

June 1977

Vol 2 No 2

Minutes of the Executive Council meeting of June 7:

Lauren Nelson, who is now in charge of the observing site, discussed the issuing of gate and electrical box keys to club members. It was tentatively decided that serious amateurs doing work at the site can have gate keys, but only a few with a real need for electric power will have keys to the electrical box.

Whenever an outside group is at the site a club member must supervise it.

Site maintenance was also discussed.

A \$40 per term charge for University classes using the Metcalf site was considered. The money would go toward maintaining the Satellite toilet at the site. The club now pays a \$4 fee for each regular observing session.

Herb Grika discussed publicity for the club. The council discussed what type of member the club most wants to recruit and what activities might hold the interest of new members.

It was decided to publicize upcoming astronomical events. Two events suggested were the Perseid meteor shower and the November partial eclipse of the sun.

The council also discussed the educational mandate of the club and methods of informing the media of astronomical and club events.

Andy Fraser, president, discussed bringing Sky & Telescope renewal and club dues into alignment so both will be paid at the same time of year. It was decided to determine when each member's subscription expires.

Minutes of the general meeting of June 7:

Kevin Marx presented the program at the June 7 meeting. It was titled "Limits and Origins of the Universe."

The idea of a cosmic egg that burst into an expanding universe was offered and discussed, but nothing was concluded.

Marx used a basketball to illustrate an infinite surface (curved space of a sort) where an ant could walk in a "straight" line forever around the ball.

Marx also showed several books on related topics. Consult him for titles and locations.

A film, "The Origins of Matter," was shown. It traced the development of the heavier elements from the "big bang" onward. Dealing heavily in chemistry, it detailed several processes, such as the "proton-proton" and "fast" and "slow" processes, by which heavier elements are formed.

A second short film kept track of time lapse and area of view as we first moved outward from a man on a beach to the far reaches of space, then returned to the man and moved inward to the sub-microscopic.

The possibility of a trip to Duluth during July to use the 16-inch telescope at the University of Minnesota-Duluth was advanced to the membership. Several persons were interested. The trip will be on a weekend.

Minutes of the Executive Council meeting of June 21:

Lauren Nelson, viewing area director (Metcalf site), read a suggested policy for the site. A program supervisor would be present at sessions to provide a refuse container and open the gate and box. Electrical box keys will be issued only to the viewing area director, the club president and designated site supervisors. A gate key will be issued to approved amateurs and a list kept of those who have the key.

There will be a use charge of \$4 minimum per group for groups other than club members, all of the \$4 to go to the Metcalf account.

The club pays the power bill for the site and cooperates with the Science Museum on site maintenance and development.

The Duluth trip will be July 15-17. Ivan Policoff is in charge. A Friday night observing session and Saturday program are tentatively planned. The trip will go regardless of the weather, as of this date.

The September program will be Don Tate on variable-star observing.

The October program will be Carl Harstad on meteors and comets and their observing.

In December there will be a program about the sun by Lauren Nelson.

Observing site courtesy and the control of white lights was discussed. All members are to turn off their headlights before turning into the site driveway. Also, try to avoid parking lights, brake lights and dome lights, especially near equipment.

Development of the Metcalf site was the next topic. The construction of piers along the south side of the site and the pouring of observing slabs were discussed.

Herb Grika has drafted some sample press releases to publicize astronomical events. The first such event is the Perseid meteor shower Aug. 11-12 (Thursday and Friday).

Andy Fraser suggested providing teachers with information about the club during their fall orientation sessions.

Mark Schultz and John Mlar will be the new co-editors of Gemini beginning with the July edition.

All minutes submitted by Carl Harstad, secretary.

#### LOCAL NOTES

The next meeting of the TCAC will be held July 5 at the Planetarium of the Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. Mr. Dave Holland will present a program in the planetarium on "The Southern Skies" and show new motion pictures of the sun.

The club observing session for July 15/16 has been cancelled and a trip has been scheduled to visit the University of Minnesota, Duluth on that weekend. For more information, please contact Ivan Policoff at 484-1520.

Beginning with this ~~the~~ <sup>NEXT</sup> issue, John Mlinar and Peter Steinmetz have assumed the position of co-editors.

Members wishing to use the Metcalf Observing Site on occasions other than those scheduled for the group sessions of the club should contact Lauren Nelson at 644-1254 or Andy Fraser at 690-5902.

The following response is provided to a club member's query of Kevin Marx during last month's meeting, "Where did the cosmic egg come from?" At the risk of degrading our highly intellectual conversation to the realm of proverbs, this editor submits the obvious solution that it must have come from the "cosmic chicken," of course.

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#### GEMINI

Editor----Andrew Fraser

Gemini is issued monthly by the Twin City Astronomy Club (TCAC), an affiliate of the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.

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Advertisements for publication in Gemini are welcome and inquiries may be directed to Lauren Nelson c/o TCAC.

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