

KAA Monthly Business Meeting Summary
Friday August 14, 2026

Location: Sullivan observatory
Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Present: Jeff Luebkmann, Lyle Fisher, Nathan and Dominic Heath, and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting is scheduled for Friday September 11th at 7pm at Keene State College in the Young Student Center. Observatory will take place Saturday the 12th at 8pm at the Sullivan observatory, weather permitting.
- * An observing session at the Frost Free Library in Marlborough, NH will take place Monday September 14th at 7pm with a rain date the next evening.
- * The International Moon event September 19th will take place from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Ashuelot Park in Keene, which is hosted by the KPL and co hosted by KAA. The library will set up a crafts table and other event items and KAA will setup telescopes and binoculars.
- * An observing session will take place for the Moore Free Library in Newfane, VT Friday October 16th at 7pm to 8:30pm with a rain date of Sunday the 18th at the top of Cemetery Hill Rd, in Newfane.

Old Business:

- * Observatory work items needing to be completed is the replacement of the rotted sill plate at the observatory entrance, painting a second coat of paint on the observatory trim, fixing the roof nail leak on the west side, removing a couple of rocks and a tree root from the driveway and filling in some low spots in the driveway with dirt from the south side dirt mound. addition **After the 4" of rain we received in July Bob found 4 additional roof leaks and that the north west corner has leaked again causing carpenter ant problems. Bob to contact Dan to finish the observatory work and the rock and root removal to be looked at at the work session scheduled in October 24th from 9am till noon.**
- * Junie Esslinger feels the 15" Obsession Telescope is only performing at a 13" level. Therefore we will be gathering information Junie has requested so he can determine how to advise us as to what corrections or modification are needed to achieve the 15" design, if he feels it's possible. **Jeff and Bob determined the focal length to be 66" vs the calculated length of 67.5". Junie indicated based on this finding he will need to do a Ray Trace to determine if a larger secondary mirror is required or the peimary mirror needs to be moved closer to the secondary. Note: the primary mirror was reconfigured by the factory after it was determined by Junie that it was warped.**

Old Business, continued

- * 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 them 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 has contacted Junie to see how much material he has and Junie will contact Bob when he has it ready to submit. Once all the archival material has been gathered it needs to be sorted and a master list of the items in the container generated so members will know what material is available and be able to quickly locate the item(s). Bob has brought a plastic bin to store the material, but there are concerns that rats or mice might chew through it. Therefore we are going to try and find a more secure container for the archive material. There are also concerns about the material getting musty and moldy. A couple of members have books they would like to donate to the club. At this time we do not have a place for them.**
- * Bob contacted Don Rothman to see if he has the pinion gear we need for the 4.5" equatorial mount telescope to provide us a tracing telescope. Don is presently looking for one. **Jeff has come up empty finding a new mount so far. The gear we need has to fit a tapered shaft of 0.2: to 0.23" that is ½" long. The number of teeth required has not been determined at this time. Once that is determined it may be possible to have it 3D printed.**
- * Jeff Luebke to contact Cole Mills to set up a time to help him set up his new Celestron SE 6 telescope.

New Business

- * Susan has submitted the August newsletter, which talks about the Perseid meteor shower, solar and lunar eclipses, SETI the program looking for advanced civilizations, and lists a number Messier and NGC objects to view this month and a list of up coming astronomy conventions. Check out also the monthly "What's UP" video for the August night sky and Susan's detailed August sky maps to help guide you to these objects. **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"**
- * It was decided to make a designated spot on our website for the Seestar S50 photo's titled "Seestar S50 photo Gallery" **Gabe Klueh has set this up on our home page so you can easily view all the Seestar objects that have been photographed to date.**
- * Thank you Mike Books for mowing the observatory field before our meeting. It really looks great.
- * Susan and Kevin went on vacation to Spain to see the Total Solar Eclipse from a cruise ship, which was successful and she reported that although it was short they saw a spectacular corona ring and diamond ring.
- * Dominic Heath purchased a new compact high powered set of binoculars, which he set up for viewing after the meeting.

New Business, continued

- * Nathan and Dominic Heath went to the Stellafane convention all three days and took in a number of their programs and did some really great observing even though it was spotty off and on. Dominic won a prize a large planisphere, which I believe is the first prize ever one by a KAA member.
- * Dominic indicated he is about finished making his 6" mirror through the Springfield Telescope Makers at Stellafane.
- * Susan is to contact Noah a reporter from the Keene Sentinel for an interview about the club and her personal astronomy adventures and accomplishments. We look forward to reading about Susan's interview in the Sentinel.
- * The Chittenden Solid Waste District in S. Burlington has 115,000 gently used solar eclipse glasses they collected after the 2024 eclipse they would like to get rid of. The club feels it's a liability risk for any organization handing them out. Plus the next total solar eclipse to go through New England is not till 2079.