

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2023

Location: Zoom hosted by Bob.

Time: 7pm – 8:00pm

Present: Susan Rolke and Ed Lotowski

Secretary's Report: May business minutes accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Club balance: August \$2,166.25; May \$2,198.25

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting is scheduled for Friday September 15th at 7pm location TBD, either by zoom or at KSC.
- * Susan Rolke's eclipse talk at the Keene Public Library Sept 5th at 6 pm in the Auditorium or by zoom. To access zoom go to the library calendar for that date and time and preregister for the talk.
- * KAA is cosponsoring with the Keene library to conduct an October 14th annular solar eclipse viewing at the library. Any one interested in participating in helping out at the event, please let me know.

Old Business:

- * 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 The second step is a little loose and needs attention. **Junie has fixed the step problem.**
- * 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 September business meeting a work session day will be determined to address the tree and brush removal work that needs to be done.
- * Junie indicated he is interested in fixing the 8" telescope that Angle left the club. He has an 8" mirror that would replace the present obsolete one.
- * 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.

Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,

* 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 volunteered and has been accepted to be the new coordinator to the Night Sky Network for KAA. **Susan is now the Astronomy Ambassador for KAA through the NSN program.**

* 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:

* 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.

* Gail Zacharin who is the youth director at the Keene Library is retiring August 31st after 23yrs. KAA has been working with Gail for the past 15yrs starting with the library receiving the loaner telescope and all the astronomy programs that the library put on. We all wish Gail a wonderful retirement. Marti Fiske will now be the new youth director starting Sept 1st. Susan and I zoomed with Marti about the eclipse events on the 28th.

* JJ Prior is a 5th 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 volunteered to contact JJ and visit with her at school.

* Thanks Muriel for cutting down the tall grass and brush on the west, east and north sides of the observatory and to Bruce for cutting down the sumac at the south end and on the east side.