

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
June 15, 2024

Location: Sullivan Observatory

Time: 7pm to 9pm

Present: Susan Rolke, Kevin Cormick, Junie Esslinger, Ed Lotkowski, Jeremy and Luke Rossiter, and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

* Our next business meeting will be July 12th at 7pm at the Sullivan observatory, with observing after the meeting, weather permitting.

Old Business:

* Thanks to Phinie, Bruce, Ed, Trevor, Christopher, and David for removing all the brush and small trees from the west barrier. Junie and Steve temporarily repaired the north side rubber side flap tare and Junie fixed the west side metal roof leaks, but do to ladder problems he was not able to fix the east side metal roof leaks. This work took place Sunday April 21st.

* The resumption of our annual spring dinner at Papagalos was a real success with nine club members and three guest in attendance. Everyone had a really good time, which is what the occasion is all about and of course the delicious food we always get their.

* 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 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. The rubber flap tare on the north east side has been temporarily repaired but needs a permanent fix. A rotted 4"x4"x12" piece under the roof track at the north west corner needs shored up or replaced

* Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH this coming fall. He has an observatory with a 10" telescope at his home and there is plenty of parking space for everyone. Observing at Junie's is now scheduled for late fall when the planets return to the evening sky.

* 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 take 9 people a year and only 5 get a free trip. The odds are challenging, but she says she's ready for the challenge. Susan has already signed up again for this years tour. Hopefully, with all the hard work she has done at libraries, schools, other organizations, being a mentor, generating a newsletter and giving a solar eclipse talk on WKBK 1290 would hopefully put her in the top running. **Susan indicated she should hear whether she has been chosen for the next trip or not in August or early September.**

New Business:

- * Ed submitted the roster to the Astronomical League of the KAA members that paid to join the Astronomical League to receive their quarterly REFLECTOR magazine and be eligible to receive certificates of completion of their many astronomy programs. Ed also paid the AL membership dues.
- * Susan has completed two newsletters one for May and June, which are just great, with a lot of interesting astronomy topics discussed in detail, great pictures and much more, which all can be found on our website at "keeneastronomy.org". **Susan is requesting everyone to send in any observing photo's you have taken recently and/or an astronomy topic you found interesting or a topic you would like to know more about, please send them to her at "susanrbr@hotmail.com"**
- * The Town has widen Tyler lane road especially at our driveway entrance, which has created a considerable high entrance into our driveway. Ed was able to remove some of the dirt and stones from our driveway entrance enough so we could all drive in to the observatory okay, but more work needs to be done at lowering the driveway entrance. There is also a huge tree root that takes up $\frac{1}{4}$ of the driveway entrance, which probably shouldn't be removed as it may kill the tree. This item will definitely be address at our next work session. Suggestions on how to correct the problem would be very helpful.
- * Bob met with Amy Kreamer the person who is now in charge of the astronomy programs and loaner telescope at the Keene Library a couple of weeks ago to checkout the telescope and talk to her about doing a telescope training session and to see about having Susan do an astronomy talk at the library. In checking out the loaner telescope, the EZ finder scope has been replaced with a kids crosshair finder scope, for what reason and by whom is unknown. The problem is this finder scope base is a single metal loop with three screws holding it in place and it moves very easy, which causes an alignment problem, a double loop would have been acceptable. However to make matters worse the telescope is now in a huge duffle bag and the scope is detached from its base, so the patron has to assemble it. They also have a moon kit, which is a 20x80 pair of binoculars, which looks to be in good condition. To receive the telescope you need to make reservations for it as it is stored in the basement so it takes some time to retrieve it from the basement, which was 20min for her to get for me to look at it. You can take out either the telescope or binoculars for one week. Bob's recommendations were to purchase from Orion the original EZ finderscope 11 and base and a moon map from Celestron. Replace the duffle bag with a LL Bean canvas bag. And increase the time you can have these items to two weeks. Amy has ordered the items from Orion and Celestron and presently waiting their arrival. Status of getting a new telescope bag and take out time is unknown. Bob submitted a monthly telescope and binocular training session program that coincided with viewing the moon after the training session and Amy is looking to do the first training in August. She would like the telescope and binocular training to be separate, which is a good idea. She is also interested in having Susan do an astronomy talk, but she has not gotten back to Susan about it yet.
- * Bob talked to Henry Baker the director of the Frost Free Library in Marlboro and asked him about their loaner telescope usage and he said someone took it out for the solar eclipse and used it for the eclipse as they had purchased a solar filter for it and then donated it to the library. He indicated from time to time someone will take it out. I asked him about doing a moon telescope viewing during their concert series and he indicated they are every Tuesday starting June 18th thru August 6th at 6:30pm, which is taking place at the Pavilion at 41 Fitch Court. It looks like

New Business, continued:

the only possible viewing for KAA would be July 16th. I asked him if he thought we should do a telescope training program, but due to the major construction project taking place this year at the library it would be next year to do a training program and talks.

* The Fitzwilliam Library's concert series is every Thursday starting June 27th and ending August 22nd. If KAA was to do moon viewing at the concerts it would be best viewing July 11th and 18th and August 15th. The concerts start at ?

* A work session was originally scheduled for June 15th, which didn't happen and our next scheduled work session is October 19th. At our July meeting we need to determine if one should take place sooner than October.

* Thank you Mike Brooks for mowing the field it really looks great and surly helps with keeping the bug count down. We really appreciate it.

* After the meeting Junie got the 12 ½ telescope set-up and we all got to view the first quarter moon. Due to how cold it got so soon before the sun set everyone was not prepared for it so we ended the observing before dark as short sleeve shirts didn't quite cut it.