

Host Resolution – 2021 (Special Pandemic Edition)

WHEREAS, 2020 was a unique leap year; it had 29 days in February, 300 days in March, and 5 years in April; and,

WHEREAS, for the first time since 1943, the ASM had to cancel their annual meeting in 2020, which would have been ASM's 100th meeting, and due to the pandemic, the 2021 meeting is being held virtually for the 1st time – what could go wrong?; and,

WHEREAS, the covid-19 quarantine really put a serious damper on comedy; for many months now, no one has walked into a bar; and,

WHEREAS, hey, you're on mute – turn your microphone on!; and,

WHEREAS, given the relatively large number of austral mammalogists in attendance, we're all dying to know – does that buffering symbol we've all become quite familiar with this week spin counter-clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere?; and,

WHEREAS, if you doubt that there were issues with the Closed Captioning for the virtual presentations, just ask "Ma'am Ologist", new editor of the Journal of Normality; and,

WHEREAS, after hitting 5 different grocery stores and finding no TP, it should be clear that if you need 144 rolls of TP at any one time, you probably should have seen a doctor long before covid-19; and,

WHEREAS, not surprisingly, mammalogists led the way in figuring out that if you keep a cold beer in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face; and,

WHEREAS, word has gotten out that many ASM members renewed their Netflix memberships before renewing their ASM memberships; and,

WHEREAS, this year's virtual meeting gained a record 834 registrants, including 25% from Latin America, >50% women, and from 39 countries on 6 continents, and a record 458 abstracts were submitted, setting a bar which will be most difficult to top in future meetings; and,

WHEREAS, a random observation from months into quarantine social isolation – things at home are looking like the Peppermill Casino in Reno, NV (host of the ASM 2012 meeting) – we're losing money hand over fist, cocktails are acceptable at any hour, and nobody knows what day or time it is; and,

WHEREAS, scientists are well aware that every disaster movie starts with the government ignoring the scientists; and,

WHEREAS, thank goodness for scientists, and thank you Dr. Fauci; and,

WHEREAS, while others complained about social distancing and wearing face masks, field mammalogists just assumed it was a new IACUC protocol instituted by Bob Sikes; and,

WHEREAS, stretching over 4 days and 6 plenary sessions, our 2020 and 2021 ASM student and senior award winners are an impressive group indeed, and demonstrate the amazing strength of our history and strong promise of our future; and,

WHEREAS, sadly, covid-19 ultimately took one of our dear friends and colleagues, Past ASM President and bat man extraordinaire Tom Kunz - we miss him dearly; in addition to our friend Tom, we also acknowledge and mourn the millions of other people globally who have lost (or will lose) their lives during the covid-19 pandemic, and,

WHEREAS, the virtual meeting platform revealed that Ed Heske's Christmas present last year was a pottery wheel, and he's having a sale on his selected works for ASM members - tonight only!; and,

WHEREAS, our hearty congratulations go out to the 5 new elected Honorary Members of the ASM, a diverse group of eminent mammalogists from 4 different continents – well done!; and,

WHEREAS, during the covid lockdown, stories have emerged of mammalogists trying to emulate recent ASM meeting mammal crawls by placing a drink in every room of their house; and,

WHEREAS, hey, you're still on mute; and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that dogs cannot contract covid-19; so, dogs previously held in quarantine were released; to be clear, WHO let the dogs out!; and,

WHEREAS, thanks to virtual Zoom meetings, mammologist no longer need to use a coffee mug to mask their bat-friendly tequila at faculty meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the Resolutions Committee is invoking the little-known "Robert J. Baker" clause, so the Host Resolution next year will have double the journal page space as normal due to last year's meeting cancellation – so prepare yourselves!; and,

WHEREAS, after 15 months of pandemic over-exposure to television and commercials, many ASM members now speculate that outgoing President Doug Kelt has secretly been moonlighting as Hotels.com's Captain Obvious; and,

WHEREAS, following the start of the lockdown last spring, many of us thought to ourselves, "A few months of isolation with the family sounds doable – what could go wrong?", and then flashes of Stephen King's The Shining suddenly came to mind – oh, oh!; and,

WHEREAS, you think its bad now? In 30 years, our country will be run by people who were home-schooled by day drinkers; and,

WHEREAS, looks like its "3rd time is a charm" for meeting at the University of Colorado-Boulder in 2024, and our gratitude to persistent local host Christy McCain; and,

WHEREAS, it has been rumored that some mammalogists convinced their department chairs that the still in their office was for making hand sanitizer; and,

WHEREAS, despite not seeing friends and colleagues in person, the virtual meeting allowed the Society to convene, progress, interact, discuss, and learn;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Society of Mammalogists, meeting in an infinite sea of electrons in vast cyberspace from 14-18 June 2021, sincerely thank Kerrell Dunsmore of The Next Great Event, Daria Cohen and Grant Goldhar of XC-D (our meeting platform), and especially Cody Thompson and the Program Committee for all their hard work in planning and organizing this successful virtual meeting which exceeded our collective expectations, hope that all ASM members and their families stay healthy and well as we strive to come out on the other side of this deadly pandemic, and greatly anticipate our next opportunity to meet again in person in Tucson, Arizona in June 2022.

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