

THE HYPOXIC OBSERVER[®]

SPECIAL EDITION
November 18, 2008

Colorado Springs Astronomical Society
Journal of High-Altitude Observing

Next Meeting

November 25, 2008 7:00 pm

BSCS —5415 Mark Dabling Blvd.
Colorado Springs

Calendar Of Events

http://www.csastro.org/forums/cal_lite.php

2008-09 Elected Officers

President Alan Gorski 651-8476
Vice President Rick Meinig 636-2521
Secretary Tom DeClue: 495-3059
Treasurer Al Schlafli 471-2000
Member at Large Matt Russell 495-7567

Appointed Officers

AL Award Coordinator Tom DeClue
ALCOR Mary Trudo
EOSOC Admin. Tom DeClue
Librarian Bob Littin
Public Relations Director Alan Gorski
RMSS Chairman Art DeBrito
Newsletter Editor Pam Warren
Webmasters Matt Russell / Mike Frazier

Web Sites

CSAS <http://www.csastro.org>
Discussion Forum <http://csastro.org/forums>
Rocky Mountain Star Stare <http://www.rmss.org>
Astronomical League <http://www.astroleague.org>
Int'l. Dark Sky Assoc. <http://www.dark-sky.org>
MARS Region <http://www.mars-al.org>

Starside Chat

IMPORTANT CLUB BY-LAW CHANGES PROPOSED PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

From: Alan Gorski, President

In this special edition of the Hypoxic Observer, I want to bring to your attention some proposals that I've put forth for member input and ratification. I've said this many times, this club is for the members by the members. You have a voice in what the club does. So I ask that you read thru the proposals below and plan to attend the club meeting on November 25, 2008 at 7:00PM.

In accordance with our By-Laws, proposed changes to the By-Laws shall be made by listing the information on our list server, distributing via email and posting in the Hypoxic Observer.

Earlier this year, CSAS made a commitment when it purchased land in Gardner, CO. The commitment was to make its priority to repay its members that contributed funds to secure the land

purchase. After discussion with other board members, it's clear that we need to structure our organization to uphold the guarantee that CSAS would repay its members.

How, as a membership, do we do this? We structure our club dues and RMSS fees in a way that allows for RMSS, the main revenue generator in our organization, to solely fund the repayment of the members. In doing so, we must look at how we fund CSAS expenses. We have, in the past, relied on RMSS income to make up the difference. If we continue to use RMSS fees to pay for club activities, I believe we are stating that repaying our members is not the priority.

The following proposals will be made on Tuesday night.

Here's a breakdown of expenses for CSAS:

(Continued on page 2)

Our budget for 2009 looks like this:

EXPENSE	2008	2009
Astronomical League	345.00	400.00
Insurance	320.00	900.00*
State License/Permit	125.00	125.00
Safety Deposit Box	25.00	25.00
PO Box	42.00	42.00
Library Cart	82.00	0.00
Website	80.00	80.00
Christmas Party	250.00	250.00
Speakers (Club Meetings)	60.00	240.00
Property Tax	<u>475.00</u>	<u>500.00*</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,329.00</u>	<u>2,562.00</u>
		*estimated

I further propose that Property Taxes be withheld from RMSS fees thus reducing the burden on CSAS club dues. If we take our 2009 expenses and spread that across 75 members, less the Property Tax, we can safely stay at \$30 per member. If we were to include Property Tax, dues would be \$35 per member.

Speakers and presentations have always been a great meeting agenda. Since we pay an honorarium for speakers, \$60, we've decided that we will limit ourselves to 4 outside speakers per year. This creates a budget and we will look to club members for presentations or other resources to make up the difference. So it makes sense to restructure our organization to make good on a promise.

I propose the following:

1. Club dues be set to the schedule below beginning January 1, 2009. Definitions of each type are defined by the By-Laws of CSAS, 2005.

Individual Member: \$30

Family: \$45

Lifetime: \$250

Associate: \$20

Additional Family Member: \$15

2. The RMSS committee shall determine a budget for the 2009 event, which includes property taxes, repayment of principal, insurance, permits, etc. before determining the fee structure for the 2009 event.
3. CSAS, in cooperation with the RMSS committee and Land Development Committee, shall develop a plan and budget for improvements to the land in Gardner, CO.
4. I propose that the By-Laws be amended as follows:

(Continued from page 2)

Section 4: Dues

Annual dues shall be established by the Executive Committee to defray the costs of operating CSAS. If the amounts of membership dues for the next calendar year are proposed to be changed, the proposed amount shall be submitted to the membership and approved by the last regular membership meeting each calendar year.

Dues for new members are payable within thirty (30) days of application. Dues are only pro-rated on or after July 1 of the year the member joins and shall be ½ of the regular rate of the category for which application is received. Annual renewal dues are payable at the first regular meeting of the calendar year and are delinquent thirty (30) days thereafter.

No individual shall be denied membership because of financial hardship. The Executive Committee shall establish confidential procedures to mitigate or waive dues for cases involving financial hardship.

END PROPOSAL

With regards to our insurance issue, the board is currently working to obtain quotes for our needs. We have estimated that our costs beginning in mid 2009 would be roughly \$900. This is based on other clubs paying for a similar product. We will continue to work this issue and update members as the information becomes available. This proposal will be presented at the regular club meeting on November 25, 2008. A vote on the matter will be called for and voting shall be in accordance with current By-Laws:

Section 6: Voting

Decisions by vote at all CSAS meetings shall be by simple majority of votes cast. Each Regular Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote. In the case of illness or other unavoidable absence, a member may delegate a proxy (the proxy must be a regular member of CSAS) in writing prior to the meeting. Names of all members submitting proxies shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.



THE HYPOXIC OBSERVER

is published monthly (except for a combined issue in Nov./Dec.) by the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society. Subscriptions are included with annual CSAS membership dues.

CSAS membership application at:

<http://www.csaastro.org>

Send address changes or inquiries to Pam Warren, Editor, by mail to the CSAS address above, or by email to :

PwarrenCSAS@gmail.com