

KAA Monthly Business Meeting Summary
October 17, 2025

Location: KSC in the YSC

Time: 7pm to 8:00pm

Present: Ed Lotkowski, Susan Rolke, Bruce Norlund and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting will be Friday November 14, 2025 at 7pm at the Keene State College in the Young Student Center. Observing is scheduled for Saturday September 15th at 7pm at the Sullivan Observatory.
- * Wednesday November 12th at 6:30pm at the Fitzwilliam Library in Fitzwilliam, NH Susan Rolke will present her talk on her trip to Chile.
- * Friday December 12th from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Otter Brook Dam the Cheshire County 4H club members observing event will take place, weather permitting. There is no back up date.

Old Business:

- * The leak in the NW corner of the observatory thought to be from the roof actually appears to be from the metal track that the roof rolls off on. Dan found a crack in the weld of the track which needs to still be caulked. At the entrance to the observatory one of the sill plates has rotted and needs to be investigated as to what is causing this dry rot and the piece replaced. A rotted 4"x4"x12" piece under the roof track at the north west corner needs to be shored up or replaced. Painting of the gable ends trim will be completed soon. **Dan caulked an opening in the track weld and also caulked the gap between the double tracks and after a rain storm Bob found for the first time ever no leaks or dampness on the T1-11 siding. Dan also painted all the trim and the T1-11 siding skirt between the roof and vinyl siding on the east and west sides. At this time repair of the rotted sill plate is on hold. A second coat of paint will need to be done sometime.**
- * The Chesterfield Library has requested Erik Schmitt to do a talk on "Solar System Exploration and Colonization" Thursday September 25th at 6:30pm. **The talk was very well attended despite the rain storm.**
- * **The International moon observing event scheduled for October 4th starting at 6:30pm at the Ashuelot Park was very well attended with 40 plus people. There were several KAA member telescopes set up for viewing as well as the Keene libraries telescope and binoculars. Viewing of the moon was under perfect sky conditions with not a cloud to be seen. This was the first time in fifteen years to have perfect sky conditions for viewing the moon.**

Old Business, continued

- * Tuesday October 14th at the Keene Public Library Susan Rolke will conduct a talk on her Chile trip starting at 6:00pm. **Susan's talk was well attended and very informative with many questions from the attendees.**
- * Sunday October 19th at 6:30pm at the Frost Free library in Marlborough, NH Susan Rolke will present her talk on her trip to Chile. After her talk telescopes will be set up for observing at the library if weather permits, if not, Friday October 24th is the rain make up date at 6:30pm. **Susan's talk was very well attended, but observing after the talk was canceled due to cloudy skies so observing will now take place Friday the 24th at 6:30pm, weather permitting.**

New Business:

- * **A work date has been set for Sunday October 26th at the Sullivan observatory from 9am till noon. 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, and some mouse clean up in the observatory. Equipment needed: Chain saws, clippers, hand saws for small diameter trees, gloves, weed wacker, and people to move debris to the drop area.**
- * Susan has submitted the October newsletter, which investigates the little red dots, gravitational waves and provides a list of viewable objects to see this month and with detailed drawings to navigate the October sky. My favorite is NGC 457, the owl cluster. **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"**
- * 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 it 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 to contact Junie to see how much stuff he has to combine with his.
- * Bob has decided to donate the new Seestar S50 telescope to the club.
- * Election of officers was conducted and the 2026 officers are as follows:
Bob Taylor, President
Susan Rolke, V.P
Ed Lotkowski, Treasurer
Bruce Norlund, Securtary
- * There was a discussion about what is a Planetary Nebula and Bob read an article from the WSJ about a Rouge planet's explosive growth in real time.

New Business, continued

- * November first starts our new fiscal year, which means dues are now due at this time, which are the same as last year as indicated below.

Singe/family mambership - \$20.00

Single/family membership including the Astronomical League membership is \$29.00.

The AL membership allows you to receive awards (certificate and a pin) for completing their astronomy programs and the quarterly "Reflector Magazine".

Please make checks out to the "Keene Amateur Astronomers, Inc.

Please mail payment to:

Ed Lotkowski

105 Kaufmann Drive

Peterborough, NH 03458