

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
and Observing
June 20, 2025

Location: Sullivan observatory
Time: 7pm to 9:15pm

Present: Ed Lotkowski, Susan Rolke, Nathan and Dominic Heath, Erik and Margot Schmitt, Jeff Luebkeman, David Targan and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting and observing will be August 15, 2025 at 7pm at the Sullivan Observatory. The July business meeting has been canceled due to many conflicts.
- * The Frost Free library in Marlborough, NH has requested KAA to do an observing session in spring at the library. **Bob has contacted Henry Barker to determine when he would like KAA to have the observing event in the spring, but due to a big construction project that has now completed they were not able to move back in to the library until May so they are now shooting for a fall observing event.**

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 it 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 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 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 August meeting a new work session date 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 peaks of the observatory or paint them?

- * Susan has submitted the June newsletter, in which shows the Rubin observatory and the telescope mirror she will be visiting on her trip to Chile. The newsletter also shows the Jne night sky objects to view. Susan indicated there was only one schedule change, she is now to meet with members of the US Embassy. Susan leaves for Chile June 26th and she will be posting pictures or videos when possible on instagram at rolkesofia or youtube. When she gets back Susan will do a full report of the trip and it will be available on rolkesofia.wordpress.com/. All the links are in the June newsletter under Editors Message. 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”](mailto:susanrbr@hotmail.com)**
- * Erik Schmitt conducted a training session of the our new smart telescope, SEESTAR S50. He was able to get everyone that had a device to connect to the telescope and view the sun through the trees from their cell phone or tablet. Because it was the longest day of the year we did not stay to do night time observing. It appears the telescope operates as advertised from the limited viewing use so far. At the August business meeting and observing session we will do night time observing and see how it preforms. Everyone thought it was a great purchase especially for the price. We’ll need to determine where to house it, 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.
- * Nathan and Dominic Heath will be attending the Stellafane Convention. They plan on going two of the days and nights. It will be very interesting to hear about all the activities they were involved in and all about their observing experience..