

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2023

Location: Zoom hosted by Bob

Time: 7pm – 8:30pm

Present: Ed Lotowski, Bruce Norlund

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

Treasurer's Report: Club balance: January \$2,145.25, October \$2,085.25 .

Upcoming events:

- * Our next zoom business meeting is scheduled for Friday February 17th at 7pm.
- * At this time there are no club or outreach observing events scheduled.

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 next spring
- * A brush removal work day to tackle the brush 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 side has a tear that needs to be repaired.
- * Please email Bob if you have a presentation you would like to present or have a topic you would like us to present on the night sky, telescopes and etc.

New Business:

- * It was decided to donate \$50.00 in Jim Faux's memory to the Keene Public Library.
- * KAA members need to continue discussing how to proceed forward with club meetings, observing sessions, and outreach programs given our current staffing and the COVID situation. Please email Bob your suggestions so he can put together a complete list for further discussion.
- * Gail from the Keene Library is looking for Solar Eclipse speakers in 2023 to talk about the total solar eclipse coming our way on April 8, 2024. Susan Rolke will conduct one solar eclipse talk at the Keene library in late summer or early fall. **Gail recently indicated it will be spring before she schedules the program.** Susan is also looking forward to go to Texas to view the solar eclipse if

she can get the time off from teaching as the eclipse is on a Monday. There is a 70% better chance of clear skies in Texas in April than Burlington Vermont-for sure. **To date the school administration has not made any decision on her time off request.**

Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,

- * **The Keene Library will conduct an astronomy event starting January 25, 2023 through March 25, 2023 on how to colonize the Moon, Mars, and other worlds.** This is a STEM program which will include many displays and a hydroponics project on how to grow things to sustain human life on other worlds. Please contact Gail if you have an interest in helping out with this event.
- * The Keene library loaner telescope has been repaired. As it turned out the finder scope base broke and could not be attached to the telescope base so a new finder scope was installed. Also the adapter that screws on to the eyepiece and then the plastic threaded end screws into the metal threaded focuser was damaged. The plastic threads on the adapter had worn down to a point that only a couple were attaching. Gail procured the Loctite 425 and Bob purchased and donated the adapter to the library and after a month long process Bob was successful at getting the telescope back in good usable condition.
- * The past and present officers list on our web site has been updated.
- * KAA paid \$35.00 building tax to the town of Sullivan
- * Thanks to donations from Bruce Norlund, Ed Lotowski, Jeanne Applegate, Carol Littleton, Steve Ringland, and Bob Taylor our finances at present are good.
- * The 2023 club business meeting, observing and non club events calendar will be issued with this report.
- * The SOFIA project that Susan Rolke took part in in 2021 has been canceled due to cost. Fortunately she was able to partake in that program before it was canceled and to share it all with us.
- * We had very interesting discussions on the JWST being able to see stars and galaxies back 180 million years after the big bang, which is 220 million years earlier than the Hubble could see, which resents it's own problems for scientists to figure out. We also talked about how Einsteins theory of relativity is needed to make GPS satellites provide us proper information, We also talked about the Porta Rico radio telescope that collapsed and how China has built a radio telescope twice as big measuring a mile in circumference and that these telescopes can take a signal from space and redirect it back to an asteroid to get its distance and orbit. And we also discussed why our universe is considered flat in all directions.

* A couple of interesting astronomy sites are COOL WORLDS and STAR TALK with Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,

* It was decided with not being able to conduct any observing sessions last year and very few zoom meetings either that there will be **no dues for 2023, but any donations are more than welcome.** Our yearly expenses are about \$200.00, which include website fees, Sullivan taxes and observatory upkeep costs.

Only members wanting to be members of the Astronomical League, which includes the Reflector magazine need to pay \$7.50.

Please make checks out to the “Keene Amateur Astronomers”

Please mail payments to:

Bob Taylor

P.O. Box 467

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