KAA

April 16, 2010 business meeting summary

1) The remaining Observatory work items to be tackled next spring are: Top priority items A thru H, (also marked with *) will be done first. We will determine at our May meeting if any additional items should be added to the May work session. Items with asterisk * will be addressed first.
    a. Fix driveway potholes with dirt from pile at south end of observatory and remove remaining problem stones *.
    b. Install handrail for entrance steps or replace steps with handrail attached.*
    c. Install white marking tape around inside entrance doorframe instead of LED lights and paint steps white*.
    d. Purchase three step ladder with hand rail for telescope viewing from Home Depot.*
    e. Install red tape and fluorescent paint on driveway entrance cable*.
    f. Investigate widening driveway entrance.*
    g. Remove cement-viewing piers. Paint them white if removal not possible at May work session.*
    h. Check width and thickness of steps tread (Jim Fox has risers if replacement needed).*.
    i. Install concrete base and roof track support member in northwest corner.
    j. Install new roof track support brackets at northeast corner.
    k. Remove wood debris to the dump.
    l. Finish clean up of tree removal.
    m. Install stone at bases of roof support posts
    n. Paint top of roof track support steel posts.
    o. Check on putting in an entrance ramp.
    p. Junie has the fabrication set-up and material to make two new roof brackets for installation during next springs work session, with the remaining four brackets to be made and installed next summer.
    q. Put hedge along west side. Blue spruce, hemlock.
    r. Put a small bucket of sand for steps inside of entrance door*.
2) Club to procure a dedicated plaque in honor of Phil, and procure a second plaque listing names of contributing honoree members, which was tabled until Phil's plaque has been procured. Keith has ordered the maple plaque and it will be ready for pick up April 23rd. The supplier was not able at this time to incorporate Phil's picture or KAA's logo.
3) A partial list of the past and present club officers has been determined. This list will be posted on our web site shortly.
4) Keith has sent out letters indicating the services KAA can provide to the Keene Public Library, Peterborough Library, Mt. Caesar Union Library & Brattleboro-Brooks public Library. Keith conducted a presentation on the "moon" at Mt. Caesar Library April 10th. The next scheduled event will be an observing session at the Brattleboro Brooks Library Wednesday Sept. 29th at 8:30pm. The Peterborough Library would like us to do a slide show presentation on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday nights sometime during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of June and the Keene Library has not decided on an event to date. Jim will contact Gail to finalize the Keene Library program.
5) After our meeting Keith did two software presentations. One called the "Starry Night" and the other "The Sky". Both sky simulation software programs were issued from Orion with the purchase of their telescopes. The programs allow up to the minute sky simulation at any site location you may be at in the world and also has the capability to look back in time to the sky arrangements at any date and location of your choosing. It was a very interesting and informative presentation.
6) Keith submitted a formal proposal for conducting a beginner workshop on how to "Observe with a Dobosian Telescope", which was approved by the members. The classes are to start in May. The dates are: first class May 20, 21, and 22; Second class May 27, 28, & 29; third class June 3, 4, & 5th The second two dates of each session are make-up dates. The cost will be $15 per person for all three

classes. The max class size is six people. This program is for people 14 and older. The classes will run from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. Keith's ad will go into the Keene Monadnock Shopper the last week of April for one week at $16.80 and see what the response is. At that time we will make a decision on the need for further advertising in the Shopper. The flyer will also be distributed to the local libraries and posted at KSC.

7) Six Dobsonian telescope bases were made by Jim Fox's brother – 5-16" dia. and 1-20" dia.. Of the 5-16" bases 2 are for KAA, one for Junie, one for Bob's 4 ½" Orion and one spare. KAA will build two Dobsonian telescope bases for the two Junie donated 6" – f/8 telescopes. The sixth is a 20" base for Junie's 10" telescope. The two 6" – f/8 telescopes will be used for training and be loaned out. Jim delivered the bases to Junie's barn. The sides to the bases have been delivered to Jim Faux' garage. Junie has not picked up the side supports from Jim Faux to date. Some assembly issues, per Junie, have arisen on the prototype. Until they are corrected the date for assembling all of the bases is on hold.
8) At the May meeting details will have to be formulated on how to track loaned telescopes, amount of telescope deposit, length of loan, how many eye pieces to be included per telescope. We also need to discuss how to assess any telescope damages and costs back to borrowers.
9) The members of KAA want to welcome our newest members Jane and Jim Wing and their two sons Matt and Eric, who live in Gilsum. And to Dale Moore and Debora Haskel, who live in Peterborough. We really appreciate you joining our club and we will do everything we can to full fill your astronomy needs.
10) Dale to contact Nellie Herman at the Dublin School to find out our new contact for the astronomy program. Jim Faux will then make contact with this person.