

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
August 16, 2024

Location: Sullivan Observatory
Time: 7pm to 9:00pm

Present: Susan Rolke, Steve Ringland, Jeremy Rossiter. Aram Alcalayand, Ammiel Alcalay, Nathan Heath, Dominic Heath and Bob Taylor.

Secretary's Report: July business meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting will be September 13th at 7pm at Keene State College in the Young Student Center. Check at the front desk for where we are meeting.
- * The International Moon observing is September 14th at the Ashuelot park at 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Everyone is more than welcome to come and set up their telescope. Susan and I will be setting up a telescope and the Keene Library will setup their 20x80 binoculars and have a kids moon game table setup.
- * The Frost Free library in Marlborough, NH has requested KAA to do an observing session there this fall. At this time no date has been determined.

Old Business:

- * Susan and Bob conducted a telescope training for the Keene Library staff July 25th at 10:30am. This training was to get several staff members familiar with the procedures to check **in** and **out** the telescope.
- * Susan and Bob conducted a public telescope training for the Keene Library Thursday August 15th at 6:30pm. Due to rain the moon observing after the training was not possible.
- * 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.
- * 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. The rubber flap tare on the north east side has been temporally repaired but needs a permanent fix. A rotted 4"x4"x12" piece under the roof track at the north west corner needs to be shored up or replaced. There are two roof leaks on the east side that need to be repaired. There is also a new roof leak at the north west corner of the building, which has renewed carpenter ant activity producing considerable wood shavings causing wood damage.
- * Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH this coming fall. He has an observatory with a 10" telescope at his home and there is plenty of parking space for everyone. Observing at Junie's is now scheduled for late fall when the planets return to the evening sky.

Business meeting Continued.

* The Town has widen Tyler lane road especially at our driveway entrance, which has created a considerable high entrance into our driveway, which needs to be lowered to make the entrance easier especially for low frame cars.

New Business:

* Susan has submitted the August newsletter, which details the international moon event, optical transient astronomy, star maps, and double star viewing, which can be found on our website at "keeneastronomy.org". **Susan is requesting everyone to send in any observing photo's you have taken recently and/or an astronomy topic you found interesting or a topic you would like to know more about, please send them to her at "susanrbr@hotmail.com"**

* A work session is set for Saturday October 19th from 9am to noon at the Observatory.

* Steve Ringland brought his 8" Dob to the meeting, which he just had the primary mirror re coated and wanted to have the mirrors collimated. The collimation test showed the secondary mirror appears to be way off center. The secondary mirror realignment was not possible at that time as the proper size screw driver was not available. Further mirror collimation will be none ASAP.

* Dominic Heath brought his Sarblue 60mm telescope, which he has had a double image problem for a while and thought it maybe a focuser issue. Junie has indicated that with that size telescope the coatings on the lenses after a certain amount of use start to breakdown and cause this double image problem. To be perfectly certain of this diagnosis a star test is required.

* Dominic also brought his 6" Dobsonian telescope which he felt was not giving a clear enough image. In doing a collimation test both the primary and secondary mirrors need some adjustment. The primary mirror was centered, but the secondary was not as the required size screw driver was not available. He and his dad will finish the collimation of the secondary mirror.

* Dominic's 6" telescope was set up and through thin clouds and smoke we were able to see a yellowish orange moon. He indicated a comet may become visible around October 19th.

* The observatory entrance hand rail has recently broken and it is in the process of being replaced.