

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2020

Location: Sixth Zoom meeting, hosted by Bob

Time: 7pm – 8:30pm

Present: Jeanne Applegate, Ed Lotowski and Bruce Norlund, Jim and Phinie Faux, Carol Littleton, Gabe Klueh. Paul O’Neil

Secretary’s Report: November business minutes accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report: Club balance: December \$1,759.25 - November \$1,795.75

Upcoming events:

* Our next zoom business meeting is February 12th at 7pm.

* Observing – December observing is going to be very exciting with the crescent moon being very close to Jupiter and Saturn on the 16th and 17th after sunset in the southwestern sky. This should be a great photo opportunity. Also on the 21st Jupiter and Saturn will be so close to each other they will look like one star, which will be both viewable at the same time through your telescope eye piece about 45min after sun set. Both events will take place at 14 degrees above the horizon so you’ll need to get a to a clear southwestern sky opening or reach some elevation. Now all we need is clear skies.

Old Business:

* Jeanne Applegate presented a very thorough and informative talk on all the ground breaking astronomy accomplishments of five of the 80 women that analyzed the stars from photographic glass plates from telescopes that lead to understanding stars brightness is dimmed by distance through Henrietta Leavitt’s understanding of Cepheid variables, which helped Hubble discover other galaxy’s at the Harvard observatory in the early 1900’s. The book “The Glass Universe” is the story of the ladies of the Harvard observatory that took measure of the stars. In addition Jeanne’s research on the subject provided links to other articles on the women, telescopes, and observing sites, which was emailed prior to the meeting.

* Observatory work: At this time completing the observatory Vinyl siding of the north and south peaks work is on hold.

* This spring we’ll need to have a work day to tackle the brush on the west and south walls.

* Please email Bob, Carol or Gabe if you have a presentation you would like to do or have a topic you would like us to present on the night sky, telescopes and etc. At this time we have a topic for the July meeting, but we are open to suggestions for the August meeting.

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued

* Due to the virus that has shut us down from doing any club and outreach observing or any other type of events this past year and going forward until we are able resume normal activity the officers have decided to forgo dues for 2021 for all present members. However, club members that want to be members of the Astronomical League and receive the Reflector Magazine will need to pay KAA \$7.50. Any member who wants to donate money to KAA are more than welcome to do so. KAA's annual basic costs for 2021 are \$125.00 for the website; \$51.00 for observatory taxes and \$10.00 for the Astronomical League for a total of \$196.00.

For AL membership and donations, please make checks out to “Keene Amateur Astronomers, Inc” and mail to Bob Taylor, P.O. Box 467, West Dummerston, VT 05357. Thank you.

New Business:

* Jeff Brooks passed away prior to Thanksgiving after a long courageous and difficult battle with stomach cancer. But with his positive attitude and wonderful spirit he continued to help maintain the observatory field with brush removal and other tasks. Our deepest sympathies go out to his widow Cindy, his son Michael, daughter-in-law Jennifer and grand daughter Katelyn. Jeff will be dearly missed. When Jeff's obituary becomes available it will be sent out to our members.

* Check out Susan's new NASA patch award, which Gabe has posted item one on our new website. If you have items or photo's you would like to post on our website, please contact Gabe.

* The 2021 business meeting and observing schedule is attached. NOTE: The calendar indicates business meetings for each month, but we will only be having business meetings every other month until further notice. At this time all observing sessions are postponed until further notice. With any luck we may be able to have our June business meeting at the observatory.

* John Little emailed KAA inquiring about our club, but to date he has not responded to Bob's email.

* Anna Keleman from Element 3 Health called from Florida about their expansion of services to people over 65 in Keene. Their mission is to connect clients to organizations they may be interested in pursuing. Bob mentioned that at this time we are shutdown and for her to contact us again in June to see what our status is.