

KAA MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2016

Location: The Fauxes' Home

Present: Jim & Phinie Faux, Carol Littleton, Bruce Norlund, Paul O'Neil, Angel & Suzanne Rosario, Rob Spencer, and Robert Taylor

Secretary's Report:

- The Secretary's minutes were accepted as written. And welcome to our newest member, Rob Spencer of Swanzey.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bob reported the club's balance as of January 1st was \$ 1,530.57 compared to \$1,443 last month.

Upcoming Events:

- *Stay tuned for* possible on-the-fly future club observing sessions. Notifications with details will be by email from Bob if and when clear skies re-appear. We are looking for a date and location before the end of January.
- The monthly observing for Saturday, 1/16, at the Perkin Observatory at the Dublin School has been postponed and Jim will get in touch with Ian Jamieson to reschedule for February.
- Our next club meeting will be on February 12th at 7pm in the Young Student Center at KSC.
- The February 13th scheduled observing session is tentatively scheduled at the club observatory, weather permitting, and beginning at 7:00pm.

Old Business:

- Members' Dues – Bob reported that we have 19 paid members for 2016.
- Observer's Handbook – Bob indicated that the 2016 Editions have been delivered to our members who ordered them.
- New Club "Welcome" brochure – Angel's reformatted new club brochures are being printed and will be available for the February Keene Library astronomy lecture series.

New Business:

- Members' observing report:
 - Ah, the clouds and haze.
- Outreach:
 - Sister Maria Rosaria, St. Benedict's Center in Richmond, of the Federation of North American Explorers and several of her explorers are planning on visiting our observatory this coming spring.
 - On the 6th we had an observing session with Julie's HS astronomy class at the Otter Brook Dam. Attending were 6 HS students and Carol, Bruce, Bob, Julie and one other adult. The Pleiades, Orion, Andromeda, the Milky Way, and the winter constellations were nicely visible.

- Keene Library Lecture Series – Gail has written that the upcoming Library’s astronomy lecture series is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 8th. The series will begin at 7pm and first off is an inquiry into the origins of the universe with UNH Prof. Eberhard Moebius, a professor in the Physics Department and the Space Science Center. Jim will email the full schedule as soon as it is finalized.
[Astronomy Lecture Series: Everything Out of Nothing? - The Story of the Universe Seen with Modern Instrumentation](#)
- Night Sky Network – Jim passed around recently-received NASA publications from the NSN: several excellent wall posters and very comprehensive teaching guides on Citizen's Science. The posters will make great raffle prizes for the lecture series.

Meeting Activities:

- **Astronomical League's [Constellation Hunter Program](#) by Angel/Carol:**
The group discussed the program and unanimously agreed to continue it with the monthly “constellation tests”. Our new constellations for January are: Orion, Camelopardalis, and Taurus.
- **[AL Moon Program](#)**
Angel brought up the thought of beginning the AL Lunar Program of studying 100 features of our moon. The features can be broken into three groups: 18 naked eye, 46 binocular, and 36 telescopic features. The program can be successfully completed with: your eyes, a 7x35 binocular, and 60mm scope. We just need to record the date and time we observe a particular feature. Angel volunteered to prepare a written outline, focusing on each of the four quarters, for us to follow. Interest was unanimous and Angel will follow up for the next meeting.
- **Informal Discussion on all things Astronomical:**
Numerous topics on observing were entertained after the formal part of the evening.

And many thanks to Phinie for providing the excellent refreshments tonight, especially her classic lemon bars.

Jim Faux
January 15, 2016