

KAA October 8, 2010 business meeting summary

- 1) The remaining Observatory work items to be tackled next spring are:
 - a. Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim to procure stones.
 - b. Finish removing saplings along west side of observatory.
 - c. Junie will fabricate and install new roof retainer brackets ASAP.
 - d. Remove the bottom portion of wall particle board and any other damaged sections. Jim to look into taking removed particle board to the dump some Saturday morning. Also determine if we could use existing foam paneling as a bulletin board.
 - e. Relocate wall cabinet next to entrance door ASAP.
- 2) We had another very successful work session on Sept. 25th thanks to Jim Fox, Chris, Dale, myself and Mike who loaned us his rider mower and generator.
 - a. Chris has resurrected our lawn mower by fixing the carburetor; Dale brought his shop vac and vacuumed the observatory spotless, while Jim mowed the field with Mike's mower.
 - b. Some odds and end telescope items were removed from the observatory.
 - c. Prior to the work session Mike had removed the wood chips and rotten wood from the field. Jeff had also cut down the brush at the east side of the field prior to the work session
 - d. We got some west side brush trimming done and stained and polyed the handrail.
 - e. We adjusted the 12 ½" telescope focuser, which appears to be working correctly now.
 - f. Jim installed a bike tire around the square steel pier for protection.
- 3) Phil's plaque is in the observatory and will be installed ASAP.
- 4) The observing session at the Brattleboro Brooks Library Thursday September 23rd went very well as the skies cleared for us around 7:50pm and stayed that way till 9:30pm.
- 5) 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.
- 6) At the November meeting details will have to be formulated on how to track loaned telescopes, amount of telescope deposit, length of loan, how many eyepieces to be included per telescope. We also need to discuss how to assess any telescope damages and costs back to borrowers. Phinie issued a paper on "How to Borrow Equipment", but apparently there are other papers on the subject that will be submitted at the November meeting that will be added to the final loan evaluation process.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) Jim Faux will call and reach out to John at the Dublin School and see how KAA might be able to help them with the new observatory by November meeting.
- 10) Jim Fox and I met with Gail and she has set aside December 7th and 14th along with every Tuesday in February for astronomy presentations at the Keene Public library. To date no speakers have been chosen.
- 11) The election of officers was held and the present officers were reelected for 2011. Jim Fox – President; Phinie Faux VP; Bob Taylor Secretary&Treasurer.
- 12) Dale Moore will conduct a presentation on "GALAXY ZOO" at the November meeting.
- 13) KAA is going to generate a member list with phone numbers and email addresses, which will be available to all members. This list will be available by December. Anyone not wanting his or her name on the list, please let me know ASAP.

- 14) 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.
- 15) Investigate buying and installing a 2" focuser and new mounting plate for 12 1/2" telescope. Should order focuser first and then match mounting plate to it. Junie to contact Tony, who is a telescope parts supplier, and bring some sample focusers for us to review.
- 16) Adjust mirror on 15" telescope to shorten focal length to allow focuser full travel, per Junie. Then perform star test. Once this is done Junie will determine if a finder scope purchase for this telescope would be beneficial
- 17) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the November meeting are: 1e, 3, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, & 15.
- 18) After the meeting we adjourned to the observatory and got in several objects, especially Jupiter just before the clouds appeared. Saturday night was excellent viewing under crystal clear skies.