3) Get out of door activities up and moving
- 4) Suggested change of meeting to Fridays NOT a good idea
- 5) Concentrate more on media advertising
- 6) McClean to be "cleaned up" permission must be obtained. Plenty of work already done
- 7) Rupert Hurly : Advertising on Muizenberg Radio, Cape Talk, FMR, Radio Oudtshoorn, Cape Flats Radio
- 8) Contact Dr R "Mqezi" at Robben Island for possible monetary assistance !!
- 9) Involve astronomy students at UCT (Most are studying technical aspects - not interested?)
- 10) Get more members to become involved with school talks
- 11) A "National Pool" of slides is available at the SAAO for use in school talks - contact the Educational Office for more information
- 12) The idea of a summer and winter "Braai" with viewing is a good one

Those present were : Dudley Field, Andrew Gray (Chairman), Val McConnell, Ann Gray, Andrew McConnell, Delene Bosch, Gordon Bosch, Chris Forder, L Isaacson, Cliff Turk, Paul de Villiers, Joanne Willmore, Paul Dugan, Richard Sessions, Heather Sessions, Richard Hayes, Bill Hollenbach, Pat Booth, Rupert Hurly. Total present : nineteen

Apologies received from : Apologies received from : Dany Duprez, Abe Mahomed, Max Maxwell-hafen, Mike Christianson, Tony Jones, Bernard Wagner and Brian Skinner.