



Send in Your Vote

Proposed By-Laws Change

A motion was made and seconded at the January 2018 NHAS club meeting to amend paragraph 1.A.4 of the NHAS by-laws. The paragraph currently reads:

The membership fee or dues shall be set by the officers and approved by the Board of Directors. The dues shall be collected and payable during the month of October. New members who join during or after the month of July shall pay half the annual fee for the balance of the year.

The motion is to strike the last sentence, so that paragraph 1.A.4 will read:

The membership fee or dues shall be set by the officers and approved by the Board of Directors. The dues shall be collected and payable during the month of October.

The motion is currently tabled while we collect proxy votes. When we have achieved a quorum of the membership, it will be taken up at a future NHAS meeting and voted on.

You may send your proxy vote via email to the club Secretary (me) and I will cast your vote as instructed. See the instructions below.

DISCUSSION

Since October 2010, NHAS has been charging \$30/year for a new individual membership if you join in the period October-June. For July-September, we still charge \$30, but the membership extends to

October the following year. Thus, if I joined NHAS as a new member on July 10 2017, my membership runs through July 30 2018.

Before October 2010, we charged \$30/year October-June, and half price (\$15/year) if you joined July-September. Membership had to be renewed in October, regardless of when you joined.

We made the change at the October 20 2010 Officer's meeting, in order to encourage more people to join. Unfortunately, at the time we didn't notice that the "half price July-September" rule was baked into the by-laws.

The purpose of the amendment is to bring our current practice in compliance with the by-laws. The change also gives the Officers and Board more flexibility in the future in setting our dues structure to best benefit NHAS and its members.

VOTING PROCEDURE

Amending the by-laws requires a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of one half the NHAS shareholders. See NHAS Constitution Article VIII.

Because it is next to impossible to assemble enough members in physical attendance at a meeting to achieve such a quorum, we will rely on proxy voting (NHAS Constitution Article IX) to achieve the quorum. When we have collected enough proxy votes to achieve a quorum, we will take the vote at the next NHAS meeting.

You may vote either:

YEA - amend the by-laws

NAY - do not amend the by-laws

ABSTAIN - neither, but your vote is counted for quorum purposes

All members in good standing (current dues paid up) are shareholders and are eligible to vote. Honorary members and those who owe dues or have had dues waived are not (NHAS Constitution Article III).

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROXY VOTE

If you will be attending the meeting where the vote is taken, you can cast your vote in person. Otherwise you can arrange for your vote to be cast by proxy. You can do this in any of these ways:

[1] Give another member who will be attending the meeting a signed piece of paper indicating your vote (yea/nay/abstain), or an email indicating your vote. That member will cast your vote for you at the meeting. If you do this, please inform the Secretary so that we can get an accurate quorum count.

[2] Snail-mail a signed piece of paper indicating your vote to:

New Hampshire Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 5823
Manchester, NH 03108-5823

The Secretary will cast your vote for you at the meeting.

[3] Send an email to the Secretary at secretary.2018@nhastro.com indicating your vote. The Secretary will cast your vote for you at the meeting.

If you cast a proxy vote via email, please make sure that your full name (not just your email moniker)

appears in the email, so that we can identify you.

Please cast your vote so that we can achieve quorum and decide this important issue.

✳ Paul Winalski

LTP in Quebec

Marc Stowbridge received this email from Pierre Levesque, secretary of the Club d'astronomie de Rimouski:

"We want to inform you that we have launched a telescope loan service in collaboration with our municipal public library. Our program is directly inspired by the NHAS Library Telescope Program. You have provided us with the inspiration for this wonderful project and we would like to thank you sincerely for your great generosity.

"We live in Rimouski, province of Quebec, Canada. Rimouski is a small town of 50,000 inhabitants located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. Our public library service consists in a small network of 4 libraries (the Central Branch downtown, plus 3 smaller neighborhood libraries.) We currently operate with 10 telescopes. We launched the service initially with 5 telescopes back in May 2017. The success was immediate and far beyond our wildest expectations. In July, the library ordered an additional 5 telescopes. On our website you will find the description and documentation of our program called "Biblioscopes pour tous" which means "Library scopes for everyone" (we have coined the new term « Biblioscope », derived from « bibliothèque » - the French term for library, and telescope). <http://www.astrorimouski.net/club/biblioscope/>

"Since our region is francophone, you will note that all documents are in French. Many documents are of our own because they refer to specific aspects of our program, but many are a free translation and/or an adaptation of your documents, stickers and decals. Under the

documentation tab, you will find the Instructions manual in pdf format as well as a zip file containing all forms, stickers and decals.

<http://www.astrorimouski.net/club/biblioscope/documentation/>

"You will note that our documents frequently refer to the New Hampshire Astronomical Society and to your Library Telescope Program. We wanted to give you all the credit deserved for your inspiring program."

✳ Marc Stowbridge

Concord High School and Fifth Grade Sky Watch, January 9

Rich DeMidio, Gardner Gerry, Steve Rand, and Paul Winalski were there from NHAS.

Unfortunately the weather prediction (clearing 6-7 PM) turned out to be completely wrong--skies were overcast except for an occasional sucker hole. About half a dozen high school students showed up, and we were able to get brief views of Castor, σ Orionis, and the Orion nebula.

✳ Paul Winalski

World Academy Solar Presentation and Observing, January 11 & 18

On January 11 **Paul Winalski** gave a presentation on the Sun, concentrating on its internal structure and online observing resources, to two sixth grade classes at World Academy in Nashua. Paul returned on January 18 with telescopes for observing both in white light and H- α . In white light, there was only one tiny sunspot, which the younger eyes could see better than mine could. In H-alpha, there were no edge prominences, but grana were visible and there was a large filament.

✳ Paul Winalski

Maple Ridge Estates Presentation, January 17

Steve Rand gave a presentation on the basics of Astronomy and constellation myths to residents of the Maple Ridge Estates retirement community in Bedford.

✳ Paul Winalski

Cub Scout Pack 164 Sky Watch, January 19

Contrary to the weather forecast, skies were completely overcast and we couldn't do any observing. I gave the indoor presentation to 50+ Cub Scouts and their parents and advisors. The Schueller Memorial Meteorite was the big hit of the evening.

✳ Paul Winalski

Wolfeboro Public Library Presentation, January 23

Skies were overcast, so we just did **Steve Rand's** indoor presentation. The sky watch was postponed to February. We received this note from Helen Gallagher at the library:

"Thank you so much for your interesting presentation last night. It was great! We really appreciate your coming out on such an icy evening.

You definitely kept everyone's attention. Several people would have stayed indefinitely asking questions!"

✳ Paul Winalski

Beech Hill School Sky Watch, January 25

This was Astronomy Night at Beech Hill School in Hopkinton. The eighth grade class gave a series of indoor presentations, and that was followed by a sky watch conducted by NHAS.

Gardner Gerry, Steve Rand, and I were there from NHAS and set up scopes. Skies were clear, cold, and a bit hazy and turbulent. The first quarter Moon was well-placed for observing, but interfered a bit with viewing the Pleiades. We had to set

up in the parking lot because it was too icy to access the field behind the school. There were trees obscuring our view of Orion, but we had good views of Taurus, Auriga, Gemini, Andromeda, Perseus, and Cassiopeia. There were eighteen eighth grade students plus parents and teachers. We had a good ISS pass at 7:20 PM. I showed the Moon, the Pleiades, NGC 457, M35, M37, M38, Castor, and Polaris.

✧ Paul Winalski

Kingston Community Library Eclipse Presentation, January 30

Skies were too cloudy for the planned sky watch, so it was just **Steve Rand's** indoor presentation focusing on the upcoming total lunar eclipse.

✧ Paul Winalski

Carbon Star of the Month

W Orionis is a red giant pulsating semi-regular variable at RA $05^h05^m24^s$, DEC $01^\circ10'39''$. It is located about 7 minutes east and half a degree south of π^6 Orionis, the southernmost star in Orion's shield.

Visually it is a fairly bright carbon star with a reddish-coppery color. Spectral class is C-N5, and the visual magnitude varies between 4.4 and 6.9 in an approximately 212-day cycle. Surface temperature is about 2600°K. Its angular diameter has been directly measured via interferometry. At a distance of about 1200 light years, the star's diameter is 406 times that of the Sun and it shines 6700 times brighter.

Technetium has not been detected in its spectrum, which is peculiar for carbon stars.

✧ Paul Winalski

NHAS January 2018 Business Meeting

The January business meeting was held on January 12 at St. Anselm

College, our President, **Marc Stowbridge**, presiding.

YFOS

Larry Lopez reports that both of the heaters are working.

There is a bird's nest under the eaves in the observatory building.

EOC/LTP

125 libraries in New Hampshire currently have scopes. **Steve Rand** deployed five more planispheres this month.

Membership

Larry LaForge proposed that, in order to get the membership more connected, we set up a mentorship program, where more experienced members can help out less experienced ones. The idea was well-received and will go forward. Larry will work with **Matt Marulla** to get the mentorship program information put somewhere on our website.

Steve Rand suggested that we bring back "The Astronomer is IN" program before our monthly meetings.

Awards

Ed Ting and **Tom Cocchiaro** picked up their Star Blazer awards.

Other Business

Pete Smith has discovered that our current dues structure violates paragraph 1.A.4 of the club's by-laws. A motion was made and seconded to bring our dues structure in compliance by striking the last sentence of paragraph 1.A.4 of the by-laws. A motion to table that motion was made, seconded, and passed. The club Secretary will collect proxy votes on the motion (see the lead article in this issue of the *Observer*).

We still need a chairman for the Speaker Committee.

Evening Presentation

Roger Fu, assistant professor of Astronomy at Harvard University, gave a talk on "Stars through the Araucanias: Mapuche-Pewenche Ethnoastronomy", in which he described how a community of

native Americans in the Chilean Andes describe the visual sky.

The Bottom Line

Income:

Membership:	2485.00
General Fund Donations:	27.05
EOC Donations:	135.00
LTP Donations:	100.00
Calendar Sales:	35.00
Bank interest:	0.45
Total Income:	2782.50

Expenses:

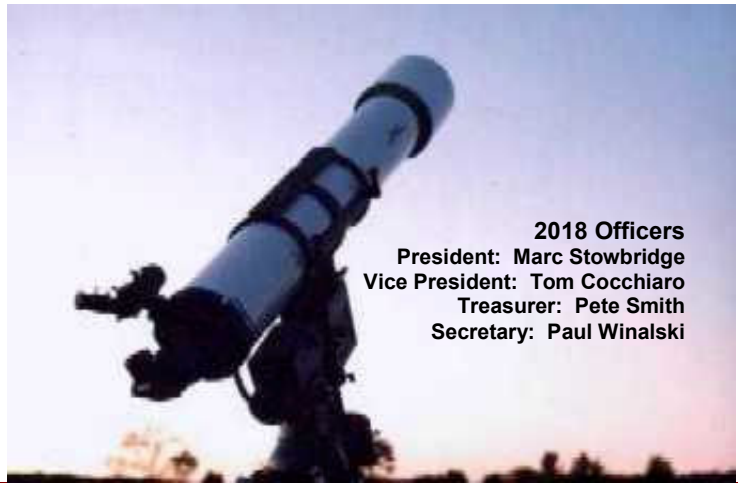
Bank Fees:	30.00
Calendars:	138.50
PayPal Fees:	91.34
Website:	60.29
YFOS Plowing:	409.92
Total Expenses:	729.55

Net Income: 2052.95

Cash Balance: **\$18225.95**

✧ Pete Smith

NHAS Treasurer 2018



2018 Officers
President: Marc Stowbridge
Vice President: Tom Cocchiaro
Treasurer: Pete Smith
Secretary: Paul Winalski

DEADLINE February 2018 Issue: 5 March 2018

E-mail articles to the Editor.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS – Notify the Treasurer of changes to postal or e-mail address.

How to Join N.H.A.S.

Write to us:

NHAS
 P.O. Box 5823
 Manchester, NH 03108-5823
 Attn: Treasurer

Send E-mail to:

info@nhastro.com

Use our web site:

<http://www.nhastro.com/>

This month's contributors:

Pete Smith, Marc Stowbridge, Paul Winalski

New Hampshire Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 5823
Manchester, NH 03108-5823



NHAS Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
Discovery Center Sky Watch	February 2	7:00 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Hampton Academy Sky Watch	February 5	6:30 PM	North Beach, Hampton NH
Parkside Middle School Sky Watch	February 13	6:30 PM	Parkside Middle School, Manchester NH
Chester Public Library Sky Watch	February 16	7:00 PM	Wason Pond, Chester NH
Coffee House Night	February 17	5:00 PM	YFOS
Rey Center Sky Watch	February 17	7:00 PM	Curious George Cottage, Waterville Valley NH
Kearsarge Regional Elementary School Presentation	February 23	1:00 PM	KRES, Bradford NH
NHAS Monthly Meeting	February 23	7:30 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Sidewalk Astronomy	February 24	6:00 PM	Market Square, Portsmouth NH
Wolfeboro Public Library Sky Watch	February 27	6:30 PM	Wolfeboro Public Library, Wolfeboro NH
Discovery Center Sky Watch	March 2	7:00 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
NHAS Monthly Meeting	March 9	7:30 PM	St. Anselm College, Goffstown NH
Franklin High School Sky Watch	March 15	7:00 PM	Franklin High School, Franklin NH

