

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
December 6, 2024

Location: Bruce Norlund
Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Present: Bruce Norlund, Ed Lotkowski, Susan Rolke, Kevin McCormick and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting will be March 14, 2025 at 7pm by ZOOM.
- * The Frost Free library in Marlborough, NH has requested KAA do an observing session in spring at the library.

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 at the April 26th work session
- * 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 were repaired by Junie. **The leak in the NW corner of the observatory thought to be from the roof appears to be actually from the metal track that the roof rolls off on. Junie drilled out the weep holes to eliminate the water leak that is probably causing rotting of the 2"x4"'s, 4"x4"'s and the siding wood and carpenter ant problems. The fix needs to be verified this spring.**
- . * 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. **During the work session October 19th Ed Lotkowski was able to lower the driveway entrance to an acceptable level for now.**
- * The October 19th work session was a real success with a number of trees and brush removed from the south perimeter thanks to Ed, Junie and Phinie, but some more removal is needed at our next work session in April. Steve Ringland was able to weed wack around the 8 roof support posts, the whole grass area between the posts and around the entire observatory and Phinie Faux removed all grass clippings to the drop area.
- * Bob was able to scrap and paint two of the metal cabinets, the 8 roof support posts and the wood at the four corners of the observatory.

Old Business continued,

- * Erik Schmitt conducted the observing session for the Frost Free Library November 4th at the Marlborough Middle School. Unfortunately there were only 4 people in attendance. But for those in attendance they were able to see Saturn the moon and some galaxies and nebula.

New Business:

- * Susan has submitted the December newsletter, which can be found on our website, which presents the DESI (Dark Energy Spectroscopic Investigation) survey and dark energy protection along with how to locate our giant planet Jupiter above the moon December 15th. There are interesting articles about each of these events along with links which provide more detail information about the events. The newsletter 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"**
- * **In an effort to help Susan with paying for her trip to Chili the members in attendance all agreed for KAA to donate \$250.00 to her trip. Susan has to pay for all her transportation expenses, but once she is in Chili her expenses are paid for.**
- * Smart telescopes seem to be the latest thing like the ZWO Seestar s50 for \$500.00, the Unistellar Equinox 2, for \$2000.00 and the Celestron Origin for \$4000.00. Because they require WIFI to work the question is can we generate a WIFI signal at the observatory or any other non wifi location. Kevin McCormick is going to see what is possible with generating a WIFI hot spots.
- * Bob presented information on the renaming of the Hubble Constant and the Hubble law. The Hubble law has already been renamed the Hubble-Lemaitre Law, but the Hubble Constant has not, but many Astrophysicists feel it should be the Hubble- Slipher constant. Both Slipher and Lemaitre provided significant contributions for Hubble to come up with his constant and Law.
- * The 2025 KAA calendar of events is enclosed.
- * Our fiscal new year starts November 1, so the 2025 dues are due in October and they are the same as last year at \$20.00, but the Astronomical League dues are up from \$7.50 to \$9.00.

Single/family membership - \$20.00.

Singlefamily membership including the Astronomical League membership is \$29.00.

The AL membership allows you to get awards for completing their astronomy programs and the quarterly "Reflector magazine".

Please make checks out to the "Keene Amateur Astronomers, Inc.

Please mail payment to:

Ed Lotkowski

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