

## KAA Monthly Business Meeting

October 13, 2023

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

Time: 7pm -8pm.

Present: At KSC Bruce Norlund, Susan Rolke, Phinie Faux, and Steve Forbes.  
By Zoom Ed Lotkowski, Erik and Margot Schmitt.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Club balance: October \$2,086.25; September \$2,166.25.

### **Upcoming events:**

\* Our next business meeting is scheduled for Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Keene State College in the Young Student Center at the entrance level and also by ZOOM. Word will be left at the front desk as to where the club members are seated.

\* KAA is cosponsoring with the Keene library to conduct an October 14<sup>th</sup> annular solar eclipse viewing at the library from 1 to 2pm. Susan Rolke will conduct the eclipse viewing for the public assisted by Julie Farhm and Bruce Norlund. KAA will be setting up telescopes, sunspotters and help direct kids and adults on making their own sunspotters. This is a training event for viewing the big total solar eclipse April 8, 2024, which will be 95% coverage in Keene, compared to the 20% in October. We welcome everyone to come and check out the event and lend a helping hand to Susan, Julie and Bruce. **Unfortunately, the event was canceled do to cloudy weather**

\* Susan Rolke will be giving total eclipse talks at the following libraries, Fitzwilliam, Jaffrey, Richmond and Frost Free in the coming months. When the dates are determined they will be posted. Bob is to check on other libraries interested in eclipse talks, which are Chesterfield and Westmoreland.

### **Old Business:**

A really great observing session was conducted by Erik Schmitt for Julie Farhm's H.S. astronomy students at the Sullivan observatory on September 27<sup>th</sup>. There were 20 plus students and parents there to view Nebulae, Galaxies, and Saturn through Erik's two tracker telescopes, a 12" and a 8". Erik did a wonderful job of teaching everyone about the objects they were viewing. Junie was also able to clean the mouse material deposited on the 15" mirror telescope to join in with the viewing session. It was the biggest student turn out to date and Julie indicated the kids were still talking about it the next day in school.

\* 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.

## **Old Business, continued:**

- \* 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 the October 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. **No date was determined, but some members indicated they would work on the projects as time allowed them.**
- \* 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.
- \* KAA members need to discuss how to proceed forward with future club meetings, observing sessions, and outreach programs given our current staffing and off and on COVID situation. This I'm sure will be an ongoing situation. With Erik Schmitt's help we will be able to conduct more observing sessions. **It was decided to do a hybrid meeting with both meeting at the college 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:**

- \* Thank you Mike for mowing the observatory field for the observing event, we all really appreciate you doing this for us, keeping the observatory field in such great shape.
- \* 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.
- \* 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**
- \* In a recent trip to the observatory the 15" telescope mirror had been heavily dirtied up by mice chewing up a protective matting requiring cleaning before it could be used. **Fortunately the problem was able to be taken care of by Junie, by carefully washing the material away. No harm was done to the mirror. The 12.5" telescope mirror will be looked at next.**

## New Business, continued:

\* Bob went to the Chesterfield Library to see what their astronomy interests were and found that they wanted someone to check out their donated telescope and would like to have an observing session, telescope training and an a talk on the night sky. The telescope is a Mead Telstar 3" programmable telescope with a .95" focuser and the finderscope holder is broken. Bob recommended the telescope be discarded and if they were interested in doing a telescope loaner program to purchase an Orion Star Blast 4.5" and make the modifications to it per the NHAS web instructions. At that point KAA would conduct a telescope training session. KAA will also conduct an observing session once the library determines a date and the lighting at the library will allow viewing. **Bob checked out the lighting and it shouldn't be of any concern for observing and the skies are pretty wide open for viewing. Weather permitting an observing event is scheduled for November 8, with a backup date on the 9<sup>th</sup> hosted by Erik Schmitt. A time has not been set yet.**

\* To maintain our website domain name the annual charge, which was \$80.00 was paid by Gabe and reimbursed by the club.

\* Bob talked about the new revelation that Susan brought up at her Eclipse talk at the Keene Library that the moon does not loop around the earth as we all have been led to believe.

\* Election of officers for 2024: All positions are available, President, VP, Secretary and treasurer. Those seeking reelection are Bob Taylor for President, Junie Esslinger for VP, Bruce Norlund for secretary and a new candidate for treasurer is Ed Lotkowski, who is recommended for the position, which Bob has been since 2007. Gabe Klueh will continue as the Web Master.

### **Election Results:**

**President- Robert Taylor**

**Vice President- Junie Esslinger**

**Secretary- Bruce Norlund**

**Treasurer- Ed Lotkowski**

**Web Master- Gabe Klueh**

\* 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: **At this time until Ed is able to be added to the TD Bank saving account and the all of the files are transferred from Bob to Ed, Bob will still act as treasurer so for the time being the dues are to be sent to him as indicated below. Once Ed is on the savings account and has the treasures files a notice will be issued to that effect and his mailing information will be submitted to everyone.**

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:

Bob Taylor

P.O. Box 467

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