

NOVAC

The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club

Issue Number 39

Volume 12

January/February, 1992

President: Myron Wasiut.....703-494-0413
Vice President & Editor: George Uhl.....703-369-4575
Secretary: Bob L'Hommedie.....703-978-0946
Treasurer: Brenda Jones.....703-527-7963
NOVAC Information Hotline.....703-256-8359
NOVAC Computer Bulletin Board.....703-256-4777

The star is not extinguished when it sets
Upon the dull horizon; it but goes
To shine in other skies, then reappear
In ours, as fresh as when it first arose.
- *Horatius Bonar, Life After Death*

Board of Directors:
Steve Bodner
Bill Burton
Sikander Daryanani
Blaine Korcel
Enid Levine

Expression of Gratitude

On behalf of the members of NOVAC, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the following individuals who served as NOVAC Executive Officers for the past several years.

Blaine Korcel - President
Jim Schaeffer - Vice President
Al Schumann - Secretary
Bob Ridgley - Treasurer

These officers carried the torch for a long, long time. It was often boring, time consuming labor, but under their leadership the club has grown from a small group of observers to a non-profit corporation. Now the time has come to pass the torch onto a new group of leaders. Thanks guys, for a job very well done!

On the board of directors, Brent Archinal is stepping down after several terms. Brent has been very influential in the affairs of the club, including arranging and announcing the programs for the monthly meetings as well as drafting the Club Constitution and By-Laws. Thank-you very much Brent!

The First Annual Meeting of NOVAC

The first meeting of our new Board of

Trustees will also be the first "Annual Meeting" of the NOVAC Corporation, as required by our new Articles of Incorporation and the State of Virginia. As such, this meeting is open to all members and the public, but it is intended primarily as a planning meeting for the Trustees and interested members. Some routine business will have to be covered as this is the first time the current Board is meeting, but it is hoped that much of the meeting can be devoted toward longer term planning for NOVAC. One major topic will be planning for NVTM'92, including soliciting a committee to try to put this year's meet together, and perhaps reconsidering the date and/or the site for NVTM'92. Obviously members particularly interested in helping out this year are encouraged to attend or at least let Myron know of your interest. A secondary major topic will be of what NOVAC wants to do on the subject of observing sites or observatories. Do we want to develop other observing sites? How far from the metro area? Is an observatory an appropriate goal? Can we work out a deal with other users for an observing site or observatory? We'd like to hear your ideas - and particularly hear if you're interesting in helping out on these sorts of projects. Finally, the general activities and purposes of NOVAC could certainly be a topic for discussion. Is

there something you think we should be doing but are not? Is there something we're doing poorly or could be doing better? Are you willing to help out NOVAC in any special way? Let us know your thoughts, either by attending the meeting or giving Myron a ring.

The Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14 (yes, that's the night before the regular meeting!), at 7:30 PM, at the home of Treasurer Brenda Jones, 883 N. Kentucky Street, Arlington, VA 22205. If you need directions please give Brenda a call at 703-527-7963. See you at the meeting!

Programs At NOVAC Meetings: A Review of '91 and "The Eyes Have It"

by Brent Archinal

The November and December meetings

What's Inside

President's Farewell Column - page 2
Celestial Moments of 1991 - page 2
Jan./Feb. 1992 Sky Sweep - page 4
NVTM'91 Statistics - page 4
September Meeting Minutes - page 4
November Meeting Minutes - page 5
December Meeting Minutes - page 5
1992 Observing Schedule - page 6
1991 Financial Statement - page 6
NOVAC Notices - page 6
Articles of Incorporation/Bylaws - page 8
History/Explanation of Articles - page 11
Advertisements - page 13

of NOVAC were some of the best attended ever - perhaps due to the extra publicity Blaine Friedlander has been providing us in the *Washington Post*. The November meeting program was given by yours truly, with the subject being the Mansfield, Ohio, Warren Rupp Observatory, its 31" telescope, and the annual "Hidden Hollow" astronomy convention held there. Apparently the program was well received, as there seemed to be a lot of interest in attending the Hidden Hollow '92 convention there next September (unfortunately currently scheduled the same days as NVTM'92!). Our December meeting once again concentrated on telescope making, with Myron Wasiuta, Bob L'Hommedieu, Gerry Wolczanski, and Bob Bunge regaling us on their homemade telescopes and Gerry's mirror test stand. Our programs on telescope making have been so popular we hope we can continue having them regularly - if you've got a homebuilt telescope or accessory, or even a new telescope you'd like to show off to us, please get in touch and we'll put you on the schedule!

Rather than schedule a specific speaker/program for our January 15 meeting, this month we're going to try a free-for-all review of 1991. We want to hear about your observing projects, trips, tips, and new telescopes from the past year or so - especially if we've missed anything in the reviews we have run (like of the July eclipse, Stellafane, and of Hidden Hollow). We'll probably have to limit speakers to 10-15 minutes apiece (or even less if there's a big response), and it would help if you'd let Myron know in advance if you plan to participate (703-494-0413). But whatever you've done astronomy-wise in 1991 (or even plan for '92) please come by and let us know.

Our February meeting promises to be a most interesting one, as we examine a particular piece of very special and elaborate optical equipment that we all use. Our new President (and optometrist), Myron Wasiuta, will be present-

ing a very visual story on the human eye and observing. We'll be hearing not only about the general physiology of the eye, with details of its operation and the effects of disease and aging, but hearing about how to get the best use out of it as visual observers, with useful hints and tricks being described. Myron will also be glad to answer your questions (perhaps he will be able to tell us how the "naked eye" got that way!) We hope you can make this presentation which should be of interest to all observers - telescope users or not! These regular meetings of the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club are currently held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM, at the Arlington County Planetarium, 1426 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Admission is free and open to the public, but seating is limited so please arrive early. Call the NOVAC hotline (703-256-8359) to check for schedule changes, cancelation, or to leave a message to obtain further information. The Northern Virginia Astronomy Club would also like to express its continued appreciation and thanks to Steve Smith and the staff of the Arlington Planetarium for allowing us to hold our meetings there.

President's Farewell Column

As many of you already know, I did not run for President this year. I felt that the club would benefit better by having some new blood in its leadership. After six years, I also need a break. The newly elected officials are an aggressive group which I feel will drive our corporation to new heights. I wish to welcome the following to the leadership of NOVAC:

Myron Wasiuta - President
George Uhl - Vice President
Bob L'Hommedieu - Secretary
Brenda Jones - Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Steve Bodner
Sikander Daryanani
Bill Burton
Blaine Korcel
Enid Levine

Good luck to all. Let's make 1992 better than ever!

Now that we are a corporation in the state of Virginia, we must file for non-profit status with the IRS. We don't expect any problems along the way which could hinder our tax status. The forms are currently being filled out. If they are not completed by January 1st, our newly elected officials will see to the task.

On another note, the NOVAC computer bulletin board has been doing very well. We haven't had any major hardware failures lately (Knock, Knock, Cough, Wheez!) but access has increased geometrically over the past year. The size of the system is large enough now that it takes me a few hours every day for a week to complete a full backup. This is unacceptable for a system which needs to be backed up weekly. The solution for this problem is a larger, higher capacity, tape drive. I need donations to help cover the cost of a new backup system. If you would like to make a contribution to the BBS, please leave me a message on the club hotline, 703-256-8359 or on the BBS, 703-256-4777. Well, that's about it. I would like to wish everyone clear skies and a belated happy holidays. See you at the next meeting.

Blaine

Memorable Celestial Moments Of 1991

by Bill Burton

Its time to look back at the observing

year 1991 and reminisce. Everyone can think of some special moments that he or she experienced this year while gazing at the sky or through the eyepiece of a telescope. I'm sure the solar eclipse would top the list for those lucky enough to see it, but for a non-eclipse goer like me the high points were more sublime. Interestingly, for me they occurred within a month of each other.

On Day Two at the Stellafane convention, after a steady day and night of rain, the clouds gradually broke up and we were treated to the fourth clear night out of the last five at Stellafane (spanning three years). As the hours passed on Breezy Hill, the crowd swelled around the diverse array of large telescopes and then slowly thinned. After midnight the aurora borealis made a brief appearance, for the second clear night at Stellafane in a row, and the line at the 30-inch Dobsonian gradually shortened. The hour was late when I ascended the aluminum ladder at the massive telescope and took a look at the globular cluster M15 in Pegasus. This object with its highly condensed core loomed large in the eyepiece, appearing delicate and jewel-like. The center was resolved into its component stars, which glowed with a fine blue light. There was a sharp drop in luminosity outward from the center, which reminded me of the glow of a Japanese lantern -- like light shining through parchment. I had never viewed a globular cluster quite like this before. The vision stayed with me as I stumbled in darkness back to the tent.

In early September I held one of my observing sessions at Big Meadows campground in Shenandoah National Park. This time upon arriving I ran into a separate party with an 18-inch Newtonian, who persuaded me (without difficulty) to join them at their viewing station out in the meadow itself. Myron and Gerry showed up with their telescopes, making it an even better experience for my class. We observed until cold and fatigue got the better of us, and before retiring I arranged to have one of

my students wake me before sunrise for the early-morning planets. He did, and we watched the pink hues of dawn spread over the large meadow. Deer grazed quietly not too far away. Venus was rising in the east and we trained the telescopes on the bright planet. Under magnification she suddenly became a beautiful large thin crescent! Her skin was cream-colored, and rippled as the atmospheric waves washed over her -- Venus had never looked better to me.

Next, lower in the morning murk, rose tiny Mercury, himself a small, shimmering gibbous phase. Mercury was followed by Jupiter, distended and yellow from atmospheric distortion, with his entourage of satellites. Finally the sun appeared, its flattened orb rising through layers of successively brighter shades of red. We examined its sunspots first through binoculars, using the atmosphere as a solar filter, and then through a manmade filter under high power in the 18-inch, as the sun's rays warmed our skin and lit up the meadow around us. By this time the tourists were starting to outnumber the deer, and it was time to pack up. As we towed off dew-covered telescopes and dismantled equipment, we all silently agreed that a good night of viewing had been followed by a very special dawn.

Over Labor Day weekend I flew up to northern Ontario, latitude 52N, for several days of fishing with my father and brother-in-law at a fly-in resort, situated on the shore of a large lake. During the day we cast for large fish and gazed over a wilderness landscape of gray rock, blue water, green trees, and white-headed bald eagles, which were as common as crows. It was late enough in the year for darkness to fall at a reasonable hour at that high latitude, and at night I had to check the sky for the northern lights. As I stepped out from under the pines onto the beach of the lake, the stars shown brightly in the inky darkness: civilization was over 60 miles away as the eagle flies. The first night yielded nothing, but the second

night as I went out I saw a broad band of light halfway up the southern sky, stretching from the eastern to western horizon and reflected in the calm waters. Although there were some faint shafts in the opposite part of the sky, it came as a shock to me to realize that I was north of the main auroral activity! Just then a bright, beacon-like object appeared and moved steadily along the band of light from west to east -- the Soviet space station, Mir. I went back to bed to read for a while. A half hour later I came back out, and the band of light was gone. In its place, covering the whole sky, was a great, scintillating dome of light! I rotated 360 degrees slowly, in awe: the activity was equally intense in all directions. Greenish-white shafts of light curled and probed upward, shifting and feinting like cosmic swordsmen. As these pulses of light approached the zenith they would momentarily disappear, and then reappear at the zenith in the most fantastic shapes I have ever beheld in the sky: curlicues and French curves and complicated arabesque flourishes. These shapes would develop, slowly expand and then fade out, to be replaced moments later by another completely different and equally fantastic array. Meanwhile on all sides the steadily rising shafts and pulses of light paid tribute, like a choir of angels. It was a monochromatic display, but auroral activity like I'd never seen. And northern lights like these are typical at these latitudes! I remembered my Cree Indian guide's advice and whistled: the pulses grew brighter. Finally the long, strenuous day of fishing and beer-drinking caught up to me and I had to retire, although the display showed no signs of abating.

And the next night was almost as good.

January/February 1992 Skysweep

by Kevin Jones

Almost directly overhead on cold, crackling winter nights of the new year stands the constellation Gemini, the Twins. Situated just above the plane of the Milky Way, this constellation is home to a many star clusters and nebulae.

At the constellation's eastern edge are its two brightest stars, Castor and Pollux. Castor, the northernmost of these two stars, is a nice double star for small telescopes. The two components, of magnitudes 2.0 and 2.7, orbit each other with a five-hundred year period. A third, fainter star known as Castor C is visible as well with larger telescopes. Castor A, B, and C are also each spectroscopic binary stars, making Castor a six-star system.

Roughly ten degrees south of Castor is NGC 2392, the Eskimo Nebula. This 8th magnitude planetary nebula is almost one-third a moon-diameter across in the sky, and is therefore resolvable as a disk with amateur telescopes. On dark, transparent nights the 10th magnitude central star can easily be spotted. In addition, larger telescopes may reveal the fuzzy outer ring of nebulosity which makes up the Eskimo's "Parka."

Near the foot of the twin named Castor, the open cluster M35 waits to be observed. This sixth magnitude cluster is an easy object for any instrument. Upon close examination, I have found M35 to be donut-shaped, with the thickest concentration of stars being roughly annular. This may or may not have had anything to do with the half-eaten box of donuts next to my telescope at the time... In the field of M35, as you may notice, is a smaller 11th magnitude fuzzy ball. This ball is another open cluster, NGC 2158.

This cluster is about six times more distant than M35, being located way out

near the periphery of the Milky Way. Visually, this cluster is difficult to resolve with magnitudes of individual stars hovering near 16.

That's it for me for this month. Keep a Thermos of a hot beverage at hand and make the most of those transparent winter skies!

Who Attended NVTM'91

by Al & Lynn Schumann

As you may recall, NOVAC handed out registration forms to people attending the recently held telescope meet. We made something of an unscientific analysis of the forms submitted for the Saturday (Public) session, and what follows are the results. The numbers won't add up to 100% as many of the forms were only partially completed. Additionally, quite a few forms had multiple responses checked for the question "How did you hear about the meet?".

A grand total of 140 registration sheets were turned in. Of that number, 44 were NOVAC members, so we discarded them straight away; it was the 96 non-choir attendees we were interested in. Of that group, 53 respondents claimed to be amateur astronomers; 5 were members of other clubs. Included in the other clubs were the National Capital Astronomers, the Richmond Astronomical Society, and the Tri-State Astronomers. 82 registrants had no club affiliation.

To the question, "Are you interested in joining NOVAC?", 43 answered yes; 48 responded no. Could be some fertile ground there if we want to follow up on those 43 who expressed interest. To do so would be a big job, and it wouldn't be cheap. We could probably cull the number down a good bit, and perhaps that's a job for the Executive Committee on a slow night.

Since we were intimately involved in getting the word out, we focused on the

question, "How did you hear about the meet?". Here's a general breakdown: NVTM Flyer - 9; magazines (S&T, Astronomy) - 13; Correspondence - 7; Newspapers/TV - 31; Other - 40. In the "Other" category, friends, relatives and club members accounted for 25. Scouts and school tallied another 8; 3 heard about the meet from Marty Cohen and the folks at Company 7; a few heard about it at the park gate; 1 person got the word from the Smithsonian Institute, and George Uhl twisted a few arms at the MITRE Corporation. Unfortunately -- out of the whole bunch -- ONLY 1 got the message from the Goodyear blimp! We certainly have to drop that idea for next year.

So there you have it. Keep in mind that there were many families and couples there with one form representing them, so there were more people attending than the forms accounted for. Complicating the issue was the weather. Everybody knew the weather was going to be bad Saturday night, so attendance figures are kind of hollow. In our bones we feel there would have been a sizable crowd of additional amateurs from other clubs had the forecast been favorable. It was gratifying to see that our newspaper, magazine, flyer and correspondence campaign accounted for 60+ attendees. If we run the same kind of program in 1992, and get a break in the weather, we could be pleasantly surprised at the turnout.

September 1991 NOVAC Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 18, at 7:30 PM with Blaine Korcel presiding. Twenty-four members and guests were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as printed in the previous newsletter.

Old Business:

1. Blaine Korcel asked those present to sign the Articles of Incorporation. Thirty signatures are required for ratification.
2. George Uhl gave an update on the NVTM and again requested volunteers for various details during the meet. George also gave a recap of the Children's Festival at Crockett Park.

New Business:

1. Brenda Jones noted that there will be an open house at the Arlington Outdoor Lab on October 11. Another will be held on November 16.
2. Brent Archinal mentioned that the Richland Astronomical Society will be hold their annual Hidden Hollow convention in Ohio on October 11 and 12. Brent had directions and registration information for anyone interested in attending.
3. Bob Ridgley noted that membership in NOVAC had reached 137.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM at which time Brent Archinal ran a videotape of the July 11 solar eclipse. The video was made by Mike Potter aboard a cruise ship off the Baja coast. Bill Burton followed with slides and anecdotes on Stellafane. Blaine finished the program with additional video coverage of Stellafane.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Schumann, Secretary

November 1991 NOVAC Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 20, 1991 at 7:30 PM with Al Schumann presiding. Thirty members and guests were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as printed in the previous newsletter.

Old Business:

1. The floor was reopened for NOVAC trustee nominations. No additional names were introduced for the officer positions. However, there were four volunteers added to the list for the five additional trustee spaces. Those now standing for additional trustees are as follows: Sikander Daryanani, Steve Bodner, Gerald Kassalow, Enid Levine and Blaine Korcel. Elections for the officer and trustee positions will take place at the December meeting.

New Business:

1. Brent Archinal noted that NOVAC is now a corporation in the State of Virginia. The next step is to file for non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service. Also, the corporation by-laws need to be approved by the membership. Brent moved that the proposed by-laws be adopted. The motion was seconded, there was no discussion, and the by-laws were approved by unanimous vote.
2. Brenda Jones noted that Tom Wilmitch is taking orders for the 1992 Observer's Guide. Price is about ten dollars depending on the numbers of copies ordered.
3. Myron Wasiuta announced he has a ten-inch mirror that he will donate to the club.
4. Brenda Jones stated that the Arlington Outdoor Lab will be open on December 14. Club members are invited to bring telescopes and enjoy an evening at the Lab.
5. It was noted that membership renewal for 1992 will be gratefully accepted at any time. Renew early and avoid the rush. Also, you need to be a member to get a Crockett Park Observing Pass.

The formal portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. Myron Wasiuta then showed a number of slides and told

of a series of storms visible on Jupiter. Brent Archinal rounded out the evening with a slide program about the Warren Rupp Observatory and the 31-inch telescope which resides within.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Schumann, Secretary

December 1992 NOVAC Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, December 18, 1991 at 7:30 PM with Blaine Korcel presiding. Thirty-eight members and guests were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Old Business:

1. The floor was reopened for NOVAC trustee nominations. Bill Buron's name was introduced as a write-in candidate for the board of directors. Nominations were closed, ballots handed out and the results are as follows:

President - Myron Wasiuta Vice President - George Uhl Secretary - Bob L'Hommedieu Treasurer - Brenda Jones

The five additional trustees are:

Steve Bodner Bill Burton Sikander Daryanani Blaine Korcel Enid Levine

New Business:

1. George Uhl gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing club officers and board of directors.
2. Blaine Korcel announced that Crockett Park would be closed on December 27 and 28.
3. It was noted that Kalmbach had ceased publishing Deep Sky and Telescope Making magazines. That represents a big loss to the amateur astron-

omy community.

4. Blaine asked for a volunteer to serve as coordinator for NVTM'92.

5. Brent Archinal noted that the January meeting program will be an open free-for-all forum. Anyone with pictures, short talks on experiences, or show-and-tell items were urged to take part. Brent announced that Myron Wasiuta will speak on the mechanics of the eye at the February meeting.

6. George Uhl announced that December 29 is the deadline for articles in the next newsletter.

7. Bob Ridgely asked for volunteers to assemble and mail the next issue of the newsletter.

The formal portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM at which time the membership was treated to a series of talks on home-made telescopes. Myron Wasiuta spoke about his 10-inch f/8 equatorial reflector. Bob L'Homme-dieu showed his Stellafane prize winning 4.25-inch dobsonian. Bob Bunge talked about his unusual 12.5-inch f/5.4 low-profile dobsonian telescope. The program was rounded out with Jerry Wolczanski's demonstration of mirror testing on the club's new 8-inch mirror.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Schumann, Secretary

1992 NOVAC Observing Schedule

The following list is the official 1992 NOVAC Observing Schedule. Club observing sessions are held Friday and Saturday nights during weekends, after last quarter and before first quarter moons, at C.M. Crockett Park, in Midland, Virginia. See the notices section of the newsletter for rules and regulations governing our use of the Park and its facilities.

- January - 3,4,24,25,31
- February - 1,7,8,28,29
- March - 6,7,27,28
- April - 3,4,24,25
- May - 1,2,29,30
- June - 5,6,26,27
- July - 3,4,24,25,31
- August - 1,21,22,28,29
- September - 18,19,25,26
- October - 2,3,23,24
- November - 20,21,27,28
- December - 18,19,26

**Northern Virginia Astronomy Club
Financial Statement for January 1,
1991 through December 31, 1991**

by Robert E. Ridgely, Treasurer NOVAC

INCOME

Dues, renewal memberships	1,289.00
Dues, new memberships	1,296.00
Sales at NVTM'91	320.00
Interest on savings account #1	67.40
BBS contributions recvd with dues	20.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$2,992.40

EXPENSES

Newsletter printing	507.86 ✓
Northern Virginia Telescope Meet:	417.21
Contribution to C. M. Crockett Park	150.00 ✓
Portable Restrooms	130.00 ✓
Handouts and Flyers	106.95 ✓
Door prizes	30.26 ✓
Postage	340.74 ✓
Incorporation fee	80.00
Federal taxes on savings account #1	17.11 ✓
Stationery	15.68 ✓
Office supplies	15.05 ✓

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,555.10

Income	2,992.40
Expenses	1,555.10
NET GAIN:	\$1,437.30

Beginning balance	1,349.27
Net Gain	1,437.30

ENDING BALANCE: \$2,786.57

NOVAC Notices

1992 NOVAC Dues

It's that time of the year again for most of us - time to ante up \$18.00 for

another year's NOVAC dues. It is not much to pay for all the activities, meetings, the telescope meet, and friendship. Furthermore, this year should prove be even more exciting and eventful than ever! So won't you please renew right away? Send your \$18.00 to:

Ms. Brenda Jones
883 N. Kentucky Ave.
Arlington, VA 22205

If you have any questions, please call her at (703)527-7963.

Outdoor Lab Open House

by Brenda Jones

The next open house at the Arlington Outdoor Lab has been scheduled for Saturday, February 29, 1992, beginning at 2:30 P.M. This is the perfect opportunity for those of you who have been wondering what in the world the Outdoor Lab is to come out and see for yourself!

The open house will feature a scavenger hunt that will be fun for all ages. There will also be light refreshments. Plan to pack a picnic supper and come early so you can find the observatory in the daylight. Myron Wasiuta will be at the observatory manning the 10 inch Dynascope. You are welcome to bring your own telescope. There is electricity at the observatory if you need it.

If you are planning to bring out your telescope, let me know so that I can plan to provide you transportation out to the observatory. The last 1/4 to 1/2 mile of road leaves a lot to be desired!!

DIRECTIONS: From I-66 and the Beltway, take I-66 west about 25 miles to the Haymarket-Leesburg exit. Go south one block on Rt. 15 to Rt. 55. Turn right on Rt. 55 and go west 4 miles to Rt. 600. Turn left on Rt. 600 and go about 2 miles to Rt. 792 (past board fence, route sign on left). Turn right on Rt. 792 and go to end of road and through gate. Since the road beyond the

buildings is such a mess, I suggest you park either just outside the gate or inside adjacent to the buildings. There is a 1/4 to 1/2 mile hike to the observatory. Questions? Give me a call at 703-527-7963.

January/February Calendar

Fr/Sa, Jan 3/4, Dark - Club Observing Nights at Crockett Park

Tu Jan 14, 7:30 - Annual NOVAC Meeting at Brenda Jones' house

We, Jan 15, 7:30 - NOVAC General Membership Meeting at Arlington Planetarium

Fr/Sa, Jan 24/25, Dark - Club Observing Nights at Crockett Park

Fr/Sa, Jan 31/Feb 1, Dark - Club Observing Nights at Crockett Park

Fr/Sa, Feb 7/8, Dark - Club Observing Nights at Crockett Park

We, Feb 19, 7:30 - NOVAC General Membership Meeting at Arlington Planetarium

Fr/Sa, Feb 28/29, Dark - Club Observing Nights at Crockett Park

OBSERVING SITE RULES

NOVAC members may use Crockett park for observing on nights other than those scheduled for club observing; BUT, YOU MUST HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM RODGER PENCE, THE PARK MANAGER. Call early in the day on which you wish to observe; the telephone number is 703-788-4867. If you reach the answering machine leave a message stating that you are a NOVAC member and you wish to observe that night. Also, leave a telephone number where you can be reached. If you do not receive a return call you may not use the park. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS! Use

of the park is limited to NOVAC members only, and your Observing Pass must be displayed on the dashboard of your car.

The gate is locked at sunset and the combination is shown on your Observing Pass. Do not reveal it to anyone. The combination will be changed from time to time and you will receive a new pass along with your newsletter. After setting the combination, the shackle must be pushed in slightly before it will release. You must lock the gate behind you after entering and please remember to lock it after you leave. No loud radios, no alcoholic beverages; no loose pets; do not leave trash or debris behind. We are guests of the park and our observing privileges may be revoked at any time because of the carelessness of one person.

Directions to Crockett Park

From the Washington D.C./Northern Virginia area, go west on I-66 to the Manassas exit, 234 SOUTH. Continue on 234 until reaching Route 28--turn right. (If you are familiar with the area, there is a little short cut to Route 28 just past the "Po Folks" restaurant in Manassas. It goes past the IBM plant and saves about a mile.)

Once on Route 28, keep going straight through Prince William County. You will drive through Nokesville, passing the 7-11 on the left (a good landmark to remember, especially after freezing your gizzard for half the night--you may need something to warm you up on the way home. Even more importantly, they sell gas there when other gas stations are closed for the night).

After crossing the Fauquier County line there are about six miles to go. You will drive through the sleepy little hamlets of Catlett and Calverton. After you cross over the railroad tracks in Calverton, you only have a few miles to go, thus you should start paying attention to where you are driving. Make a right

turn on 643. CAUTION: the first 643 sign to come into view goes only left--DON'T TURN THERE! Continue for about a mile, and there is another Route 643 going right (to Warrenton). There is a small country store (Mayhugh's) on the corner of the intersection.

Turn right on 643 and proceed about a mile. Look for a small sign for C.M. Crockett Park on your right. Go about 100 yards and turn left. There will be a sign indicating "Dead End .5 miles". The park gate is at the end of the road. We suggest you get there before dark the first couple times. If it is dark, turn off your headlights when you stop at the gate.

There are a number of locks on the gates; one of them is ours. It is a combination lock which was thoughtfully provided by Al Boldt. The combination can be obtained from a club officer. Undo the lock, swing open the gate, drive through, stop, swing the gate closed, replace the lock and ease forward once again. We suggest you turn off your instrument panel lights at the gate to help you see better in the dark. Also, if you are unfamiliar with the area, we suggest you get out of your vehicle and walk down to the parking lot to see where other observers are located. Then drive into an open spot, unload and have at it.

If you decide to go there when its not an official club observing night, you must call the Park [(703)788-4867] ahead of time to let them know you're coming.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA ASTRONOMY CLUB ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

Explanation And History as of January 2, 1992

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA ASTRONOMY CLUB

The undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens of the United States, desiring to form a Non-Profit Corporation, pursuant to Chapter 10 of Title 13.1 of the Code of Virginia, state as follows:

ARTICLE ONE - NAME OF CORPORATION

The name of the Corporation is: Northern Virginia Astronomy Club.

ARTICLE TWO - PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF CORPORATION

The corporation's initial registered office address is: 5401 Danville Street, Springfield, Virginia 22151. The registered office is located in the County of Fairfax.

ARTICLE THREE - PURPOSE OF CORPORATION

The purpose of the corporation shall be to promote the science of astronomy by:

- fostering, in its members and the general public, knowledge of and interest in astronomy by means of public lectures, demonstrations, observing sessions, and other programs related to astronomy and allied sciences,
- providing assistance to its members who wish to conduct research related to astronomy,
- assisting other organizations in achieving this purpose,
- undertaking other educational or scientific projects related to astronomy.

The motto of the corporation shall be "to observe and to help others observe."

All activities shall be limited to those permitted by Chapter 10 of Title 13.1 of the Code of Virginia regarding not-for-profit corporations and those permitted by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE FOUR - INITIAL TRUSTEES

The following persons, numbering in total nine, shall serve said corporation as trustees until replaced by elected trustees, as described subsequently:

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names,

NAME SIGNED	ADDRESS DATE
-------------	--------------

Blaine A. Korcel	5401 Danville Street, Springfield, VA 22151 /s/Blaine A. Korcel 8/21/91
------------------	---

James E. Schaeffer	11505 Ivy Bush Court Reston, VA 22091 /s/James E. Schaeffer 9/10/91
--------------------	---

Al Schumann	6121 Rivanna Drive, Springfield, VA 22150 /s/Albert W. Schumann 8/21/91
-------------	---

Robert E. Ridgley	1316 S. Buchanan Street, Arlington, VA 22204 /s/Robert E. Ridgley 8-31-91
-------------------	---

Brent A. Archinal	2177 Mohegan Drive Falls Church, VA 22043 /s/Brent A. Archinal 8/21/91
-------------------	--

Bill Burton	2102 Whisperwood Glen Lane Reston, VA 22091 /s/William C. Burton 8/21/91
-------------	--

Kevin Jones	883 North Kentucky Street Arlington, VA 22205 /s/Kevin B. Jones 8/21/91
-------------	---

Herschel Payne	3450 13th Street North Arlington, VA 22201 /s/Herschel Payne 10/16/91
----------------	---

George Uhl	9039 New Britain Circle Manassas, Virginia 22110 /s/George D. Uhl 8/21/91
------------	---

ARTICLE FIVE - LIMITATIONS

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and expenses incurred and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in Article Three hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible

under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE SIX - DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purpose of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Where possible such receivers of assets shall have an astronomical or related purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE SEVEN - CORPORATE AGENT

The name of the corporation's initial registered agent, whose business office is identical with the above-registered office, is Blaine A. Korcel. The initial registered agent is an individual who is a resident of Virginia and an initial director of the corporation.

ARTICLE EIGHT - MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The corporation may pay dues to and/or become a member of any other organization(s) consistent with the purpose of the corporation and applicable law. By such membership the organization may agree to abide by such regulation(s) as the organization(s) adopt. However, when such regulation(s) would conflict with these Articles or the Bylaws of this corporation or with applicable law then the regulation(s) under question shall be considered inoperative and non-applicable to the corporation.

ARTICLE NINE - DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the corporation shall be a board meeting set by the Board of Trustees of the previous year for a date no later than January 31 of the calendar year for which the meeting is to occur.

ARTICLE TEN - BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

The corporation shall have four (4) officers: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

urer, each of whom is a full trustee. There shall be five (5) "additional trustees". All of the trustees shall be current members in-good-standing of the corporation. If a trustee's membership should end for any reason, his/her office or position shall be declared vacant. Should the trustee's membership end due to failure to pay dues, the secretary shall notify the trustee in question by certified letter that his/her office will be declared vacant in thirty (30) days if dues are not paid.

The Board of Trustees shall have the authority to supervise the economic affairs of the corporation, the property of the corporation and its use, and such other matters as the membership may choose to bring before it. These may include, but are not limited to: the publications of the corporation, the programming and public relations of the corporation, the affairs of any public facility the corporation may operate, and balloting on matters of business of any organization of which the corporation is a member. The board is thus empowered to consider all general society business excepting amendments to these Articles or the Bylaws of the corporation, elections of the corporation, and the setting of dues.

The right to review or rescind all decisions of the Board of Trustees or the president is reserved for the members of the corporation. Such review or rescission may be made only prior to implementation of such decision and only upon the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting at a general or special meeting of the corporation, a quorum being present. Any action of the board of trustees to be effective prior to the next general meeting (or special meeting called for that purpose) shall require a motion to declare the action "urgent" and to set a date for its effectiveness. This motion shall require the affirmative vote of at least five (5) trustees and at least two-thirds majority of those present and voting to become effective. If the motion fails, then the action shall not be permitted to take effect prior to the next general meeting (or special meeting called for that purpose).

ARTICLE ELEVEN - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

The duties and authority of the officers shall be as follows:

President - The president shall be the chief executive and highest ranking officer of the corporation. The president is empowered to make decisions in all matters not expressly those of the entire Board of Trustees. The president will, within the limits set by these articles, set the agenda of all the meetings of the corporation. He/she shall supervise the other elected officials and trustees in the performance of their duties, and appoint such other officials and committees as he/she deems necessary. The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The president shall be the chairman of the Board of Trustees and preside over all general, special,

and board meetings.

If the president knows prior to any type of meeting of the corporation that he/she will not be present, then he/she shall see that the highest ranking official of the corporation who is available is present to carry out his/her duties and to present what reports he/she may have for the corporation. The president shall report on the activities of the corporation's officials or see that the secretary does so.

Vice-President - The vice-president shall be the second ranking officer of the corporation. He/she shall act in place of the president in the event of the absence or incapacity of that officer. In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the vice-president shall be acting president until a president is elected as specified elsewhere in these articles. At all other times the vice-president shall act under the direction of the president.

Secretary - The secretary shall be the third ranking officer of the corporation. He/she shall keep the official minutes, if any, of all general, special, and board meetings of the corporation. Further, the secretary shall keep reports of the communications and other official documents of the corporation during his/her term of office. The minutes and all other records will be turned over to the incoming secretary at the end of the secretary's term of office, and their final disposition will be left in control of the Trustees as a whole.

The secretary will be responsible for notifying the membership of the corporation of all general, special, and board meetings of the corporation through the corporate newsletter or by personal letter. He/she shall handle the correspondence of the corporation except that of the committees or other officers. Copies of correspondence by committees or officers shall be provided to the secretary. He/she shall also be responsible for any filing of forms as may be necessary, with the U. S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or the County of Fairfax.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be the fourth ranking officer of the corporation. He/she shall keep all monies of the corporation, receiving and disbursing them according to the directives of these Articles, the Bylaws, the president, and the Board of Trustees. The treasurer shall make financial reports at least twice each year to the membership through the corporate newsletter; and as required by the corporate trustees.

The treasurer shall, upon demand by any member, see that the current financial records of the corporation are available for examination at the next general meeting of the corporation, regardless of whether the treasurer is present at that meeting. He/she shall keep membership lists and the corporate membership rolls current. The treasurer will issue a roster of members to all members of the corporation at least once a year.

Further, he/she shall report new memberships or the discontinuance of prior memberships to the editor of the corporate newsletter.

The other trustees shall be ranked in order of the dates at which their first of any consecutive terms began, with the trustee who was elected earliest being the fifth ranking officer of the corporation and so on with the trustee who was last elected being the ninth ranking officer of the corporation.

ARTICLE TWELVE - TERMS OF OFFICE AND ELECTIONS

The terms of office of the officers shall be one year and of the additional trustees two years. So that their terms will be staggered, in the first election following incorporation, two of the five additional trustees will be elected to one year terms. All subsequently elected additional trustees will be elected for two year terms. No person shall be elected to serve in the same office or additional trusteeship for more than four consecutive terms.

In August of each year the president shall consult with the other trustees and he/she shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of at least three members, at least one of whom is not a current trustee. The committee shall present at the September general meeting nominations for the elected officers and the at-large trustee position up for election that year. At least one name for each post to be filled shall be presented by the committee. At the September meeting nominations from the floor will be accepted, but at the end of that meeting nominations will be left open. The list of nominations will then be published in the next issue of the corporate newsletter. The officers and trustee-at-large shall be elected at the next general meeting and take office the January 1st following.

If any of these dates is not met, the completion of nominations and elections shall be old business at every general meeting thereafter until completed, and be the first order of old business excepting only the election of trustees to fill current vacant unexpired terms.

If, at any time before the natural expiration of the term of office of any officer or trustee-at-large, that person is unable to continue to serve or finish his/her term of office, then until the vacancy is filled, the first item of old business at each general meeting will be to accept nominations and to set a date to elect a member to fill the vacancy. The newly elected person's term will end at the natural end of that position's term of office.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN - MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION

There are only three types of meetings in this

corporation: general meetings of the membership, special meetings of the membership, and meetings of the Board of Trustees. There shall be at least two (2) general meetings each year to consider whatever business the president or any member may wish to bring before the corporation and to consider nominations and elections when necessary. Special meetings shall occur only when specifically called by the president, the trustees, or the membership as detailed below. The order or petition calling for the special meeting shall specifically limit the agenda for that meeting to (a) selected topic(s). The Board of Trustees shall meet at least two (2) times each year to consider the general business of the corporation as set forth elsewhere in the articles.

The president shall call at least the minimum number of general and board meetings and may call additional meetings of any type at any time he/she decides they are needed. The trustees may call for special or board meetings by presenting a petition for that purpose signed by at least four (4) trustees to the secretary. The general membership may call special meetings by presenting a petition for that purpose signed by at least one-fifth (1/5) of the membership or eight (8) members, whichever is greater, to the secretary.

The secretary must provide written notice of at least seven (7) days to all members for general and board meetings and fourteen (14) days for the annual and special meetings, preferably through the corporate newsletter. Failure to provide adequate notice will require rescheduling of said meeting at the earliest possible date for which proper notice may be given. In no case will the secretary be required to provide notice of meetings more than once every two months. The president must set the location of all meetings at a site within thirty-five (35) miles of the principal office of this corporation and notify the secretary of the chosen site.

A quorum for the conduct of business at a general or special meeting of the corporation shall be those present at the meeting, but not less than ten (10) and twenty (20), respectively, of all current dues-paying members in-good-standing of the corporation. A majority of those voting shall decide issues, a quorum being present. Amendments, as detailed elsewhere in these Articles and the Bylaws, may have differing quorums and voting requirements. A quorum for the conduct of business at a board meeting shall be five (5) trustees. Unless otherwise specified elsewhere, decisions of the trustees shall be by a majority of those voting, a quorum being present. The president may vote on all questions.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN - AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

These Articles may be amended at any time following ratification by the membership in a manner described below and in accordance with procedures adopted by the State Corporation Commission of Virginia.

Proposed amendment(s) to the Articles must be presented in writing at a general meeting or at a special meeting (called for that purpose). The secretary will read the amendment(s) at the time they are introduced and then they will automatically be tabled until the next general meeting or special meeting (called for that purpose). In the meantime, the secretary shall provide proper notice of the meeting at which the amendment(s) are to be considered and notify all members in writing, preferably through the corporate newsletter, of the text of the proposed amendments at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment(s) are to be considered.

If two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at the meeting at which the amendment(s) are to be considered vote in favor of such amendment(s), then these Articles shall be so amended provided that ten (10) members or one-tenth (1/10) of the membership of the corporation, whichever is greater, is present at the meeting. If a quorum, as noted above, is not present, then voting on the amendment(s) shall be held over until the next general meeting or special meeting (called for that purpose), and so on indefinitely, with proper notice by the secretary (as described above) at each delay. Once amended, the secretary shall be responsible for filing articles of amendment with the State Corporation Commission of Virginia.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN - BYLAWS

The corporation will be governed by Bylaws as adopted henceforth. The Bylaws shall set forth membership provisions for the corporation and cover other matters related to the operation of the corporation. However, the Bylaws may not conflict with these Articles or applicable law.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN - RATIFICATION OF THE ARTICLES

These Articles must be ratified by the signatures of at least 30 people desiring to become members. It is agreed by those so ratifying that this mechanism shall satisfy any other requirements for the ratification set forth elsewhere in the law or other documents. These articles will take effect immediately upon ratification. The secretary will then file these articles with the State Corporation Commission of Virginia according to Chapter 10 of Title 13.1 of the Code of Virginia.

We, the undersigned, hereby ratify the above Articles of Incorporation....

Ratification begun: August 21, 1991
Ratification completed: September 24, 1991
Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia: November 4, 1991

BYLAWS OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA ASTRONOMY CLUB

ARTICLE ONE - DUES AND MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in astronomy is eligible for membership by virtue of paying dues.

There shall be only the following classes of membership: ~~Regular, Additional, Patron, Supporting, Corporate, and Honorary~~. All members except Additional members shall receive one subscription to the corporate newsletter.

Additional members shall otherwise have the same privileges as Regular members, but shall pay a dues rate approximately half that of a Regular member. However, they must reside at the same address as a Regular member.

Patron members shall have the same privileges as Regular members, but shall pay a substantially higher dues rate.

Supporting members shall have the same privileges as Regular members but shall pay a dues rate approximately double that of the Patron member. The corporation may offer such additional periodicals and benefits to Supporting members as may be available and as determined by the membership.

Corporate membership shall be available to other groups, organizations, and corporations as may desire to support the purpose and goals of this corporation. Corporate members shall have the same privileges as Supporting members, along with additional benefits to be determined by the membership. Corporate members shall pay a dues rate approximately four times that of a Patron member.

The rolls of Honorary members shall be modified and maintained by the trustees. Honorary members shall pay no dues and shall not have a vote in corporate affairs.

Dues for each class shall be set by a vote of the membership upon recommendation of the board of trustees.

The voting rights of all members except as noted above shall be the same without regard to dues classification in all corporate matters.

ARTICLE TWO - FINANCIAL PROTECTION

All checks must be signed by two trustees. The board of trustees shall obtain general liability insurance and property insurance as is necessary to protect the corporation, its officials, its members, and its property.

ARTICLE THREE - IMPEACHMENT, CENSURE, AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

If, during the term of office of any officer or trustee, it is the opinion of other members that the official has not discharged his/her duties properly as prescribed by the Articles or this Constitution then a motion to "impeach" may be introduced at a general meeting of the corporation. The

members of the society shall discuss the nature of the charges, only, at the meeting, and action postponed on that motion until the next general meeting. The secretary shall inform the member so charged (or another member shall do so if the secretary is charged) in writing and the membership in writing, preferably through the corporate newsletter, that such a motion has been made, with the notification meeting the qualifications specified in the Articles for amendments to that document. The member so charged shall prepare and/or instruct another person to prepare a defense of the charges to be presented at the next meeting. At that meeting in which the motion "to impeach" is considered the membership shall debate the motion and the charges, with the plaintiffs, the defendant, his defense representative, and interested members being given an opportunity to speak. The meeting (or part thereof at which the motion is considered) shall be chaired by a chairperson pro-tempore and a secretary pro-tempore elected at the beginning of the proceedings, neither being a current trustee of the corporation. After all parties have been permitted to speak, then debate on the charges may be closed at any time. A quorum for deciding the motion shall be ten (10) members or one-tenth (1/10) of the current voting membership of the corporation, whichever is greater. If a quorum is not obtained after two consecutive meetings, the charges shall be dropped, but may be reintroduced later. It shall require an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) to successfully impeach an official. If the motion should fail then a motion "to impeach" may not be reintroduced for a period of at least one hundred and twenty (120) days. The official so charged shall continue in office. If the motion should succeed, then the official under question may be "censured", "removed from office", or "acquitted". Proceedings shall be suspended at this point until the following general meeting (or at least one month until a special meeting if there is no general meeting that month). Proceedings shall resume with the same chair-person pro-tempore and secretary pro-tempore (another may be elected if they are absent). A quorum for deciding which action to take shall be ten (10) or one-tenth (1/10) of the current voting membership of the corporation, whichever is more. If a quorum is not present, then a delay of one month in resumption of the proceedings shall occur. If a quorum is not present the following month, then the official shall be "acquitted". Limited debate shall be permitted at these proceedings with each party present permitted to speak at most twice. Following debate, a verdict will be considered. First, a decision to "remove from office" will be considered. If at least two-thirds (2/3) of those present vote in favor of this option, then the official so charged shall immediately lose his/her office and the office shall be declared vacant. Provisions for filling that vacancy shall immediately take effect. The convicted official shall be ineligible for any elected corporate office for a period of twelve (12) months. Should a sufficient number fail to vote for "removal from office", then a vote to "censure" shall be considered

immediately. If a majority of those present vote in favor of "censure" then the official under charge shall remain in office but shall be prohibited from further actions such as those for which he/she was charged. A notice giving the charges and the action of "censure" shall be carried in the corporate newsletter. Should the motion to "censure" fail, then the official shall be "acquitted." In the case of acquittal, the official shall remain in office and another impeachment motion may not be reintroduced for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days.

ARTICLE FOUR - APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, AND THEIR DUTIES

The president shall have the authority to appoint special officers (such as program chairperson, publicity chairperson, convention manager, parliamentary, librarian, historian, property officer, etc.) and special committees and assign them special duties. He shall appoint, at least, an Editor for the corporate newsletter. These officers terms and these committees' existence shall end with that of the appointing president.

The Editor shall be responsible for preparing and issuing at least bi-monthly to members a periodical containing announcements of meetings and events of the society, and items of interest to amateur astronomers.

ARTICLE FIVE - MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The secretary shall not be responsible for keeping the minutes of committee meetings. These shall be the responsibility of the committee chairperson, or a committee secretary should one exist.

ARTICLE SIX - AMENDMENTS TO THE CORPORATE RECORDS

The minutes, communications, and other legal documents of the corporation excepting the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, may be amended by the trustees at any board meeting, or the membership at any general meeting, by a majority of those present and voting, provided a quorum is present. The minutes of any meeting may be amended only at a subsequent meeting of the same type.

ARTICLE SEVEN - AUTHORITY IN DISPUTES

The final authority in the settlement of disputes in business meetings shall be Robert's Rules of Order Revised.

ARTICLE EIGHT - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be presented in writing at a general meeting (or special meeting called for that purpose), read by

the secretary at such meeting, and left on the table until the next general meeting (or special meeting called for that purpose). In the meantime, the secretary shall notify all members in writing, preferably through the corporate newsletter, at least seven (7) days before the next regular meeting, of the proposed amendment(s). If two thirds (2/3) of the members present at the meeting at which amendments are to be considered, vote in favor of such amendment(s), then these Bylaws shall be so amended provided that ten (10) members or one-tenth (1/10) of the membership of the corporation, whichever is greater, are present.

ARTICLE NINE - RATIFICATION OF THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws shall be ratified by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the current voting membership present at the first (or succeeding meetings if a quorum is not present) meeting following incorporation. This meeting shall have a quorum of ten (10) members or one-tenth (1/10) of the current dues paying members in-good-standing of the corporation, whichever is greater. The Bylaws shall go into effect immediately following ratification. If such a quorum is not present, then the voting on ratification shall be held over until the next general meeting (or special meeting called for that purpose), and so on indefinitely, with proper notification by the secretary at each delay.

Adopted: November 20, 1991

Explanation and History of the NOVAC Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws by Brent A. Archinal

History:

After many discussions at countless regular and executive committee meetings, the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club (NOVAC) effectively decided to become a non-profit corporation in late 1990. The reasons for doing so were many, but included as the most important: a) allowing donations to the club to be tax exempt, b) allowing the club's income to be officially tax exempt, c) providing an "official" status when dealing with the public, various public agencies, private companies, the media, etc., and d) providing for the proper distribution of assets should the club ever disband.

In any case, it was decided to adopt Articles of Incorporation that could be filed with the Commonwealth of Virginia, thus incorporating NOVAC as such a corporation. Appropriate Bylaws were also written and adopted. A further step is now being undertaken, that of making an application to the Internal Revenue Service or order to obtain a determination that we are indeed a non-profit (tax exempt and with donations tax exempt) organization.

The first draft of these documents was written by Brent A. Archinal on December 29-30, 1990, and completed on January 1, 1991. This and later drafts were made available at every NOVAC Executive Committee (E. C.) and Regular meeting from that time until the Bylaws were adopted. Comments on the first draft, mostly written, but some verbal, were returned by several individuals, including P. Berwick, B. Burton, R. Ferris, B. Jones, and A. Schumann. These comments proved extremely useful and were carefully considered in creating the final version. Much discussion has also taken place at the E. C. meetings, and very useful input was also received there from B. Jones, K. Jones, B. Korcel, D. Larson, H. Payne, A. Schumann, and G. Uhl.

Although there were no major objections to any portion of the first draft of the documents, some suggestions received were in minor conflict with each other or the draft documents, and were resolved at the April 8, 1991 E. C. meeting, with the version worked out being presented as a "Final Draft" at the May 15 general meeting of the club.

The July-August NOVAC Newsletter announced that a final vote would be made at the August 21 meeting on whether to proceed with the ratification of the Articles. At that meeting, the following motion was made by Archinal: "A motion to reorganize the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club

I motion that the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club reorganize itself as a non-profit corporation in the State of Virginia, by ratifying the Articles of Incorporation here attached. This reorganization shall include the transfer of all activities, officials, and assets from the existing club to the new corporation. The Articles of Incorporation, once ratified, and the proposed Bylaws, once approved, shall supersede the Constitution and Bylaws of the current club.

/s/ Brent A. Archinal, August 21, 1991"

This motion passed by acclamation, and ratification of the Articles began. President Blaine Korcel became the first to sign the document, and ratification was completed on September 24, when former President Nils Thomas became the 30th person to agree to ratification. Further signatures were also collected until October 16. The Articles were submitted to the State Corporation Commission by mail, and NOVAC was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 4, 1991.

The November-December issue of the NOVAC Newsletter announced that a vote to adopt the Bylaws would take place at the November 20, 1991 general meeting. The Bylaws were indeed adopted by acclamation at that meeting.

During most of this time, work also progressed on completing the IRS and Fairfax County forms necessary for filing after incorporation. Most of

this work was done by Brenda Jones, with financial information being provided by Treasurer Bob Ridgley. After certain information is provided by the 1992 Board of Trustees, it is hoped that the forms can be filed in early 1992.

Explanation:

During the entire process described above, notes were written and provided which described the basic ideas, assumptions, and sources for the material contained in the finally ratified Articles and Bylaws. With slight modifications, this information is included following.

Several assumptions were inherent in the creation of the Articles and Bylaws:

- The application for corporate status assumed that a totally new organization was being formed from an old one. To some extent, this freed NOVAC primarily from record keeping constraints and possible legal problems that would result from trying to incorporate NOVAC "as is".

- Although it would have been nice to maintain as much as possible of the original NOVAC constitution, it was found that because of the specific wording that was required for the articles, and because more detailed and specific regulations would be useful, it was not possible to maintain any specific sections verbatim of the original constitution. In addition, some changes that seemed appropriate were also added (in some cases reflecting the actual operation of the club rather than the constitutionally specified operation). These changes are as noted below. The position was agreed to by all of those making comments on the first draft of these documents.

- The primary guides for writing the Articles were "Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization", IRS Publication 557 (Rev. Oct. 88), "Commonwealth of Virginia Business Registration Guide", 1st edition, and the "Code of Virginia 1950, 1989 Replacement Volume" (Volume 3, Chapter 10 of Title 13.1). These were used to insure ease in both the incorporation and tax-exempt recognition process.

- The secondary guide for writing the Articles was the "Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and By-Laws of Columbus Astronomical Society (CAS)." This document was chosen as a guide for several reasons, including that: a) it was well written (primarily by Robin K. deSantos, formerly of CAS) and intended for a group with an identical purpose to ours, b) Archinal was heavily involved with the incorporation and tax-exempt application process of the CAS, and most importantly, c) both the State of Ohio and the IRS accepted these documents with basically no changes.

Comments now follow on specific sections and items of the Articles and Bylaws.

- The Articles, through article seven and including article fifteen, are nearly entirely as required by the State of Virginia or the IRS. Most of the wording is very specific, following IRS and Virginia examples. The only exception is under Article Three on the purpose of the corporation, which is mostly drawn from the CAS Articles, but also includes the (up to now) informal NOVAC motto.

- The remainder of the Articles are heavily based on the remainder of the CAS Articles, while the Bylaws are heavily based on the CAS Constitution and By-Laws. Of course many changes were made according to the actual operation and the current constitution of NOVAC and some items in the Virginia Code. It should be noted that the "Bylaws" could have been called anything, including a constitution, or we could even have had a separate constitution (as the CAS does). However, the Virginia instructions and Code hint that the secondary document should be called "Bylaws".

- The original NOVAC Constitution (i.e., that in effect until the Articles were ratified) did not specifically mention the office of Vice-President, and allowed the offices of Secretary and Treasurer to be combined into one if desired. It seemed reasonable to suppose that if NOVAC is to exist as a viable club and corporation, these three offices should be allowed to clearly exist separately, and this was reflected in the new documents.

- Under the original NOVAC constitution, the Board of Directors and officers had separate responsibilities. However, in practice they had all been meeting as an "executive committee" for two years or more and making combined decisions. The Articles were written to reflect this, with all of the officers and the board of directors (now called "additional trustees") all taking a nearly equal part in the decision making of the club as the Board of Trustees.

- The election and terms of officials were modified. Nominations and elections were moved to the Fall, with trustees taking office on January 1. This seemed more reasonable that the current practice of nominations and elections in January and February since this will avoid the holiday season and bad Winter weather as a time to elect trustees. The officers' terms were limited to one year (or two years for the additional trustees), for a maximum of 4 consecutive terms. This reflected discussions of the executive committee that indicated that one year terms might be better than the original 3 year terms, since it would encourage newer members to run for office (without making a three year commitment). Two year staggered terms for the additional trustees were specified in order to provide some continuity to the Board of Trustees, and comments were received supporting this position. In addition, the establishment of a nominating committee was also mandated.

- New classes of membership were proposed in the Bylaws, including Additional, Patron, Sustaining, Corporate, and Honorary memberships. The Additional membership should allow family members and others residing at the same address as a Regular member to have full membership privileges (except a separate newsletter subscription) at a reduced rate. This should help to address the questions which arise regarding family, student, etc. memberships. The next three types of memberships should hopefully result in more income to the club, particularly as most of the contributions would be tax-exempt to the donors. It is noted that Regular and Additional dues will not in general be tax deductible, since they pay for services (like the newsletter) which the club provides members. Only amounts above that which covers basic services (which should be calculated) are tax deductible.

- Several other items were added to the Articles and particularly the Bylaws which were not in the original NOVAC Constitution. This included covering things such as possible membership of NOVAC in other organizations (e.g. the AL, the AAVSO), appointed officers (particularly the newsletter editor), and committees. The officers were also made responsible for providing adequate liability insurance for the organization. However, rather than bonding persons handling money as was proposed in the first draft, a compromise was included stating that two persons are required to sign checks. This was only meant to provide a means of protecting the bulk of the treasury - it was suggested that the two individuals signing checks write themselves checks in advance as necessary to cover planned or budgeted expenses. (It has been realized after the fact that this does nothing to protect other assets like savings accounts, etc., and possibly should be changed). If at some point the treasury should become quite large (several thousand dollars) then consideration should be given to changing the requirement so that those handling money or other assets be bonded.

- The section on the removal of officers (Trustees) was expanded beyond that of the original NOVAC Constitution, being patterned mostly after the appropriate section of the CAS Constitution. The only significant change was that specific, well announced proceedings must be held rather than allowing removal of officers by mail vote only. Although hopefully this is something that NOVAC will never have to go through, if it is ever necessary the procedure for removing a Trustee must be very specific and complete in order to avoid prolonged arguments and even legal problems, and in order to protect both the corporation and the Trustee being removed.

Location of Documents

A "Corporate Notebook" has been prepared, and normally will be in the possession of the Corporate Agent. Current contents of this notebook are as follows:

- Reorganization motion, August 21, 1991. - Certificate of Incorporation, November 4, 1991. - Statement of Annual Corporation Requirements and Workers' Compensation Act notice. - First generation copy of NOVAC Articles of Incorporation (the State Corporation Commission has the original). - The original Bylaws of NOVAC, as approved November 20, 1991.

It is also suggested by the State of Virginia that minutes of all meetings be added to this information, particularly the minutes of the Board of Trustees' meetings.

The current corporate agent and the corporation's registered office address is:

Blaine Korcel 5401 Danville Street Springfield, VA 22151

phone: 703-256-4430

ship); JACKETS, nylon/satin, NOVAC logo on front & back, elastic at sleeves, neck, and bottom, very good quality, sizes S, M, L, XL, \$34.95.

For Sale, Coulter Odyssey II, 17.5-inch reflecting telescope. Very good mirror. Unbelievable views. No wait. \$950. Carl Adams h:(703)391-8838, w:(202)586-9142.

For Sale, Celestron Super Polaris C-8, \$600 includes telescope, GE mount and tripod, 1.25" star diagonal, 1.25" porro prism, 26mm Plossl eyepiece; \$1000 includes above plus dual-axis drive, Sky Sensor Computer with drives, 2 x 1.25" eyepieces (Celestron 12mm Orthoscopic, and University Optics 9mm Konig), Orion dewshield, 6 color filters, tele-extender, T-adapter, piggy-back camera mount, no finderscope though. Telescope 6.5 years old, excellent optics. TeleVue 2" star diagonal (only used twice) includes adapter for C-8, \$120. George Uhl - home:(703)369-4575, work:(703)883-7305.

Advertisements

For Sale, contact Jim Schaeffer during working hours only CAPS, baseball type, mesh back, adjustable, NOVAC logo, \$5.95 (you pick up), \$7.75 (UPS

(C) Copyright 1992 The Northern Virginia Astronomy Club. All rights reserved. THE NOVAC NEWSLETTER may be reproduced with proper credit given to The Northern Virginia Astronomy Club.

The NOVAC NEWSLETTER is published six times a year. Subscriptions are available through membership in NOVAC. Dues are \$18.00 per year. For club membership information contact Brenda Jones, Treasurer, 883 North Kentucky Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22205, telephone: 703-527-7963.

NOVAC

The Northern Virginia Astronomy Club
c/o George Uhl
9039 New Britain Circle
Manassas, VA 22110



12/92 - \$0.00

Robert E. Ridgley
1316 S. Buchanan Street
Arlington, Virginia 22204-3410