

Meeting Minutes  
July 10, 2006

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Present were: Jerry Azevedo, Dick Chase, Carol Christian (Inductee), Louise Decario, Megan Cowling, Pam Frier, Mike Hoebel, Libby McClelland, Brian Mitchell, Kris Pitschka.

The pre-meeting tidepool walk found the Naturalists out among the rocks beyond the sandbar at Morning Beach discovering some truly revolting facts about the denizens whose personal lives are normally shielded from the squeamish, and when the hot sun and the intimate contact with slimy creatures finally disrupted our equilibrium, some of us reeling and falling among the rocks, we staggered back to higher ground, and the Naturalists got straight to business...

1. "Naturalist T-Shirts": Pam started with a discouraging note: the T-shirts would cost what one would expect to pay for a T-shirt and not the ridiculously low amount we'd once hoped. But the Naturalists are used to spending money they don't have and agreed the T-shirt project would fit right in. Several Naturalists put in an order immediately, which reduced the shortfall to many hundreds of dollars, and everyone seemed happy with that. Megan and Libby would continue to explore designs for a frog, and Jerry agreed to mock up a design that demonstrates once and for all that an over-the-pocket logo can live harmoniously on the shirt with a green frog.
2. "Fiesta": To pay for the T-shirts, the Naturalists will have a booth at the Fiesta with baked goods and miscellaneous family jewelry for sale. To pay for the booth, we'll have a silent auction for a 'box lunch', to include a bottle of wine (of unspecified provenance), one of Jerry's pies, and some other things which we collected from tidepools. To pay for the box lunch, Pam will draw on her experience with the homeless and put out a donation jar with an appropriately pathetic sign, 'Will work for booth rent.' Ideas that seem to have fallen by the wayside for lack of a champion:
  - 'Natural mystery objects' – Fiesta-goers would be encouraged to bring in their unidentified natural objects, and we'd assemble these on the table and ask people to try to guess what they were. The person who identified the most objects correctly would win a prize.
  - 'Booth of Mystery' – A curtain would hide some as-yet-unspecified goings-on that may or may not have anything to do with frogs and newts.
  - 'Demonstration telescope' – Should the owners of the large telescope wish to expose it to risk, it would be great to show people that the Naturalists look beyond the bounds of earth.

So it's still a mystery what the booth might look like and who might show up. But we're pretty sure we know how to pay for it.

3. "Stargazing Overnight": Resigned to serving as host for the stargazing event in August, Brian put the best face on it and tried to appear enthusiastic as he held up a well-thumbed copy of 'Sky and Telescope' magazine to show the nighttime phenomena from which we might choose for our evening on the porch. Well, there's the meteor shower, but the moon would mostly wash that out. And if we were in Asia, we'd have a marvelous view of... In the end, knowing that stars are the point anyway, we picked a night at random – August 21/22 – when we'll converge on our reluctant hosts and stay up all night and fall asleep just in time to miss the convergence of three major planets low on the eastern horizon just before dawn.

4. Next meeting time and place: MONDAY, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM, Activity Center (bring your own sand and seaweed).

Throughout the meeting the Naturalists had been eating their sack lunches and passing around morsels to share. For an imaginative group, the lunch fare seemed rather ordinary: cheese sandwich, apple. But was that the tail of a blenny wriggling out the end of Pam's sandwich? It was time to go.

Corrections and comments to:

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