

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2023

Location: Sullivan Observatory

Time: 7pm – 8:00pm

Present: Bruce Norlund, David Hayward, Junie Esslinger, Eric Meijers, and Bob Taylor

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

Treasurer's Report: Club balance: May \$2,148.25 - April \$2,148.25

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting is scheduled for Friday June 16th at 7pm at the Sullivan observatory followed by observing, weather permitting.
- * At this time there are no outreach observing events scheduled.

Old Business:

- * Observatory work: At this time completing the observatory Vinyl siding of the north and south peaks is on hold, but looking to tackle it sometime this year. The second step is a little loose and needs attention. Perhaps a 2"x4" attached to the riser. **Downed branches in the driveway and field from the winter storms were picked up by Bruce Norlund two weeks prior to the meeting.**
- * A work day to remove brush and small trees on the west and south walls needs to be scheduled. 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. Also the rubber flap on the north east side has a tear that needs to be repaired.
- * Please email Bob if you have a presentation you would like to present or have a topic you would like us to present on the night sky, telescopes and etc.

New Business:

- * Prior to the meeting Junie, Bruce and David trimmed trees and hauled their branches away from on the west side of the field to a drop area on the east side of the field
- * At the May meet at the Sullivan observatory a work session day will be determined. **Given everyone's busy schedule a specific work date was not determined, and everyone attending the meeting understands what tree and brush work needs to be done and they will come whenever they are available and tackle what they can.**
- * Junie indicated he would work on the observatory building projects over the course of this year. Junie also was able to take the old broken lawnmower to the dump. Thank you Junie! He is also

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interested in fixing the 8" telescope that Angel left the club. He has an 8" mirror that would replace the present obsolete one.

* Our VP Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH sometime this summer or fall. He has an observatory with a 10" telescope at his home and there is plenty of parking space for everyone.

* KAA members need to discuss how to proceed forward with future club meetings, observing sessions, and outreach programs given our current staffing and COVID situation. **This will be an ongoing discussion.**

* Gail with the Keene Library is looking for Solar Eclipse speakers in 2023 to talk about the total solar eclipse coming our way on April 8, 2024. **Susan Rolke will conduct a solar eclipse talk at the Keene library on Tuesday September 5th, 2023. The time has not been set yet.**

* Susan has volunteered and has been accepted to be the new coordinator to the Night Sky Network for KAA. **Susan will not only be the coordinator, but will be in charge of the entire NSN program for KAA.**

* Susan has entered her name in a contest to hopefully be chosen to visit the huge telescope at 16,000 feet in chili. They are only taking 9 people. The odds are challenging, but she says she's ready for the challenge. Best of luck Susan.

* Received a call from Pat Porch, president of SoVerA to see if we were doing any club observing sessions and if so, what the possibility was for SoVerA members to join us at Sullivan at our next observing session. I told him that would be great and the next observing is scheduled for June 16th after our business meeting, weather permitting.

* I want to thank Bruce Norlund, David Hayward, and Junie Esslinger for donating \$20.00 ea. Bob has also matched their donations amount.

* Bob paid the Astronomical league \$40.00 for those members wanting to be members of the AL.

* It was decided with not being able to conduct any observing sessions last year and very few zoom meetings either that there will be **no dues for 2023, but any donations are more than welcome.** Our yearly expenses are about \$200.00, which include website fees, Sullivan taxes and observatory upkeep costs.

Only members wanting to be members of the Astronomical League, which includes the Reflector magazine need to pay \$7.50.

Please make checks out to the "Keene Amateur Astronomers"

Please mail payments to:

Bob Taylor

P.O. Box 467

West Dummerston, VT 05357