

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
March 15, 2024

Location: Phinie Faux's home

Time: 7pm - 8:50pm.

Present: At Phinie's were Bruce Norlund, and Susan Rolke, by zoom Ed Lotkowski, Christopher Watt and Heather Toland and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

* Our next business meeting will be April 12 at Keene State College (KSC) in the Young Student Center (YSC) at 7pm and by Zoom.

* Susan Rolke will be giving total eclipse talks at the following libraries along with a student Raven Rogluski she is mentoring from Franklin Pierce University through the NASA eclipse ambassadorship program, which Susan was just awarded as the Eclipse Ambassador in N.H.

March 19th Townsend, MA Public Library at 6pm.

March 20th Rindge Library to host an event with the STEM club.

March 21st Richmond Public Library at 6pm and April 4th at 6pm. In addition to how a solar eclipse occurs and how to safely view them, this presentation will also focus on Citizen Science Eclipse Soundscapes project. We will discuss where to go to complete the Soundscapes training in order to participate on April 4th. We hope everyone attending the second meeting will have completed the training's.

March 23rd Susan and Raven will meet with the Rindge Girl scouts.

March 27th at the Troy Public library at 5:30pm. This talk is for adults.

March 30th at the Langdon Place of Keene to talk to Assisted Living families.

April 1st Raven at Jaffrey Grade School all day to work with K-5 students about the eclipse.

April 2nd Susan and Raven at FPU, this event is open to the public. Raven to lead the eclipse event at the college on the 8th. At this time they are not allowed to publicize the event until the schools marketing and communications give the okay.

April 3rd Susan will be on WKBK 1290 on Dan Mitchell's show at 8:10am.

April 4th follow up at Richmond Public Library at 6pm on the Eclipse Soundscapes project.

April 6th Susan to be at the Keene Public Library at 2pm to talk to Amy about future astronomy endeavors. Everyone is welcome to attend.

April 8th Raven at FPU to lead the viewing of the eclipse.

Prior to the upcoming eclipse events just listed Susan and Raven have already completed presentations at the following Libraries, Fitzwilliam February 28th at 7pm; Jaffrey March 2nd at 11am; Marlborough March 6, at 6:30pm.

Now that's some schedule.

* April 8th Total Solar Eclipse. The Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, VT is closing off the road in front of the museum for eclipse viewing and they will be providing parking at a different location and transportation to the museum. If interested I would call to see what the final details are at

Upcoming events, continued

802-748-2372. They are open 10am to 5pm. They are in totality. Note: There is a significant difference in the duration of totality between being in the center of the sun's path and at the outer edges of totality by 2+ minutes. St. Johnsbury is on the edge at 1min and Burlington at the center at 3:30min. This will not affect seeing Bailey's Beads, the Diamond Ring or the Corona Ring, but it will be a much shorter dark time.

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 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. Also the rubber flap on the north east side has a tear that needs to be repaired.
- * 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.
- * JJ Prior is a 5th grade teacher at the Symonds elementary school in Keene contacted us and is interested in getting guidance and learning more about the upcoming eclipses events from KAA. **Susan has contacted JJ and sent her information and will meet with her in the near future**
- * Susan has entered her name in a contest to hopefully be chosen to visit the huge telescope at 16,000 feet in Chile. They 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 year's tour. Hopefully with all the hard work she is doing with the library eclipse presentations and being a mentor for the eclipse ambassador program will put her at the top of the list. Susan, we all wish success achieving your dream.
- * Recently it was discovered that there are several leaks in the roof coming from nails lifting up from the metal roof, which has caused rot and carpenter ant damage. Junie has addressed the north end leaks and installed a roof support 2"x4"x3' to replace the existing rotted roof support. Two other roof leaks still need to be fixed along with the replacement of a rotted 4"x 4" x 12" piece at the north end of the roof track
- * The Chesterfield Librarian Alex Mahoney is looking to have Erik do an astronomy talk in the near future. **Erik did the talk at the library on astrophotography which was well received and attended.**
- * Everyone that has paid their 2024 dues is eligible to receive 2 pair of solar glasses per single/family for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th.
- * Erik Schmitt gave two astronomy talks to Julie Farhm's High School astronomy class on February 1st and 13th, which the class really enjoyed. He and Julie also conducted an

Old Business, continued:

observing session at the Otter Brook Dam in early January which was well attend by her students.

New Business:

- * KAA is looking at resuming our annual spring dinner at Papagalos in May, which was put on hold due to COVID.
- * A work session has been scheduled for Sunday April 21st from 9 to noon.
- * All the Astronomical League's member astronomy clubs listings on their website throughout the country is down and they have lost all information about each club, so they have requested all the clubs to submit new detail information so they can reenter it in the new system they are installing. We are presently working on filling out the form they have submitted. Apparently this is the only site they have this problem.
- * Susan would like to have a club News Letter that would be posted on the NSN website and on ours. Susan has volunteered to write the News Letter and have it posted and everyone at the meeting agreed to it. We look forward to see the first posting.
- * Bob gave a couple of short talks, one on China's huge space program to the moon, asteroids, comets, communications satellites and Mars. China also has its own space station. He also talked about Planet X, which everyone had some interesting comments about it.
- * A reporter from the Monadnock Ledger contacted Susan and she is going to put an article in the paper about Susan's and Raven's astronomy endeavors. Susan will let us know when the article appears.