

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
April 11, 2025

Location: Phinie Faux's
Time: 7pm to 9pm

Present: Bruce Norlund, Ed Lotkowski, Susan Rolke, Phinie Faux Junie Esslinger, Nathan and Dominic Heathh and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting will be May 16, 2025 at 7pm at the Sullivan Observatory.
- * The Frost Free library in Marlborough, NH has requested KAA to do an observing session in spring at the library. **Bob to contact Henry Barker to determine when he would like us to have the observing event.**

Old Business:

- * A work session will take place April 26th from 9am till noon at the observatory. The main items to tackled is the tree removal and brush at the south barrier, removal of saplings on the dirt mound behind the observatory, some mouse clean up in the observatory, determine how best to fix the rotted south side transition piece, whether to install siding on the peaks of the observatory or paint them?
- * Observatory work: At this time completing the observatory Vinyl siding of the north and south peaks is on hold until we can find someone in the club to install it or paint them.
- * 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. **Junies repair work on the roof and roof channel was a complete success in eliminating all those water leaks.**

New Business:

- * Susan has submitted the April newsletter, which presents how Jupiter got its ring, what to see in the night sky, cosmic evolution, the electromagnetic spectrum, and different types of telescopes and much more. There are many interesting links which provide more detail information about how Jupiter got its ring. 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**

New Business, continued:

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"

- * Susan Rolke is to have a meeting to go over her trip to Chili within the next two weeks. At the meeting she will find out if a trip to the Rubin Observatory is on the itinerary. Why this observatory is of interest is because a huge 7000lb camera has been installed on it's telescope, which one of it's missions is to look for a ninth planet. At the April meeting Susan will go over her Chili itinerary. **At Susan's Chili itinerary meeting she is to leave Boston June 26th to Miami and then on to Chili. She will be visiting a number of observatories and learning all about each type of telescopes and what it is viewing and the Rubin observatory is on the itinerary. Night time observing will take place at least one of the observatories. She also found out in order to go to the observatories you have to pass an altitude test to make sure you're able to breath at altitudes with very low oxygen levels. You get two chances to pass. We wish you well on your breathing test. Susan will be submitting a blog on her journey.**
- * A final decision whether to purchase the high tech telescope ZWO Seestar S50 for \$500.00 will be decided at the April meeting. If the decision is to purchase it we'll need to determine where to house it, who initially will check out how to operate it to make sure it performs as advertised, how to conduct training for members that want to use it, determine how much time it can be loaned out and address any additional questions. **It was approved to purchase the telescope and it is on order. At this time no decisions on the questions raised above were decided on, but will be addressed at the May meeting.**
- * At the April meeting we will discuss the July 24-27 Stellafane Convention. It's fees, parking, food, camping, grounds layout, observing opportunities, astronomy activities. astronomy presentations, and much much more. **Junie provided a lot of overview information about the questions raised above which was very helpful to first time attendees. However, it won't be till May 1st before Stellafane announces admission fees, the young adult programs, astronomy presentations and other activities.**
- * Bob presented a short talk on our mission to Europa. The Europa Clipper is heading to Jupiter to explore one of its moons Europa, which will arrive there in 2030 and conduct 4 yrs of investigating Europa for any sign of possible life and when the mission is complete the Clipper will crash into Jupiter's moon Ganymede.