

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

The highlights to report for 2020 were as follows:

- 1) **ASEM membership** – We began 2020 with 103 members and ended with 114 members. A gain of 11 members in a pandemic year.
- 2) **Covid-19 Pandemic hits** - Due to the County's lock-down, no Friday night open houses for April & May. We resumed FNOHs in June in accordance with County protocols for social distancing and masks as well as adopting the eyepiece cleaning protocols of Lowell Observatory.
- 3) **32" TELESCOPE** – Jim Roe completed the 32" telescope ("in *BASIC* working function") in January 2020. Jim Roe came in far below his "budget" for it. Two teams were organized to load & move the 32" from Bourbon MO to unload at Broemmelsiek Park, ending with freezing rain. The focal length was too long and other re-fits were necessary with Alt bearings and go-to frictional components. Outfitting this scope with accessories almost doubled the cost, but still below budget. The Covid lock-down prevented the premier / "First Light" promotional party that had been planned. After the lock-down, the 32" entered our regular Friday Night Open House repertoire.
- 4) **C-14 converted to dedicated VIDEO USE during Pandemic** – Significant funds were expended for equipment purchased to allow multiple people to **safely** view "thru" the C14 at once. Video stacking allowed all to see many more photons than visually thru an eyepiece. This may eventually be used with "Spare" equipment (ProDome, C11, etc).
- 5) **St Charles Chamber of Commerce** - Along with the St Charles County CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, we jointly hosted 100 guests for a special event. ASEM received a \$250 donation for our work. This event was successful and might become ongoing.
- 6) **Comet NEOWISE (C/2020 F3)** - This comet put on a show and the media caught on. Broemmelsiek was found to be a nice location to view it once it became an evening object. In addition to FNOH crowds we attracted several new members from Neowise.
- 7) **Annual PERSEID Meteor Shower** – Cancelled ASEM involvement due to Covid concerns with over-crowding. Public still showed up in numbers (# unknown).
- 8) **Grand Conjunction of Jupiter & Saturn** – Not promoted, yet we had 300 – 600 people come to Broemmelsiek Park to view this event! SCCP did a fine job with parking and crowd control.
- 9) **2021 Calendar scrubbed** – No calendar for 2021 was produced. We do plan to resume production later in 2021 for the 2022 Calendar. The 2020 calendar cleared over \$771.

