

KAA Monthly Business Meeting  
April 12, 2024

Location: Keene State College in the Young Student Center

Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Present: Bruce Norlund, and David Hayward at KSC and Bob Taylor by phone. Unfortunately we were not able to get on the schools wifi to zoom the meeting.

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

**Upcoming events:**

\* Our next business meeting will be May 10th at the Sullivan observatory, with observing after the meeting, weather permitting.

\* Susan Rolke completed her Solar Eclipse talks, which provide outreach to over 580 students and adults through 8 libraries, the Jaffrey school, girl scouts and to assisted living families with her eclipse presentations.

The Rindge school talk did not take place due to the snow storm March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Susan's talk at the Peterborough library people had to be turned away due to seating capacity.

Susan made front page of the Monadnock Ledger and the Keene Sentinel.

Susan was also on WKBK 1290 talking about the Solar Eclipse on April 3rd.

Susan planed eclipse viewing at the Conant High School where 200 people came and at the Franklin Pierce University where 250 people attended the viewing, which was led by Raven who goes to FPU and is mentored by Susan. .

**Now, that's some kind of intense eclipse presentation schedule, which generated a huge amount of interest in the Solar Eclipse producing a tremendous attendance to the talks and viewing on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Susan and Raven.**

**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 next year.

\* 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.

\* Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH this coming fall. He has an observatory with a 10" telescope at his home and there is plenty of parking space for everyone. Observing at Junie's is now scheduled for late fall when the planets return to the evening sky.

\* Susan has entered her name in a contest to hopefully be chosen to visit the huge telescope at 16,000 feet in chili. They are only take 9 people a year and only 5 get a free trip. The odds are challenging, but she says she's ready for the challenge. Susan has already signed up again for this years tour. **Hopefully, with all the hard work she has done at libraries, schools, other organizations,**

### **Old Business, continued:**

**being a mentor, generating a newsletter and giving a solar eclipse talk on WKBK 1290 would hopefully put her in the top running.**

\* We have several more roof leaks that need to be repaired and Junie and Bruce will tackle them at our next work session. A rotted 4"x 4" x 12" piece at the north-west end of the roof track also needs to be shored up or replaced. A tare in the rubber flap on the north side needs to be repaired.

\* Brush and small saplings need to be removed from the west and south side barriers of the field.

### **New Business:**

\* KAA is looking at resuming our annual spring dinner at Papagalos in May, which was put on hold due to COVID. **The Date has been set for Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

\* **A work session has been scheduled for Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 to noon to address the brush removal and roof repair work.**

\* All the Astronomical League's member astronomy clubs listings on their website throughout the country is down and they have lost all information about each club, so they have requested all the clubs to submit new detail information so they can reenter it in the new system they are installing. **The requested information was filled out and submitted to the Astronomical League by Ed Lotkowski KAA's, AL Alcor.**

\* Susan would like to have a club News Letter that would be posted on the NSN website and on ours. Susan has volunteered to write the News Letter and have it posted and everyone at the meeting agreed to it. **Susan will be posting the first newsletter in May. Susan is requesting everyone to send pictures and/or a one or two paragraphs on your eclipse experience. You can send this information directly to "susanrbr@hotmail.com"**

\* Bob gave a short talk on the various types of variable stars. David had done some research on the topic and provided a lot of additional detailed facts about variable stars and Bruce also added information on the subject.

\* We three gave our solar eclipse experience, which we all viewed from our homes so no totality report from us and all our eclipse experiences were pretty much the same. But two members I know saw totality were Susan and Junie. It was interesting to hear how each one experienced some of the same things, and yet how different the sky conditions in color were and what they were able to see in the night sky during totality. Susan was in New York State and Junie in Montpelier.