

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2021

Location: Seventh Zoom meeting, hosted by Bob

Time: 7pm – 7:40pm

Present: Jeanne Applegate, Ed Lotowski and Carol Littleton.

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

Treasurer's Report: Club balance: February \$1,757.50 - December \$1,759.25

Upcoming events:

* Our next zoom business meeting is Friday April 9th at 7pm.

* Space missions: The United Arab Emirates Orbiter satellite arrived at Mars February 9th, China's robotic rover landed on Mars February 10, and America's Perseverance land rover is scheduled to land on Mars February 18th at 2pm ET. China is also scheduled to launch in July its space station. With any luck the James Web Telescope will finally launch as scheduled on October 31st.

* March 9th and 10th a quadruple formation of Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury and the moon will take place predawn in the SE sky.

Old Business:

* 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 April meeting.

* 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 decide to for go 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.

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued

New Business:

* Susan has received the Patches from NASA and they are in the mail to me. Once I receive them I will contact those that ordered them and determine the best way to deliver them.

* We briefly talked about the live CDC talk with the two women Astronauts aboard the ISS on the 10th, They will be on the ISS for the next 6 months and their main mission is testing (Taking thousands of samples and analyzing them) for all types of pathogens both on the space craft surfaces and on it's crew. As it turns out the ISS is very noisy with a base level of 50dB (being produced from a confined space with many motors running and other noisy equipment), which ramps up to 85dB when working out on the tread mill. They usually wear ear protection of some sort either plugs and muffs. Can be difficult to sleep.

We also talked about the presentation on Darkness, which was about light pollution mainly from the new LED street lighting. Recent data indicates that the most harmful observing lighting is from light traveling horizontally as opposed to vertical lighting. Lighting for both street lighting and home lighting that produces the most blue light and cancer producing are lights rated above a temperature of 2700K. The lighting industry is working to reduce the temperature rating to 2200K, which is where mercury vapor and high pressure sodium lights were rated. Newer LED street light have receivers in the fixture that allows them to remotely reduce or increase the intensity of individual lights if a customer wants.

We also talked about the Cassini mission to Saturn and how it used two bypass of Venus and one of Earth (which took 3yrs.) to save fuel and gain momentum to travel to Saturn and then also use one of Saturn's moons to achieve the same fuel saving and momentum increase to be able to extend the orbiting time of Saturn and its moon for many years to maximize its research and photographing of it. It took a total of seven years to get to Saturn, but the first 3yrs were spent as mentioned above.

If any of you happened to have watched one or all of the missions and have additional comments or corrections, please let me know. Thanks.