

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
March 14, 2025

Location: ZOOM
Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Present: Bruce Norlund, Ed Lotkowski, Susan Rolke, Paul O'Neil and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting will be April 11, 2025 at 7pm at Phinie Faux's.
- * Abby Blais from the Keene H.S. has requested that KAA conduct an astronomy presentation for their STEM program March 17th. Susan Rolke accepted the invitation and set up an interactive gravity table and a display turning IR into sound waves, both of which were very popular. Abby Blais can be reached 603-352-0640 x 3750 or at AbBlais@sau29.org.
- * The Frost Free library in Marlborough, NH has requested KAA to do an observing session in spring at the library.

Old Business:

- * A work session is scheduled for April 26th., which needs to be confirmed at the April meeting.
- * Observatory work: At this time completing the observatory Vinyl siding of the north and south peaks is on hold, but looking to tackle it at the April 26th work session.
- * 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.**

New Business:

- * Susan has submitted the March newsletter, which presents the details of the Gaia 3D mapping of the billion star survey of the milky way. There are interesting articles about of this endeavor with links which provide more detail information about the events. 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"**

New Business continued

- * 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.
- * 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.
- * Bob presented information on the new hunt to find a real planet 9. Mike Brown killed Pluto and now he wants to find the real planet 9. This he hopes to accomplish with the new worlds largest camera a 7000lb car size 3200 megapixel camera that can see very small object billions of miles away. If it can not be found within two years the probability that a planet 9 exists is near zero.
- * 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.
- * Bob will talk about our mission to Europa.