

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
December 15, 2023

Location: Bruce Norlunds home

Time: 7pm -8:30pm.

Present: Were Bruce Norlund, Phinie Faux, Ed Lotkowski, and Trevor Murray, David Hayward, Susan Rolke, Jeremy Rossiter and by phone Bob Taylor.

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

Treasurer's Report: Club balance: December \$2305.71; November \$2,255.62.

Upcoming events:

* Our next business meeting will be March, which is scheduled for Friday March 15th at 7pm. Location TBD. There will be no January or February business meetings.

* Susan Rolke will be giving total eclipse talks at the following libraries, Fitzwilliam February 28th at 7pm; Jaffrey March 2nd at 11am; Marlborough March 6, at 6:30pm; and Richmond March 21st at 6pm and April 4th at 6:30pm, which is a follow up on sound scrape training.

* Possible observing session in early January with Julie Farhm's high school astronomy class.

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 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.

* Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH this coming spring. He has an observatory with a 10" telescope at his home and there is plenty of parking space for everyone.

* JJ Prior is a 5th grade teacher at the Symonds elementary school in Keene contacted us and is interested in getting guidance and learning more about the upcoming eclipses events from KAA. **Susan has contacted JJ and sent her information and will meet with her in the near future**

* 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 taking 9 people. The odds are challenging, but she says she's ready for the challenge. Best of luck Susan. Susan unfortunately did not make the cut for this years tour but was close on a short cancellation list. Susan has already signed up again for next years tour.

Old Business, continued:

* Recently it was discovered that there are several leaks in the roof coming from nails lifting up from the metal roof, which has caused rot and carpenter ant damage. Junie has addressed the north end leaks and installed a roof support 2"x4"x3' to replace the existing rotted roof support. Two other roof leaks still need to be fixed along with the replacement of a rotted 4"x 4" x 12" piece at the north end of the roof track

* The Chesterfield Librarian Alex Mahoney is looking to have Erik do an astronomy talk in the near future.

* Everyone that has paid their 2024 dues is eligible to receive 2 pair of solar glasses per single/family for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th, which the path of the eclipse will be viewable in Burlington, VT.

* It was decided to reinstate membership dues for the 2024 season, which starts November 1st. The dues are the same as previous years as follows:

Single/family memberships - \$20.00.

Single/family membership including the Astronomical League membership is \$27.50.

The AL membership includes the quarterly Reflector magazine.

Please make checks out to the "Keene Amateur Astronomers, Inc."

Please mail payment to:

Ed Lotkowski

105 Kaufmann Drive

Peterborough, NH 03458

New Business:

* Bob will submit the 2024 club business meeting and observing schedule with December business meeting schedule.

* KAA is looking at the possibility of resuming our annual spring dinner at Papagalos in April or May, which was halted do to COVID. Please let Bob know if you would definitely attend the dinner if the health conditions were okay. If they weren't we would cancel the dinner.

* KAA wants to welcome a new club member Trevor Bayard Murray who lives in Jaffrey. Trevor has a new Celestron 8" programable tracking telescope and he is in the beginning stages of getting it up and operating. Members with programmable telescopes are ready to help him when needed.

* At this time a work session is scheduled for 4/20 or 4/21, which at our scheduled April 12th business meeting will either be confirmed or rescheduled.