

CHARTER AND BY-LAWS
PHOENIX OBSERVATORY ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

Recognizing our unity of interest in amateur astronomy and wishing to form an association of orderly cooperation, we hereby adopt the following charter and rules of conduct.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND TITLE:

The name and title of this association shall be: PHOENIX OBSERVATORY ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II. OBJECT AND PURPOSE:

The object and purpose of this association shall be to encourage amateur astronomy and to further the study of this science.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of this association shall be those persons who are defined as members at the time this charter is adopted, or who are admitted hereafter, and who maintain membership in accordance with the provisions of the charter and by-laws. Two classes of memberships shall be maintained: Regular memberships, consisting of Single and Family memberships, and Sustaining memberships, which are granted upon the payment of a voluntary additional contribution over and above the amount required for regular or family memberships, the amount of which is to be determined by the membership, if and when any change in the amount of association dues becomes necessary.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS:

The officers of this association shall be: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, but nothing herein shall prohibit any two of these offices being combined and held by one person. The officers shall be elected by the members by secret ballot at the Annual Business Meeting. The term of office for each officer shall be one year. Officers must be members in good standing at the time of their election.

ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

The President shall preside at the regular monthly meetings, at the annual business meeting, and at any special meetings which may be called from time to time. All duties of the President shall be assumed by the Vice President in the absence of the President. The President and Vice President together shall be charged with the responsibility of the preparation and planning of the programs for the regular monthly meetings to be held from September through May of each year. This responsibility shall include, but not be limited to: the engagement of speakers, the rental of films, and whatever arrangements are necessary for the planning of field trips. The President is hereby empowered to appoint committees from the membership to assist in the planning and preparation of programs when considered necessary.

The Secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of recording the minutes of each meeting and of handling any necessary correspondence with other societies and organizations.

The Treasurer shall be charged with the responsibility of collecting all association dues, maintaining proper records of paid members, maintaining proper records of the custody and disbursement of all association funds, and the payment of subscription orders for the magazine "Sky and Telescope", to which all members are entitled upon payment of dues. All disbursements of association funds shall be made by check, and all checks shall require the signatures of both the Treasurer and the President.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES:

A nominating committee consisting of three non-officer members of the association shall be appointed by the President at least three months before the annual business meeting for the purpose of submitting the names of nominees for the association officers for the ensuing year. The nominating committee shall certify by a report made at the annual business meeting, to be held in April of each year, its nominations for officers, and certify that the nominees have consented to serve if elected. Independent nominations may also be made from the floor for any of the designated offices during this annual business meeting.

ARTICLE VII. POWER OF ASSOCIATION:

In all matters not subject to civil laws, the association as a whole, in legally called meetings, and not any individual or group within it shall have the right of ultimate decision.

ARTICLE VIII. OWNERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION PROPERTY:

Title to all real or personal property acquired by the association for use by the association, shall be held by the association as a whole.

ARTICLE IX. BUSINESS MEETINGS:

1. A regular annual business meeting shall be held in the month of April at a time and place determined by the elected officers, and special business meetings may be called at any time, subject to the fulfillment of the following provisions:

The time and place for any such business meetings shall be announced: (a) on the regular monthly meeting announcement cards, or (b) any other written or printed publications which may be periodically issued to the entire membership.

2. Special business meetings may be called by the officers or upon written demand signed by six (6) or more voting members of the association. Announcements and notices of any such special business meetings are to be made as provided in paragraph 1 of this article, and shall give a summary stating all matters to be considered and acted upon at the meeting being called, and no other matters may be legally considered and acted upon at such meetings.

3. Those voting members of the association present at any annual or special meeting shall constitute a quorum for legally transacting the business of the association. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting members present shall be required for: (1) the removal of any officer of the association, or (2) the passage or repeal of any article or by-law, or any amendment to this charter. For all other matters of association business a simple majority of the voting members present at any business meeting shall be sufficient.

4. When necessary, in order to complete a business meeting, an association business meeting may, by majority vote of those members present, vote to recess to reconvene at a later specified time and place.