

## KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2023

**Location:** Zoom hosted by Bob.

**Time:** 7pm – 8:00pm

**Present:** Susan Rolke and Ed Lotowski

**Secretary's Report:** August business minutes accepted as submitted.

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

### **Upcoming events:**

- \* Our next business meeting is scheduled for Friday October 22nd at 7pm at Keene State College in the Young Student Center at the entrance level. 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 at 12:00pm. 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 a helping hand to Susan, Julie and Bruce.
- \* Erik Schmitt will be conducting an observing session for Julie Farhm's H.S. astronomy students at the Sullivan observatory the week of Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the observing and/or to set up your telescope for viewing, which will give the students a bigger perspective of the different types of telescope available. When the observing day and time are determined an Email notice will be sent out.
- \* 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:**

- \* **Susan Rolke gave a really great talk on the upcoming eclipses at the Keene Public Library Auditorium, which was very informative and well illustrated. Unfortunately, there was a very low turn out for her talk, which has yet to be determined why.**
- \* 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 this year.

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes, 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.
- \* Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH this fall. 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.**
- \* 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, 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.
- \* Correction, Marti Fiske is the director of the KPL. At this time no one has been chosen to fill Gail's position. A Caroline Sweeter or Amy Kraemer are possible candidates.
- \* 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..**
- \* Material from the asteroid Bennu is to be dropped in Utah September 24<sup>th</sup>. It was successfully dropped and will be sent to labs to be analyzed.

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,**

\* 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"

Please mail payment to:

Bob Taylor

P.O. Box 467

West Dummerston, VT 05357