

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2021

Location: Tenth Zoom meeting, hosted by Bob

Time: 7pm – 7:45pm

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

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

Treasurer’s Report: Club balance: July \$1829.75 - May \$1807,59 -

Upcoming events:

* Our next business meeting is Friday August 13th at 8pm at the Sullivan observatory followed by observing, weather permitting. By 9pm on August 13th Saturn, Jupiter and Venus will be viewable. We are requesting anyone that is **not** vaccinated to wear a mask and unfortunately will not be able to do observing.

Old Business:

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

* This fall we’ll need to have a work day to tackle the brush on the west and south walls along with brush on the dirt mound behind the observatory.

* 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.

* 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.

New Business:

* Bob scraped the peeling paint from the four corner trim pieces and painted them with white paint along with the door frame and railing.

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* Bob scraped and painted the four corner trim pieces that were peeling with white paint along with the door frame and railing.

* The observatory building tax of \$32.00 was paid to the town of Sullivan.

* The membership dues of \$62.50 for those that joined the Astronomical League this year was paid and the membership list was also submitted.

* Many thanks to Bruce Norlund for his donation to the club of \$100.00.

* A new forum to purchase and sell astronomy equipment is “cloudynights.com” Gabe will post that site in our equipment section under Astronomy News.

* Erik Schmitt, the director Perkin Observatory at the Dublin school offered to do either an in person observing at Dublin or a virtual observing night in August. We all chose virtual observing. Once Erik has set a date Bob will send out an observing notice.

* The Gilsum Public Library is in the process of ordering an Orion 4.5” Sky Blast telescope and modifying it to be a loaner to the public. Up until recently the NH Astronomical Society gave away modified telescopes to libraries that qualified, but they are no longer providing that service so the libraries need to do the modifications themselves. The NHAS website does provide a material list and a description of how to do the modifications, but if you not familiar with telescopes it can be a bit overwhelming. So Bob has volunteered to provide assistance, if needed. The library is also looking to KAA to provide telescope training for the staff and public when conditions allow it.

* Erik has sold Phil Atwoods 13” Dob. Telescope, that he used last year for the astronomy students at the Dublin School for Barbara Atwood to Pat Porch, president of Sovera.

* Erik has offered to give a talk on tracking Exoplanets. A new software program has made it much easier to do with small aperture telescopes, but you need a tracker telescope. None of the members at the meeting were interested in pursuing Erik’s talk at this time, but if anyone is, please let me know.