

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (CAPE CENTRE) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th JULY 2001 IN THE LECTURE HALL
S.A.A.O., OBSERVATORY, CAPE TOWN.**

- 1) **Opening :** The Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting open and welcomed all present, requesting that the Attendance Register be signed. As a mark of respect and in memory of those members who died during the year, the assembly rose and maintained a minute's silence.
- 2) **APOLOGIES** were recorded from the following Members : Mr T Lloyd-Evans, Mr P Van Blommenstein, Mr A Jones, Mr R Hurly, Mr C Rijdsdijk, Miss K Smedley-Williams, Mrs W Blomkamp, Mr Du Plessis and Mr M Soltynski
- 3) The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th July 2000, having been circulated to all Members, it was proposed and seconded that these be confirmed and signed. Carried.
- 4) **MATTERS ARISING :** Mr M Soltynski's name was spelt incorrectly. The proposal that R500 be donated to the Centre Trust had not taken place and Mr Forder was asked to rectify this.
- 5) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :** The Chairman then presented his Report for the period July 2000 to June 2001, a copy of which has been entered in the Minute Book.
- 6) **TREASURER'S REPORT :** Mr C Forder presented the Report (copy attached to these Minutes) on behalf of Mr A Jones, which indicated that Subscription income and donations had increased. Total income was R 8006.03 (R 3465.96). Expenses had also increased to R 6798.58 from R 2 442.44 for the year. Income over expenditure showed R 1207.45 as opposed to R 1023.52 the previous year. The balance in the Bank Account was R 2163.69. The Report was approved.
- 7) **CENTRE TRUST :** Mr Cliff Turk advised that as at December 2000, the capital stood at R 7 228 which earns interest which can be disbursed. The Trust stood at R14 000 plus available for disbursement. He was thanked for his report.
- 8a) **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT :** Dr Abe Mahomed thanked the Bauer family for the library cabinet which they had donated and the numerous people who had donated books. There had been a variable usage of the library during the year and there was room for improvement. He recommended that the Librarian should only do library duties and that there should be more books catering for newcomers. It was also recommended that be better control of and fines should be levied for overdue books and that a bigger video library should be built up. Dr Mahomed was thanked for his report.
- 8b) **CURATOR OF INSTRUMENTS :** Mr Paul De Villiers advised that all the Centre's instruments are now in working order and that the "Ron Atkins" telescope had been repaired. repair. A 6 inch telescope had been donated but a finderscope is required.
- 8c) **DARKSKY SECTION:** Mr Dudley Field reported that there had been problems with the venues for darksky viewing and was hopeful that the new Orange-kloof venue would provide the answer. A number of really good viewing evenings had been held with generally good attendances of 6-8 telescopes and 15 observers. The planets had been prominent and the two comets
- 9) **HONORARY MEMBERS' AWARDS & SPECIAL AWARDS :** The Chairman then presented Mr Brian Skinner with the de Kock Award for services to the Centre and ASSA.
- 10) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (GENERAL) :** The Chairman thanked Miss Joanne Willmore for her hard work and artistic talents in designing the Centre Banner and the mug emblem. He also thanked other Committee members for their efforts during the year.
- 11) **ELECTIONS :** The following were duly Proposed and Seconded as members of the incoming Committee :

CHAIRMAN ----- Mr M A McConnell

VICE-CHAIRMAN --- Mr D Field

TREASURER ----- Mr A Jones

SECRETARY ----- Mr M Christianson

COMMITTEE ----- Messrs. P De Villiers, B Wagener, Miss J Willmore, Mrs K Koch, Mr L Wolf and Mr P Dogan.

Noted with thanks that Mesdames Val McConnell, Karin Koch and Lorraine Christianson for their assistance in arranging teas etc for the formal meetings.

Mr C Turk was re-elected as Honorary Auditor and Mr P de Villiers as a the Editor of the Newsletter, the "*Cape Observer*".

- 12) **INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME :** The incoming Chairman, then addressed the meeting.
- 13) **ADDRESS TO CENTRE :** The outgoing Chairman then presented his Address to the meeting.
- 14) **CLOSURE :** With sincere thanks to all present for their attendance, there being nothing further to discuss, the Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 21h32 and requested that the Committee meet for a few moments immediately after the closure.

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Dated

Signed

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15/07/01
Prof Neil Torack.

25/07/01
ASSA AGM

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CAPE CENTRE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the above Centre will take place at 20h00 (8 p.m.) on WEDNESDAY 11TH DAY OF JULY 2001 at the Lecture Hall of the South African Astronomical Observatory, Observatory, Cape Town.

THE AGENDA :

1. To declare the Meeting open at 20h00 and record the name of those attending
2. To record Apologies *Soltyski*
3. To approve, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2000, a copy of which appears on the reverse of this Notice.
4. To discuss any Matters arising therefrom
5. To receive the Chairman's Report (Andrew Gray)
6. To receive the Treasurer's Report (Tony Jones)
7. To receive the Report of the Centre Trust (Cliff Turk)
8. To receive reports from the Librarian and the Curator of Instruments (A. Mahomed & P. de Villiers)
9. Honorary Members' Awards and Special Award
10. Revision of the 2002/2003 subscriptions from R20-00 to R30-00 p.a.
11. Any other business
12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS :
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice-Chairman
 - c. Honorary Secretary
 - d. Honorary Treasurer
 - e. Committee Members (Minimum 3, maximum 7) NB : A member of the Centre is eligible for election to the Committee after having been a fully paid up member for at least one year.
 - f. Honorary Auditor
 - g. Centre Representative to serve on A.S.S.A. Council
 - h. Editor of the "Cape Observer" Newsletter
13. Welcome from incoming Chairman
14. Retiring Chairman's Address to the Centre (Andrew Gray)
15. To close the Annual General Meeting

M J Christianson

Secretary

Tel/Fax : (021-) 531 1100

19th June 2001

PLEASE BRING THIS NOTICE WITH YOU TO THE A.G.M. !!!

Thank you.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (CAPE CENTRE) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th JULY 2000 IN THE LECTURE HALL, S.A.A.O., OBSERVATORY, CAPE TOWN.

1. Opening : The Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting open at 20h03 and welcomed all present, requesting that the Attendance Register be signed. As a mark of respect and in memory of the late Mr Charles Allen, the assembly rose and maintained a minute's silence.
2. APOLOGIES were recorded from the following Members : Mr T Lloyd-Evans, Mr P Van Blommenstein and Mr M Saltinsky.
3. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th August 1999, having been circulated to all Members, it was proposed and seconded that these be confirmed and signed. Carried out.

4. **MATTERS ARISING** : There were no Matters arising.
5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** : The Chairman then presented his Report for the period August 1999 to July 2000, a copy of which has been entered in the Minute Book.
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT** : Mr D Duprez presented his Report (copy attached to these Minutes) which indicated that Subscription income had increased but donations had decreased. Total income was R 3 465.96 (R 4 281.90). Expenses had dropped from R 4000.63 to R 2 442.44 for the year. Income over expenditure showed R 1023.50 as opposed to R 281.30 the previous year. The balance in the Bank Account was R 3 352.77. The Report was approved and the Chairman Proposed (duly seconded) that an amount of R 500.00 be donated to the Centre Trust. Approved.
7. **CENTRE TRUST** : Mr Cliff Turk advised that as at December 1999, the capital stood at R 7 228 which earns interest which can be disbursed. The Trust stood at R 13 061 but an amount of R 1 391.96 had had to be paid to the Receiver of Revenue as tax over some five years. He noted that no donations had been received from the Centre during the last two years. He then presented the Chairman with a cheque for R 600.00 being a grant-in-aid for the Centre for two years. He was warmly thanked for this.
8. **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT** : Dr Abe Mahomed reported that there had been an increase in the use of the Library. Thanks to members' donations, the library had acquired more books. A new book had recently been purchased and funds were available for further purchases However, there is now a lack of space and the incoming Committee will have to look into this, especially if more books are donated. Dr Mahomed was thanked for his report.
9. **CURATOR OF INSTRUMENTS** : Mr Paul De Villiers advised that all the Centre's instruments have now been traced. One mirror has been re-aluminised. The "Ron Atkins" telescope is in need of repair. Some components have already been purchased for this.
10. **HONORARY MEMBERS' AWARDS & SPECIAL AWARDS** : The Chairman then presented Mr Cliff Turk with a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the A.S.S.A. Council and a special book. (Applause), and he in turn presented Mr Gray with a certificate of Honorary Membership of A.S.S.A. as a result of his involvement in the Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg and Cape Centres over the years. (Applause).
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (GENERAL)** : The Chairman displayed the proposed new Centre Logo and thanked Miss Joanne Willmore for her hard work and artistic talents. Mr Graeme Rogers of the "Third Age" (Retired persons) advised that meetings take place in the SAAO lecture hall on Thursdays at 14h00 and suggested that some members may care to join these meetings. His telephone number is 712-7807.
12. **ELECTIONS** : The following were duly Proposed and Seconded as members of the incoming Committee :

CHAIRMAN	Mr M A Gray
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Mr A McConnell
TREASURER	Mr A Jones
SECRETARY	Mr M Christianson
COMMITTEE	Messrs. Dr A Mahomed, P De Villiers, B Wagener, D Field, Miss J Willmore with a possibility of Mr R Bauer being co-opted

Noted with thanks that Mesdames Val McConnell and Lorraine Christianson will offer their assistance in arranging teas for the future formal meetings.
Mr C Turk was re-elected as Honorary Auditor and Mr P de Villiers as a the Editor of the Newsletter, the "Cape Observer".
13. **INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME** : The Chairman, having been re-elected as such once again welcomed all present.
14. **ADDRESS TO CENTRE** : The Chairman then presented his Address which was titled "Nostradamus and other Prophets of Doom" and started by reading the "Stars Foretell" from the morning and evening papers, each of which was diametrically opposed to the other. He stated that the numerous predictions of major disasters resulting from planetary alignments etc., had never taken place but felt that in the distant past, any disasters were essentially man made. A major calamity is supposedly due on 23rd December 2012 as a result of the "end" of the Mayan Calendar but felt that this is highly unlikely. If such a disaster doe take place, 2012 will be a most interesting year.
15. **CLOSURE** : With sincere thanks to all present for their attendance, there being nothing further to discuss, the Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 21h10 and requested that the Committee meet for a few moments immediately after the closure.



FEDLIFE

AGM 11/07/01

1. Opening
2. Apologies - Rupert Horley, Kim Smedley Williams, de Plessen & Saltyski, Tony Jones, Keer Rysdijk, Tom Lloyd-Lewis
3. Min: Prof Ake, Second Board
4. Ann: Saltyski's name wrongly spelt.
AGM: Reso to Centre Trust - not passed on - Chris to handle.
5. Chairman's report:
6. Treasurer: Brian, Liz - audit - Cliff
7. Centre Trust:
8. Reports: Abe: Library; Paul: Restaurants; Dudley: Dark Skys
9. Awards: Boiski - de Kock Award:
10. Revised data -

	member	couple	student
20-30		30-45	10-15
Bernard:		30-40	
11. Other business: e-mail will reduce post costs
12. Nom for Chair:
- Chair: Andrew - Cliff 2nd Amed?
- Treasurer: Tony - Chris - Bernard
- Sec: M.J.C. - Amed - Cliff.
- Members: Dudley - Cliff - Amed. Centre Rep.
Bernard - Amed - Joanne.
Lestley Wolf - Andrew - Bernard.
Paul Doga - Paul - Cliff
Paul De Vill - Dudley - Brian
Joanne - Chris - Dudley.
Karin - Val - Amed
13. Hon Auditor - Cliff Turk - Amed. &
13. Leaving Chairman
14. Retiring Chair Address:
15. Close 2/4 32

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CAPE CENTRE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR PERIOD 1st JULY 2000 TO 30th JUNE 2001

This second year of my Chairmanship has flown by all too quickly and for this, I have to thank all members of the Committee and the members of the Centre for having made it so enjoyable.

Unfortunately I have to record the sad death of three of our members during the year. They were Mr G Malherbe, Mr Harold Krumm and our old friend and colleague, Dr Alan J Cousins. Please will, you rise and maintain a moment's silence in memory of these stalwarts. Thank you.

Otherwise, the most important thing which I have noticed is the gradual and steady increase in numbers of members and Guests present at our meetings. We started off the year with 93 paid up members and close today with no less than 132 - an increase of about 35%. I can only hope that this trend will continue during the coming year. The increase caused some difficulties with the parking arrangements and with the most kind co-operation of Dr "Bob" Stobie (Director of the SAAO) this has now been solved and parking of cars is under far better control.

In brief, our "Formal Meetings" held on the second Wednesday of each month, have been addressed by some eminent speakers and have been extremely well attended.

July 2000	Dr R Stobie (Director of SAAO)	"The South African Large Telescope"
August	Mr John Richards (SABC)	"Our Environment - the Universe"
September	Dr Peter Martinez	"The Robotic Telescope at Sutherland"
October	Mr Edward Foster (Dept. Biochemistry)	"The Origin of Life"
November	Dr Patrick Woudt	"The Search for the Great Attractor"
December	Centre's Christmas Party	(13 th December)
January 2001	IN RECESS	-----
February	Professor Cleymans (UCT)	"The Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider - USA)
March	Professor G Ellis	"A Flat Universe?"
April	Centre's "Think Tank"	Well over sixty ideas resulted from this
May	Mr Rupert Hurly	"The Abbe La Caille"
June	Mr Cliff Turk	"The forthcoming Solar Eclipse"

At these meetings, the attendance ranged from 23 to 36 with a maximum of 42, but as several people present failed to sign the register, the figures were actually somewhat higher. An average of five visitors attended each of these. For arranging these lectures, we owe sincere thanks to Abe Mahomed for arranging them while having his hands full as our P.R.O., and also acting as Membership Secretary of A.S.S.A. - A job extremely well done.

At the informal meetings, held on the remaining Wednesdays, attendances have been extremely good, occasionally being "standing room only" and I thank those members of the Committee who prepared and delivered their less formal but highly interesting talks.

Outside activities included several "Dark Sky" evenings where the really keen amateurs disappear into the countryside and spend most of the night studying the stars in almost perfect conditions. These evenings were generally arranged by Dudley Field. Otherwise, a number of members supported special evenings with telescopes and binoculars at Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens - all well supported by the public at large.

Chairman's Report - Page 2 :

Our Centre "Braaivleis"- accompanied by a brisk South-Easter and held on 17th March - was somewhat poorly attended but those who were there thoroughly enjoyed the more social side of our membership. This kind of activity deserves better support.

An excellent photographic competition was held on 30th May and we were honoured by having Dr Patricia Whitelock present to hand out the prizes. How the Judges managed to make their final decisions, we will never know for the standard shown was first class in all categories.

Many Centre members attended a showing of the "Solar Max" film at the Imax Theatre on 6th June this year and enjoyed the film, even if it was somewhat aimed at the public rather than astronomers - professional or amateur.

Quite a number of our Members both here and in Lusaka were involved with the Solar Eclipse on June 21st. In Cape Town, telescopes and other equipment were set up at shopping Centres, Schools, the Planetarium, the Waterfront and of course at the Observatory itself. Some excellent photographs of totality were taken in Zambia.

Our "Logo" has been redesigned and modernised. Coffee mugs and Tee shirts bear this new logo and a superb new banner has just been completed for use at public gatherings. A considerable number of publicity "fliers" has also been produced and for all of these and the artwork involved, we must thank Miss Joanne Willmore for her fine and artistic efforts.

Now to the general "Thanks" part of this Report.

Firstly to the Director and Staff of the S.A.A.O. for their continuing kind assistance and for allowing us the use of the Lecture Hall at no cost.

Secondly to those two stalwarts without whom no organisation can function properly, namely Mike Christianson as Secretary and Tony Jones as Treasurer.

I also wish to thank all the other members of the Committee for their enthusiasm and dedication, whatever their various portfolios might have been. Their support to me as Chairman has been invaluable.

My personal thanks to Andrew McConnell, our Vice-Chairman for holding the fort whenever I have been unable to be present at a meeting.

The ladies who put themselves out so magnificently by providing tea, coffee and biscuits at our formal and special meetings. Thank you ladies!

Finally, to every one of you, the Members for your support and interest in this, our Science and Hobby. To some, Astronomy is a most serious business - and so it is - but when we can enjoy it and have a bit of fun with it as well, then, all to the good.

I wish my successor in office and his or her Committee every success for the forthcoming year May the Centre go from strength to strength. It has been a privilege to serve you.

Thank you.

M A Gray
Chairman - 2000/2001

11th July 2001

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Thank you.

M A Gray
Chairman - 2000/2001

11th July 2001

Darksky Section

The past year has been varied, if nothing else.

In the start of the year we had 'troubles' at the quarry, lights, locked gates, etc which culminated in our being thrown-out at the end of the year. The search was on for a new venue: the Zoo, Agter-Paarl, Orange –Kloof amongst the ones tried. Besides the venue, the weather was always a factor: seems that the weather gremlin is on our mailing list. In an attempt to beat the weather it was decided to include the Friday as back-up, but while this really is a good idea, some folk felt that Fridays, after a long week were not conducive to stargazing.

Despite these drawbacks we had a number of really good darksky evenings. We have been really blessed with some excellent fire-balls. The 2 comets gave a reasonable show with Linear (01) actually breaking up on the night of darksky (didn't look like much but the later news gave the reasons and large telescope photos of the break-up. The planets really spoiled us with their displays. The stars and deepsky have also been really good.

A feature at darksky has been Tony's Beginners Guide. This has caught on in a big way and everyone is now trying it! I am pleased to see more and more beginners at our darksky evenings, keep on coming you are most welcome! Through this and concerted effort amongst the dedicated study'ers the general level of sky orientation has greatly improved. Remember it's only time spent outside that can really get you acquainted with the sky.

Attendance has been generally good , around 6 – 8 telescopes and 15 people with highs of 10 – 12 scopes.

The new Orange-kloof venue which is scheduled for next week should be really good.

THE CAPE CENTRE OF ASSA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11th JULY 2001

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

THANKS TO :-

- (1) The Bauer family for the beautiful cabinet donated to the Cape Centre Library .
- (2) The numerous people who donated books .
- (3) All the Committee Members who helped in sorting , listing , etc. of the library books .

Use of the library during the past year has been variable and there is certainly room for improvement .

RECOMMENDATIONS :-

- (1) The librarian should only do library duties .
- (2) More books catering for newcomers .
- (3) Better control . Fines for overdue books etc. to be used to buy more books .
- (4) Build a bigger video library (a Think Tank suggestion)

Mike Christianson

From: <Paul.de.Villiers@ziton.spx.com>
To: <micjohn@xsinet.co.za>
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2001 2:15 PM
Subject: Report from Curator of Instruments

Hi Mike

Just a short summary of the report:

1. Telescope loan facility:

In the past year, the telescope loan facility was under-utilised with only four members borrowing instruments.

2. New instruments:

We were privileged to have two new telescopes donated to the centre. Dave Coppinger donated a home-built 6" Newtonian with an equatorial mount which is an ideal size for transporting in a car. Paul Dogan donated a brand new 90mm refractor which will be a great instrument once a tripod is found. Many thanks to the donors! We now have six valid telescopes.

3. Refurbishments:

The Ron Atkins telescope has eventually been refurbished bringing all our instruments to a good state of repair. Brian Skinner also returned our long-lost 60mmx700mm refractor.

4. Future plans:

This coming year needs to see better utilisation of our instruments. Additionally, several instruments need to be rendered more user-friendly. Three instruments require finder scopes and two require mounts.

Thank you.

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The Planets

You can use SkyGlobe to learn something about the way the planets move around the Sun. The very word 'Planet' is derived from the Greek word for wanderer. The ancients, who spent more time out-of-doors than we do, noticed that a few bright 'stars' seemed to move against the 'fixed' background of the rest of the heavens. (Here I mean fixed with respect to each other; they were acquainted with the slow progression from one season to the next of the whole 'sphere'.) They soon worked out the repetitive patterns the different 'stars' followed. We will learn how to simulate this motion shortly, but first we need to talk about some SkyGlobe features that are relevant.

Although the stars don't really change from one year to the next, the planets do. Notice the year displayed on the Date display in the upper left-hand corner. If this Time and Date are not displayed, press 'F2' to turn this display on. Use 'Y' or 'Sh-Y' to increase or decrease the year. These planetary positions are now calculated on the fly in SkyGlobe 3.0. This is a bit slower than previous versions of SkyGlobe, but the added flexibility of dispensing with the data files is more than worth it. You can use 'F3' to turn on the planet display, and to turn on planet labels. EGA/VGA color users see the planets in more or less appropriate colors. You may need to change the Time or Date to see your favorite planet.

Now that we have seen the planets, let's see how they move. Change the Viewing Direction to South and the Time to 12:00 noon. Turn off Daylight Time by pressing 'V'. Set Auto-Increment Type to Date by pressing 'Alt-A' if needed. Now press 'A' and watch the show. If you want to see how the planets stick near the ecliptic, make sure its display is turned on, by pressing 'F6' if needed. Since your location may not fall exactly on the Standard Time meridian, the Sun may not be due South for you at Civil noon. Also notice how it wanders from side to side throughout the year.

Notice how Mercury and Venus stay close to the Sun. Mars has positively weird behavior, since it is outside the Earth's orbit, but relatively close by. It also has an eccentric orbit. The other outside planets drift more slowly against the background of the stars. You may see more clearly how the moon goes through its phases, being always in New Moon phase when near the Sun. Move to Midnight, and the Moon will be in Full phase when it shows up in the South. Since the orbit of the Moon is inclined at about 5 degrees to the ecliptic, it wanders above and below it each month. This motion, which rotates through an 18 year cycle, accounts for the periodicity of eclipses. SkyGlobe 3.0 uses calculated planetary positions to allow for planet display without the need for data tables. For instance, take a look at the solar eclipse of July 11, 1991. Slowly step through the hours, and watch how the moon gradually overtakes the Sun. Currently the years are limited to the range 1900-2099, but this range will be greatly expanded shortly.

Another interesting way to watch the motion of the planets is with the Sidereal Time mode of the Auto-Increment feature. Find a direction and a time and date that contain some planets, and press 'Shift-R'. The time will begin incrementing by 23 hours 56 minutes, or one sidereal day. The planets, especially the Sun, Moon, and inner planets, will

begin to drift against the unchanging background of the stars.