

KAA August 5, 2011 business meeting summary

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the June meeting are: All items except 4 & 5.
- 2) As you no doubt assumed we had no official business meeting in June or July, but observing did take place both months and work was completed.
- 3) **The next Observatory work session is scheduled for Sept. 24th or 25th from 9am to noon. The items to be tackled are: Please let me know if you plan to come so I can contact you if any change occurs or weather issues arise.**
 - a. **Finish removing last 25% of bottom 8" of wall particle board.**
 - b. **Apply Chreocoat on base plates and roof support members.**
 - c. **Mow field.**
 - d. **Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim to procure stones.**
 - e. **Finish removing saplings along west side of observatory.**
 - c. **Junie will fabricate and install new roof retainer brackets ASAP.**
- 4) The Six Dobsonian telescope bases and side supports are in Junie's possession. 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.
- 5) Contact new tenants across entrance to observatory and explain who and what we are, and to let them know their welcome to join us at our observing sessions. We need their email and phone number to keep them in the loop. This is to also help with the lights should we do outside the observatory observing.
- 6) Obsession telescope issues:
 - a. Determine if a ramp for the Obsession telescope is necessary to get it in and out of the observatory when taking it on the road or just breaking it down and reassembling it at the location is on hold until the optics issues are resolved and the cart handle configuration is modified.
 - b. One other issue with the 15" Obsession is its carrying cart. The handles are only 6" off the floor and need to be modified so the telescope can be lifted and moved while in a standing position rather than in a bent over position. Junie is looking into a new handle arrangement.
 - c. **Junie conducted a star test on the Obsession and re-collimated the primary mirror and repositioned the secondary mirror to achieve the best possible optics condition given the issues with the telescope during the June observing session. The observing is at least equal to the 12 1/2" and possibly a little better. It is very sensitive to movement when walking around in the observatory**
- 7) Junie was able to purchase a 2" motorized focuser at Stellafane, which according to the seller is the only focuser that has a chance of matching up with our unique mounting system. After the business meeting Junie conducted focusing measurements with the existing 1 1/4" focuser and the new 2" focuser using different size eyepieces. Junie will present these measurements to David and he will let Junie know whether the 2" is compatible or not, and if so, what modifications will be required.

If modifications are required Junie will get pricing for them. Junie has borrowed the existing 1 1/4" focuser and will return it August 26th for our next business meeting and observing session. Presently, the 12 1/2" telescope is not usable without the focuser, but the Obsession is available.

- 8) The club's 40th observatory anniversary barbecue/cookout has been moved to October and will now be a restaurant event. The exact date and location will be decided on at our next business meeting, which will be August 26th at 7pm at the observatory. Dale Moore to check with Dublin school on possible dining there and then doing observing afterwards. Other possibilities are the Olive Garden and the Summit steak house. Possible dates: 10/9, 10/15, 16, 22, 23.
- 9) Jim Faux spoke to Gail at Keene Public Library about a room for our meeting sessions. Rooms are free during the week from 9am to 6pm. From 6pm to 8:45pm the charge is \$20 Monday thru Thursday. Fridays 6pm to 8:45pm is \$10 plus a \$10 charge for cleanup. Jim to contact Nancy Vincent for more clarification on the Friday night costs. Maybe we could do the cleanup so that that \$10 cost could

waived. We are looking for a room to setup our laptop computers, projector and screen to conduct our astronomy presentations. Jim **Faux to check with the Keene Recreational department as a possible meeting location.**

- 10) Jim Fox will re-connect with the Dublin School and Jonathan Weiss.
- 11) Dale Moore will be KAA's listed contact on the NH astronomical Society web page, in place of Junie.
- 12) Due to the bad weather in June Tim Goggin's and Erin Goodwin's students were not able to come for observing, so they will be rescheduled for fall observing.
- 13) NASA has announced the availability of a poster exhibit **From Earth to the Solar System (FETTSS)**. There are over 90 images available for download. FETTSS has been exhibited all over the world in shopping malls, metro stations, parks, airports, and other unique locations, reaching millions of people in such locales as New York City, Reykjavik, Alexandria, Shanghai, and Lima and with the Keene Public Library. **Gail at the library is interested in the posters, but we need to find funding for printing the posters and building frames to display the pictures. We should discuss venues and other activities that might be part of the exhibit, i.e. guest speakers.**
- 14) Review the process to confirm the monthly observing session and who will be attending.
- 15) The September business and observing sessions have been moved up to August 26th and 27th as the original sessions were Sept 2 and 3rd, which are over Labor Day weekend.
- 16) Gail with the Keene Library appears to be on the verge of getting a telescope from the NH Astronomical Society to loan out to library members. The library is requesting that a KAA member be responsible for helping the library maintain the telescope. We're looking for volunteers anyone interested, please let me know.
- 17) At this time Gail is also looking for suggestions on topics for the February 2012 astronomy series. Please let me know what you would be interested in and I will pass it on to Gail or you can contact Gail directly.
- 18) Investigate replacing the wire and rope cable for opening and closing the observatory roof as the existing cables appear to be at a point where they may have reached their life span. Determine replacement cables availability and their costs over the next couple of months.
- 19) Subsequent to the meeting Junie's machinist said he can modify the 2" focuser to fit our mounting base and provide a new flange for the 1 1/4" focuser. It's quite possible both focusers will be completed and available for the August 26th business meeting and observing.

