

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2023

Location: Zoom hosted by Bob

Time: 7pm – 8:00pm

Present: Ed Lotowski, Bruce Norlund, and David Hayward.

Secretary's Report: March business minutes accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Club balance: April \$2,148.25 - March \$2,148.25

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting is scheduled for Friday May 19th at 7pm at the Sullivan observatory followed by observing, weather permitting.
- * At this time there are no outreach observing events scheduled.

Old Business:

- * Observatory work: At this time completing the observatory Vinyl siding of the north and south peaks is on hold, but looking to tackle it sometime this year. The second step is a little loose and needs attention. Perhaps a 2"x4" attached to the riser. Downed branches in the driveway and field from the winter storms need to be picked up.
- * A work day to remove brush and small trees on the west and south walls needs to be scheduled. A 2" X 2" X 20' transition strip on the south side of the observatory is rotted and needs to be replaced or protected in some way to prevent further damage. Also the rubber flap on the north east side has a tear that needs to be repaired.
- * Please email Bob if you have a presentation you would like to present or have a topic you would like us to present on the night sky, telescopes and etc.

New Business:

- * At the May meet at the Sullivan observatory a work session day will be determined.
- * Our VP Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH sometime this summer or fall. He has an observatory with a 10" telescope and plenty of parking space.
- * KAA members need to discuss how to proceed forward with future club meetings, observing sessions, and outreach programs given our current staffing and COVID situation.

Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,

- * Gail with the Keene Library is looking for Solar Eclipse speakers in 2023 to talk about the total solar eclipse coming our way on April 8, 2024. **Susan Rolke will conduct a solar eclipse talk at the Keene library on Tuesday September 5th, 2023. The time has not been set yet.**
- * Susan has volunteered and has been accepted to be the new coordinator to the Night Sky Network for KAA. Jim and Phinie Faux were the previous and original NSN coordinators for KAA.
- * Received a call from Pat Porch, president of SoVerA to see if we were doing any club observing sessions and if so, what the possibility was for SoVerA members to join us at Sullivan at our next observing session. I told him that would be great and observing is scheduled for May 19th after our business meeting.
- * We had a short discussion on the collapse of the Arecibo radio telescope that was presented by Neil deGrass Tyson on Startalk. The big question is should we be building a new one to compete with the new twice as large telescope China built?
- * It was decided with not being able to conduct any observing sessions last year and very few zoom meetings either that there will be **no dues for 2023, but any donations are more than welcome.** Our yearly expenses are about \$200.00, which include website fees, Sullivan taxes .and observatory upkeep costs.

Only members wanting to be members of the Astronomical League, which includes the Reflector magazine need to pay \$7.50.

Please make checks out to the “Keene Amateur Astronomers”

Please mail payments to:

Bob Taylor

P.O. Box 467

West Dummerston, VT 05357