

KAA Monthly Business Meeting Summary
April 17, 2026

Location: Phinie Faux's home
Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Present: Susan Rolke, Bruce Norlund, Jeff Luebke, Ed Lotkowski, Lyle Fischer, Phinie Faux, and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting is May 15th at 7pm at the Sullivan observatory followed by observing, weather permitting.
- * The annual spring dinner at Papaglou's will take place in May. At this point we have not determined the exact date until everyone planning to come provides the dates of these four dates you can attend. They are May 16th and 17th and the 23rd and 24rd. Please let me know your choices by April 30th so a final date can be determined.
- * Capt. Brian Bruede of the Civil Air Patrol would like to have an observatory event in May at the Sullivan observatory and also have Susan conduct another astronomy talk. Bob to contact Capt. Bruede to determine observing dates and have him visit the observatory prior to the event.
- * Katelyn Brooks astronomy class teacher at the Keene H.S. would like to have a "Starbecue" at the observatory, which would include a cook out and star viewing. Bob would like to meet with her teacher at the observatory to make sure the area is going to work for them and to get an idea of their exact time frame in May for the event and their flexibility due to weather.
- * Julie Farhm's H.S. astronomy class is looking to do an observing session in Sullivan in May.
- * Susan Rolke will be giving her talk on Chile at the Jaffrey Library soon, but no date has been set yet.
- * Susan Rolke will be giving her Chile talk at the Moore Free Library in Newfane, VT on Sunday May 31st at 3pm. **Due to a scheduling conflict it has been postponed, but a future dates has not been determined at this time.**

Old Business:

- * Saturday November 29th at 7am on WKBK 1290 AM radio Susan Rolke's interview about her trip to Chile will be aired. **Susan indicated the 22 minute interview went well with many basic questions and short answers. Susan indicated the interview was recorded and when she receives the recording she will send it to us. There may be a follow up interview, which will be more in depth questions. To date Susan has not received the recording or had a request for a second interview.**

Old Business, continued

- * Observatory work items needing to be completed is the replacement of the rotted sill plate at the observatory entrance, removal of the remaining trees on the south barrier, painting a second coat of paint on the observatory trim, fixing the roof nail leak on the west side, removing a couple of rocks and a tree root from the driveway and filling in some low spots in the driveway with dirt from the south side dirt mound.
- * Susan Rolke will be presenting her talk on Chile for the Civil Air Patrol at the Keene Airport January 7th at 6pm. **The program was well attended and they had many great questions for her.**
- * Bob submitted the 2026 business and observing schedule, which will be attached too this report. **Bob to update missing convention dates and submit the revised calendar ASAP.**
- * Susan Rolke recently started an astronomy face book page titled “Keene Astronomy” and to date has 100 followers. She is going to have it linked to our website so we can also receive the latest astronomy news. **The link is missing to the website and Susan will check into what needs to be done to make it happen.**
- * Junie Esslinger feels the 15” Obsession Telescope is only performing at a 13” level. Therefore we will be gathering information Junie has requested so he can determine how to advise us as to what corrections or modification are needed to achieve the 15” design, if he feels it’s possible. **Jeff and Bob will determine the focal length of the telescope and let Junie know.**
- * In an effort to consolidate all our archival material in one place so it’s accessible to all members the Observatory is the logical location, but how to store them safely from critters and the elements is the next question. We first need to determine how much needs to be stored and then determine a containment system for it. **Bob has contacted Junie to see how much material he has and Junie will contact Bob when he has it ready to submit. Once all the archival material has been gathered it needs to be sorted and a master list of the items in the container generated so members will know what material is available and be able to quickly locate the item(s).**

New Business:

- * Susan has submitted the April newsletter, which has a photo of the Artemis crew and rocket and a write up on the Artemis mission. There are pictures of the presentation table that Susan and Kevin set up for the STEM program at the Keene H.S. and an article on primordial black holes as well a detailed April sky maps to help guide you to these objects. 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 scheduled work date of April 25th will take place from 9am to noon to tackle the remaining brush and tree removal on the south barrier and brush removal from the west stone wall.

New Business, continued

- * It was decided to purchase a new mount rather than trying to find a pinion gear to match the clock drive for the 4 ½” telescope. Jeff Luebke man to look into purchasing the mount possibly from “Cloudy Nights”. Other suppliers are listed on our website if that supplier does not have one.
- * Jeff Luebke man to contact Cole Mills to set up a time to help him set up his new Celestron SE 6 telescope.
- * It was decided to make a designated spot on our website for the Seestar S50 photo’s titled “Seestar S50 photo Gallery”
- * Bob contacted Dr. Gregory Shanos who is a pharmacist and a NASA/JPL Ambassador, who I learned about the Seestar S50 in a zoom presentation he did on the telescope for SoVerA a couple of years ago. I wanted to thank him for the talk and to let him know we got one because of his presentation. He has offered to do an astronomy talk for us any time we would like.