

SWRAL DRAFT Minutes
May 19, 2023

Attending: Gary Carter (via zoom), Dennis Wardell (via zoom), Allen Gilchrist, Anne Adkins, Ed Flaspoebler, Billy Beckett, Mark Jurena

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Gary Carter as the Chair David Moody was unable to attend in person or via zoom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the 8/23/22 SWRAL meeting reviewed. Motion to approve by Allen; seconded by Ed; motion passes unanimously.

SWRAL OFFICER POSITIONS

Gary notified those in attendance that David does wish to fulfill his term as Chair. All other positions will continue as well with the exception of Treasurer – Allen Gilchrist will be stepping down as Treasurer.

Gary nominated Dennis Wardell to serve as Treasurer. Dennis is a life member of TAS. Anne seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

SWRAL BANK ACCOUNT

Allen reported that SWRAL account currently with Amplify which is Austin-based, originally opened by Dave Clark, has two signatories, Dave and Allen. Allen can close the account and get a check made out to SWRAL. Allen recommends finding a convenient bank and getting more than one signatory. Allen will continue in his position until the account is closed and the funds are transferred.

The current balance of the accounts:

Savings	\$ 25.61
Checking	700.55

There was no disbursement last year.

Gary will check with Comptroller on requirements for SWRAL to hold this account. Ed noted that AL will require that their tax ID be on the account. Gary agreed to follow up on this.

SWRAL ACTIVITY

Ed reported on the 2022 ALCON in Albuquerque. Ed provided the first SWRAL report at the Convention business meeting in ten years from material pulled from the TSP website. Ed will also attend Baton Rouge ALCON this year and provide details from the 2023 meeting.

GROWING SWRAL BEYOND TSP

Gary raised this topic of how to approach League clubs with the question, "How can SWRAL provide better support to you?" Then develop action plans accordingly. There was discussion about hosting the annual SWRAL meeting at a venue different than TSP, to take it around the SWRAL region to make it more accessible for attendance to those beyond the TSP audience. One possible venue is the 3RF Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus. Another possible venue is the X-Bar Ranch (where ESP is held) but not to be held during the ESP event. Zoom is yet another possibility. Gary suggested zoom might be the way to start.

Ed reported on a conversation with TSP board chair, George Ellis, who said biggest problem in TSP is people are dying. There is a dire need to get younger people involved.

Anne suggested undertaking an awareness building campaign, develop an accurate list of Region clubs and contact persons, and promote the benefits of AL membership to amateur astronomers region-wide. It was also noted that we should identify other star parties within our region to target.

Ed noted that the SWRAL Website is still in starting mode and no data on traffic at this time.

It was noted that, according to the bylaws, SWRAL is not an independent entity but rather a standing committee of the Astronomical League. We are subject to the AL bylaws and business practices. SWRAL can have a set of bylaws provided there is no conflict with the AL bylaws.

Ed gave a brief run down of the current features of the website as well as upcoming additions, including Events, Awards, Resources, etc.

CONTACTS

It was also noted that gmail addresses be set up for the officers that would exist in perpetuity as officers rotated in and out of position, e.g., SWRALpresident@gmail.com; etc. Ed will follow up with this.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

There was discussion about various venues to set up an event for the 2024 April 8 Total Solar Eclipse. For example, Corpus Christi is the last major city in US before eclipse crosses Gulf. There is possibility of co-hosting event at museum. There was additional discussion on how to

educate teachers so they would be in position to organize classes for the event. Ed will create an eclipse resource page on the SWRAL website. Solar viewing glasses can be obtained, perhaps even an SWRAL-branded version.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Anne Adkins, SWRAL Secretary*