

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2020

Location: Third Zoom meeting, hosted by Bob Taylor

Time: 7pm – 7:45pm

Present: Jeanne Applegate, Ed Lotowski and Bruce and Pat Norlund, Erik and Margot Schmitt, Paul O’Neil, Bob Taylor.

Secretary’s Report: July minutes accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report: Club balance: August \$1,795.75 – July \$1,800.35.

Upcoming events:

* SoVerA will host a presentation on the “James Web Telescope” for their September 8th Zoom meeting at 7pm, to which we are all invited. You can access the Zoom meeting from SoVerA’s home page.

Old Business:

- * The Keene Library hosted a wonderful zoom meeting on “Space Junk “by Jonathan McDowell from the Chandra Observatory that was very informative.
- * Observatory work: At this time, completing vinyl siding of the north and south of the Observatory’s peaks work is on hold.
- * Sometime this fall we’ll need to have a workday to tackle the brush on the west and south walls.
- * We hope you all were as successful as Bob at viewing comet Neowise. Bob was fortunate to view it several times.
- * Please email Bob, Carol, or Gabe if you have a presentation you would like to do or have a topic you would like us to present on the night sky, telescopes, etc..

New Business:

* The Dublin School astronomy director Erik Schmitt put out a notification that they needed telescopes for the astronomy class as each student has to have their own telescope due to the virus. KAA was able to provide two - one 12” reflector telescope with a Dob base from Paul O’Neil and a 13” Odyssey reflector telescope with a Dob base from Barbara Atwood.

- * The Perkin Observatory's 14" telescope at Dublin has been replaced with a new 20" telescope. Unfortunately, Erik determined after the installation that the primary mirror had an astigmatism and the mirror was also pinched. The mirror has been returned to the manufacturer for correction. So, at this time Erik reinstalled the 14" for use remotely from his home for the SoVerA meetings and other observing occasions.
- * Erik provided an update on the Perkin Observatory situation and that he is hopeful the 20" mirror will be returned before school starts. The 20" telescope will provide 95% of the astrophotography imaging.
- * It appears for the time being that our business meetings will be conducted via Zoom.
- * We also discussed the situation of the ever increasing space junk problem. The YouTube video was not only informative about space junk but also about satellite orbits.
- * Our next Zoom business meeting is September 18th at 7pm.
- * Observing reports: Bob reported viewing Jupiter, Saturn, and the Owl cluster on August 17. The conditions were very good and he was able to demo a 15+ year-old 11mm Tele Vue Nagler 1 1/4" eyepiece against newer inexpensive Orion Plossl eyepieces, which all seemed to provide the same viewing clarity and magnification as the Nagler. However, matching millimeter size eyepieces the Nagler gave 3 times more eye relief than the Orion (15/16" opening vs 5/16").

Submitted by Robert Taylor

Edited by Jim Faux