

KAA Monthly Business Meeting Summary
Saturday June 13, 2026

Location: Sullivan observatory
Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Present: Susan Rolke, Ed Lotkowski, Nathan and Dominic Heath, Lewis and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting is Friday July 17th at 8pm at the Sullivan observatory followed by observing, weather permitting.
- * Susan Rolke will be giving her Chile talk at the Moore Free Library in Newfane, VT on Thursday June 25th at 7pm.

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 when 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 maybe 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.**
- * 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. **The south barrier trees have been removed or lowered. Bob to contact Dan to finish the observatory work and the rock and root removal to be looked at at our July meeting.**
- * 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**

Old Business, continued

- * 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). Bob has a plastic bin to store the material, but there are concerns that rats or mice might chew through it. Therefore we are going to try and find a more secure container for the archive material. There are also concerns about the material getting musty and moldy. A couple of members have books they would like to donate to the club. At this time we do not have a place for them.**
- * The Keene H.S. astronomy class did meet at Katelyn Brooks family home on Saturday May 16th and they had a very nice outing, but cloudy weather prevented doing any observing.
- * On June 1st at the Sullivan Observatory Julie Farhm's Monadnock H.S. astronomy class students and Capt. Brian Bruede from the Civil Air Patrol enjoyed a great night of observing from several reflector telescopes and a new smart telescope manned by club members Jeff Luebke, Lyle Fischer, David Targan and Erik Schmitt from SoverA. There were eight students and eight adults in attendance.

New Business:

- * Susan has submitted the June newsletter, which has a great article on does Dark Energy exist. Check out also the monthly "What's UP" video for the June sky., which features the summer triangle, the northern cross and much more as well as detailed June 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"
- * 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 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 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"
- * The Taft Hill Farm in W. Townshend, VT has an observatory, which has an 8 ½' reflector telescope built in 1860 by Thomas Cooke in England, which is now available to the public for observing for \$45.00/person. To guarantee clear sky viewing the owner will accommodate last minute viewing requests.

Old Business, continued

- * Dave Nelson is hosting a star party at his house in E. Alstead October 2nd where he will be setting up his 17 1/2" Dob telescope and a 6" telescope and would like KAA to bring telescopes and sponsor the event through the Chase Mills website. Bob thanked him for contacting us to be a part of the event, but he declined the offer to participate as E. Alstead was out of our driving range. Bob wished him well on his observing event.