

Constitution of ScopeX® Event and Outreach initiative

1. Introduction

The event called ScopeX® is an annual telescope and astronomy exposition held by members of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa (“ASSA”), amateur astronomers and telescope makers.

The first ScopeX® event was held in 2002.

The concept behind ScopeX® is a public outreach initiative designed to promote interest in astronomy, telescope making, astrophotography and related activities within Southern Africa.

ScopeX® was registered as a trademark in the name of ASSA Johannesburg Centre.

See addendum for history.

2. ScopeX® Objectives

ScopeX® objectives, in summary, are to:

- Educate, spread enthusiasm towards and encourage participation by the public, with respect to general astronomy, amateur telescope making and related activities;
- Gather like-minded people to enjoy their common interest in these areas;
- Publicise the existence of and recruit of new members to clubs, societies and other groups active in this field;
- To enjoy the endeavours and to break-even.

The objectives of Scope X specifically exclude:

- Financial enrichment of anyone involved in arranging any of the public outreach events
- Fund raising for any purpose other than ScopeX®.

3. Format

Efforts are concentrated on arranging **an annual expo** to showcase the work of individuals and organisations involved in amateur astronomy and related activities.

ScopeX® has a focus on amateur telescope making (“ATM”) but also covers a variety of astronomically-related activities to engage the public, including lectures by experts from SA and abroad, competitions, equipment & astrophotography exhibits and workshops - all topped off by an evening star party.

Throughout the year, **outreach activities** and initiatives continue by amateur astronomical special interest groups – formal or loosely organised – who pursue their passion through activities such as practical classes, lectures, “Star Parties”, planetarium shows, excursions and the like. In many cases, these are advertised to the interested public.

ScopeX® endeavours to bring the special interest groups together, drawing on their expertise, knowledge and experience. Through their ongoing efforts, knowledge is disseminated and enthusiasm is spread, encouraging people to embrace the study of our beautiful universe on many levels.

4. Funding

Funding depends on sponsorships, donations and raffles of items donated by commercial exhibitors in lieu of exhibit fees.

5. Co-ordinating team

The event is organised by a team of volunteers.

There must be at least a Coordinator and Treasurer role allocated within the team.

To facilitate continuity of the coordinating team, members of the current year's team could offer themselves as available for the following year. If too few team members volunteer for the following year, the Coordinator and Treasurer of the current year will agree on a list of people to approach to join the team for the following year.

6. Closure

Should there be a need to discontinue ScopeX® events or outreach initiatives, the current coordinating team will agree on how best to dispose of any assets or funds that may have accrued in the name of ScopeX®.

7. Addendum

7.1 ScopeX® Origins

In 1993 the ASSA Johannesburg Centre started an Amateur Telescope Making ("ATM") class, which has operated continuously to this day. The Pretoria Centre similarly boasted a number of members with experience in the hobby. Common interest naturally drew these groups together and - as word of the class spread - "outsiders" were attracted too. Membership of the ASSA - whilst encouraged - has never been a prerequisite for joining the ATM class.

A number of small open days, informal public displays and occasional appearances at "star party" observing events helped publicise both the class and the accomplishments of its participants. Naturally, the idea of a larger-scale exposition surfaced.

Eventually two significant factors came together: the body of work reached critical mass, and the right mix of people coalesced. The grand vision took shape and ScopeX® was conceived by the "class of 2002".

The three key founding participants were:

Brian Fraser

Chris Stewart

Lerika Cross

The successful first exposition demonstrated not only capability and commitment, but also the level of public interest. This subsequently enabled access to sponsorship funding - notably from The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) - allowing ScopeX® to live on as an annual event.

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Finalised and accepted at: First meeting of the ScopeX 2010 Organising Committee
Date: 3 October 2009
Filename: ScopeX Constitution 091003
