

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2023

Location: Zoom hosted by Bob

Time: 7pm – 8:00pm

Present: Ed Lotowski, Jeanne Applegate, and Bruce Norlund

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

Treasurer's Report: Club balance: February \$2,148.25; January \$2,148.25.

Upcoming events:

- * Our next zoom business meeting is scheduled for Friday March 17th at 7pm.
- * At this time there are no club or 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 next spring
- * A brush removal work day to tackle the brush 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 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:

- * It was decided to donate \$50.00 in Jim Faux's memory to the Keene Public Library. **Phinie Faux sent a wonderful note thanking KAA members for our donation in Jim's memory to the Keene Library.**
- * KAA members need to continue discussing how to proceed forward with club meetings, observing sessions, and outreach programs given our current staffing and the COVID situation. Please email Bob your suggestions so he can put together a complete list for further discussion.
- * Gail from 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 one solar eclipse talk at the Keene library in late summer or early fall. **In April Gail will determine dates for Susan's talk, which she can chose from. Gail has received a sufficient supply of solar glasses to hand out for everyone who needs them for the total solar eclipse, which will pass through Burlington, VT.**

Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,

* **The Keene Library will conduct an astronomy event starting February 17, 2023 through March 24, 2023 on how to colonize the Moon, Mars, and other worlds.** This is a STEM program which will include many displays and a hydroponics project on how to grow things to sustain human life on other worlds. Please contact Gail if you have an interest in helping out with this event. **Bruce recently saw the displays and did some hands on activities and highly recommends seeing the program.**

* **Since the Keene library loaner telescope has been repaired Gail indicates the telescope has not been taken out so far, but they are taking out the libraries 20x80 binoculars with tripod. The parents indicate the binoculars are much easier to set up and it is much easier for their kids to view the sky with. I think it is a smart choice if you're just getting started and not looking for more detail magnification of objects and viewing deeper sky objects. It's a one step process with the binoculars compared with several steps for the telescope.**

* Bob did a short presentation on the astronomy impact from the thousands of communication constellation satellites presently in the sky and the fear of losing ground based astronomy with the hundreds of thousands proposed to be launched in the coming years. The number of permit requests around the world are now over 400,000.

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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