

## KAA Monthly Business Meeting

November 17, 2023

Location: Hybrid meeting, both at KSC and by Zoom hosted by Robert Taylor

Time: 7pm -8:30pm.

Present: At KSC in the YSC were Bruce Norlund, Phinie Faux, Ed Lotkowski, and Trevor Murry and by Zoom Bob Taylor

Secretary's Report: October business meeting minuter were accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Club balance: November \$2,255.62; October \$2,086.25.

### **Upcoming events:**

\* Our next business meeting is scheduled for Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Bruce Norlund's home, which is at 267 Gilsum St., Keene and also by ZOOM.

\* Susan Rolke will be giving total eclipse talks at the following libraries, Fitzwilliam February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; Jaffrey March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am; Marlborough March 6, at 6:30pm; and Richmond March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm and April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, which is a follow up on sound scrape training.

### **Old Business:**

A very successful observing session was conducted by Erik Schmitt and his wife Margot for the Chesterfield Library on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup>. There were 30 plus library patrons that got to view the crescent Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, Nebulae, and Galaxies, through Erik's 8" tracker telescope and a 12" Dobsonian telescope. KAA wants to thank Erik and Margot for conducting the observing event. The library coordinator Alex Mahoney was very pleased with the turn out and she reported the patrons were also very excited to be able to view so many celestial objects.

\* 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 work day to remove brush and small trees on the west and south walls needs to be scheduled. 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.

\* At our April business meeting a work session day will be determined to address the tree and brush removal work that needs to be done on the west and south boundaries.

\* Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH this coming spring. He has an observatory with a 10" telescope at his home and there is plenty of parking space for everyone.

## Old Business, continued:

\* JJ Prior is a 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

\* **At this time it was decided to have hybrid meetings with both meeting at the Keene State College in the Young Student Center, at members homes and by Zoom.**

\* 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 taking 9 people. The odds are challenging, but she says she's ready for the challenge. Best of luck Susan. Susan unfortunately did not make the cut for this years tour but was close on a short cancellation list. Susan has already signed up again for next years tour.

## New Business:

\* 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" to replace the existing rotted roof support. Two other leaks still need to be fixed and a replacement of a rotted 4"x 4" x 12" section at the north end. **Junie is hoping to do more work at the observatory before snow begins in earnest.**

\* The 6 moth Sullivan observatory tax of \$47.00 was paid.

\* The Chesterfield Librarian Alex Mahoney is looking to have Erik do an astronomy talk in the near future.

\* Bob will generate the 2024 club calendar for the December meeting.

\* All present members and any new members that have paid their 2024 dues are eligible to receive 2 pair of solar glasses per single/family for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>, which the path of the eclipse will be viewable in Burlington, VT.

\* November 1<sup>st</sup> Junie Esslinger, Ed Lotkowski and I met at the TD bank in Keene to add Ed to our savings account. In the process it was determined by the banker that it would be easier to open a new savings account and transfer the money from the old account to the new one, which we did. **With his transaction Ed is now officially the new club treasurer and all files and documents have been transferred to him. Junie and Bob are still signature on the savings account so if you happen to send Bob or Junie money we can also deposit it.**

\* It was decided to reinstate membership dues for the 2024 season, which starts November 1<sup>st</sup>. The dues are the same as previous years as follows:

Single/family memberships - \$20.00.

Single/family membership including the Astronomical League membership is \$27.50.

The AL membership includes the quarterly Reflector magazine.

Please make checks out to the "Keene Amateur Astronomers, Inc."

Please mail payment to:

Ed Lotkowski

105 Kaufmann Drive

Peterborough, NH 03458