

## KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2022

**Location:** Zoom hosted by Bob

**Time:** 7pm – 8:00pm

**Present:** Carol Littleton, Ed Lotowski, Jeanne Applegate, Gabe Klueh, Paul O'Neil,

**Secretary's Report:** September business minutes accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Club balance: October \$2,085.25 September \$2,085.25.

### **Upcoming events:**

- \* Our next zoom business meeting is scheduled for Friday January 20th at 7pm.
- \* At this time there are no club or 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 next spring
- \* A brush removal work day to tackle the brush 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 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:**

- \* Gabe Klueh announced that he is stepping down as the clubs secretary at the September business meeting, but will remain the web master until a replacement can be found. He will also help with observatory work and other items when he can.
- \* Bruce Norlund has volunteered to be our new secretary starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. Bruce is a long time dedicated and active member of KAA and we all want to welcome Bruce as an officer of KAA.
- \* Carol Littleton announced that she was stepping down as Vice President at the end of October because of not being able to devote the time necessary to fulfill her VP duties due to increasing work load and family commitments. She has been a tremendous asset to KAA for the last seven years

as VP running business meeting when needed, conducted star parties and did research to find new really interesting star formations, conducted telescope training sessions at the KPL, organized and participated in the work sessions at the observatory. Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,

Carol will still be an active member, just not as a club officer.

\* Junie Esslinger has volunteered to become the new Vice President starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. Junie has been a member of KAA for the past 23 years and also past president of KAA. Junie was in charge of the maintenance of the observatory and mowing of the field and brush removal for many years twenty years ago. Junie also conducted countless club observing sessions at Sullivan and at outreach observing events and conducted planetarium shows for many years across New England. His final planetarium show was at the Keene Public Library a few years ago. Junie is also past president of Stellafane, and there he teaches primary mirror making classes and is an optics judge at their yearly convention. Junie has also made numerous telescopes from scratch.

\* Bob Taylor will remain as KAA's President, Treasurer and the Astronomical Leagues Alcor.

\* **We all want to wish Jim Faux a very successful heart surgery on November 11-th along with a full recovery.** Due to his health condition Jim is no longer able to receive material from the Night Sky Network (NSN) and distribute it to club members, schools or libraries. **No one has signed up to take on this project so Jim has put a hold on receiving their material at this time.**

\* KAA members need to continue discussing how to proceed forward with club meetings, observing sessions, and outreach programs given our current staffing and the COVID situation. Please email Bob your suggestions so he can put together a complete list for further discussion.

\* Gail from 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 one solar eclipse talk at the Keene library in late summer or early fall next year. **Gail recently indicated it will be next spring when the late summer early fall programs are scheduled.** Susan is also looking forward to go to Texas to view the solar eclipse if she can get the time off from teaching as the eclipse is on a Monday. There is a 70% better chance of clear skies in Texas in April than Burlington Vermont-for sure. **To date the school administration has not made any decision on her time off request.**

\* **The Keene Library will conduct an astronomy event starting January 25, 2023 through March 25, 2023 on how to colonize the Moon, Mars, and other worlds.** This is a STEM program which will include many displays and a hydroponics project on how to grow things to sustain human life on other worlds. Please contact Gail if you have an interest in helping out with this event. I believe they will start to receive the items for display in November or December.

\* **Gail indicated the library is looking to replace the loaner telescope with a duplicate one as the eyepiece detaches from the focuser very easily or replace the eyepiece and possibly the focuser, if needed. Gabe indicated when he looked at the scope a while back that probably the eyepiece needed to be replaced. Someone from KAA will soon inspect it and determine which is the best option.**

### **Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,**

\* Ed and Jeanne visited a lady in Peterborough who has a Celestron 4.5" telescope for sale who wanted to know its condition and what it may be worth. Apparently she is not really interested in the money only that it find a good home. Ed and Jeanne seem to feel it was in good condition so if any one is interested in checking it out let Bob know. **Ed and Jeanne contacted Erik Schmitt, who is the astronomy director at the Dublin school and he found a good home for the telescope.**

\* A past member of KAA, Carol Hoffman passed away in June and her brother is looking to sell Carol's 8" Dob. Knowing Carol I suspect the telescope is in excellent condition. If anyone is interested please let Bob know. **KAA's member Steve Ringland has purchased Carol's telescope so it also will be used and have a good home.**

\* David Fields is a fifth grade teacher at the Hinsdale Elementary School, who received a grant to purchase a telescope for his class contacted Bob for advice on purchasing a telescope. Because David has no astronomy experience Bob offered David if he joined KAA he was eligible to take out our 4.5" loaner telescope for a few weeks and Bob would help him remotely learn how to use it and learn a little about the night sky. But that seemed overwilling to him so Bob suggested he check with the high school science department and see if a student or parent had a telescope and would like to do an observing session with his students. As luck would have it David checked into it and found that the science department has a telescope and the students and teacher would love to conduct an observing event for his class. This is a real win for everyone.

\* Update website list of past officers and install the names of the new officers and their contact information.

\* KAA has paid \$80.00 for the annual renewal of our website.

\* Bruce Norlund donated \$40.00 to the club and Bob said he would match it.

\* The 2023 club business meeting, observing and non club events calendar will be issued in December.

\* 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**