

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
and Observing
August 15, 2025

Location: Sullivan observatory
Time: 7pm to 10:45pm

Present: Ed Lotkowski, Susan Rolke, Nathan and Dominic, Jeff Luebke, Steven Ringland and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting will be Friday September 19, 2025 at 7pm at the Keene State College in the Young Student Center. Observing is scheduled for Saturday September 20th at 7pm at the Sullivan Observatory.
- * The Frost Free library in Marlborough, NH has requested KAA to do an observing session in the fall at the library. **Bob To contact Henry to see if he would like an observing session in September or October.**
- * The International moon observing event is scheduled for October 4th. Bob is to contact Amy Kreamer at the KPL to see if she is going to set up a moon event table at the Ashuelot Park again this year. At the September meeting we need to determine who from the club will be setting up telescopes at the park and at what time.

Old Business:

- * 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 or a contractor to install the vinyl siding or paint the peaks.
- * 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 tarp on the north east side has been temporarily 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 hole to eliminate the water leak that is probably causing rotting of the 2"x4"s, 4"x4"s and the T1-11 siding and creating carpenter ant problems. The fix needs to be verified this spring. The repair work on the roof and roof channel was **thought** to be a complete success in eliminating all those water leaks. **However, an inspection of the observatory prior to the meeting showed there still is a leak on the west side of the roof and there is still a water leak in the north west corner indicating clearing the weep hole did not correct the problem. This NW corner leak has been a long standing problem that may not be solvable. It Definitely needs further investigating.**

New Business:

At the September business meeting a new work session date in October will be determined to tackle the following items. The main items to be 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 gable peaks of the observatory or paint them?

- * Susan has submitted the August newsletter, which explores the Chilean skies with numerous links to observatories in the southern hemisphere along with what to view in our skies in August along with great pictures of the Milky Way along with much much more information. **Susan's Chile blog is listed in the newsletter and she is to day six of her 11 day trip 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"**
- * Bob generated an update to the list of duties and responsibilities of the officers. Those in attendance will review the updates and when they are all approved they will be issued to Gabe to post on ur website.
- * In an effort to make sure we don't lose our data from the website if for some reason it went down and couldn't be restored Gabe assured us he backs it up in a very secure way and it can be transmitted to others if needed, which is very good news.
- * In an effort to consolidate all our archival material in one place so it's accessible to all members the Observatory is the logical location, but how to store it safely from critters and the elements is the next question. We first need to determine how much needs to be stored and then determine a containment system for it. Bob to contact Junie to see how much stuff he has to combine with his.
- * Susan talked about her personal experiences in Chile and answered questions about the details of the telescopes and how she was able to get all the those great pictures of the observatories and telescopes to put on her blog was interesting to find out.
- * Nathan and Dominic Heath attended the Stellafane Convention. They had a great time meeting other people and looking at object through their telescopes, which one was a 32" telescope. Dominic spent some time at the mirror making demonstration which Junie was conducting. Dominic decide he is going to grind a 6" mirror at Stellafane and continue to on to make the telescope. They attended the judging of the telescopes that people make from scratch on Saturday and attended some talks and went to listen to the key note speaker Saturday night, which includes a drawing of many many astronomy items, unfortunately their ticket numbers were not called.
- * As memtioned in an earlier email the observing Friday night was really great and everyone had a good night of observing. The Seestar performed very well and took really good photo's far better than expected.