

## KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2021

**Location:** Sullivan observatory

**Time:** 7pm – 8:00pm

**Present:** Ed Lotowski, Jeanne Applegate, Carol Littleton and Bob Taylor

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Club balance: September \$1837.50 - July \$1829.75

### **Upcoming events:**

- \* Our next business meeting is Friday October 8th, which will be by zoom at 7pm
- \* Our next observing session is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> at Sullivan at 7pm. We are working on a plan to actually have observing happen. Should have a definitive decision on observing by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Old Business:**

- \* Observatory work: At this time completing the observatory Vinyl siding of the north and south peaks is on hold, but looking to try and tackle in the next couple of months. **An inventory of the vinyl siding at the observatory and the vinyl siding needed to be purchased from Home Depot to complete the project is attached.**
- \* This fall we'll need to have a work day to tackle the brush on the west and south walls. A notice will be sent out shortly requesting which of the dates indicated you would prefer the work be done, if you plan on attending.
- \* Mike Brooks has offered to loan us his brush cutter and the use of his dumpster when needed. Mike is also putting in a garage and where it is to be located needs fill, so Mike has been able to remove about 80% of the dirt mound behind the observatory, which came from the observatory basement where the 10 Ton concrete ballast for the 12.5" telescope is attached. It will be great to have it and the trees growing on it gone. Thanks Mike for mowing our field it is greatly appreciated.
- \* Please email Bob, Carol or Gabe if you have a presentation you would like to do or have a topic you would like us to present on the night sky, telescopes and etc.
- \* Due to the virus that has shut us down from doing any club and outreach observing or any other type of events this past year and going forward until we are able resume normal activity the officers

have decided to go for dues for 2021 for all present members. However, club members that want to be members of the Astronomical League and receive the Reflector Magazine will need to pay KAA \$7.50.

Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,

Any member who wants to donate money to KAA are more than welcome to do so. KAA's annual basic costs for 2021 are \$125.00 for the website; \$51.00 for observatory taxes and \$10.00 for the Astronomical League for a total of \$196.00.

**For AL membership and donations, please make checks out to "Keene Amateur Astronomers, Inc" and mail to Bob Taylor, P.O. Box 467, West Dummerston, VT 05357. Thank you**

**New Business:**

- \* In early August Bob met Lenoir and her husband Dan at the Gilsum Library to modify the 4.5" Sky Blast Telescope. They made all the telescope modifications required to turn it into a loaner. They had all the tools and material needed to complete the task, which went very smoothly.
- \* The website Domain name and Hosting need to be renewed for another year. The costs are \$20.00 and \$60.00 respectively.
- \* KAA wants to welcome new members Alison Bentley from Jaffrey and Owen Lodge and Stacie Ballou also from Jaffrey.
- \* Susan Rolke will conduct a presentation on her amazing trip and experience investigating Infrared radiation on NASA's 747. the week of February 21<sup>st</sup> the exact day of that week will be determined in early February.
- \* With the long absence from the observatory the mice decided it was theirs and proceeded to build several nests from the cardboard box the vinyl siding came in and to use one end of the remaining siding to have their toilet, which created a big urine deposit, which saturated a 2' diameter patch in a section of the plywood flooring. This 4'x8' piece of plywood will probably need to be replaced, but it has a 300 lb steel telescope sitting on it. There is one other piece of plywood that has a 6" diameter spot of rot unrelated to the mice that should be replaced. The mice nests were removed from the 15" telescope secondary mirror housing, from under the paper work on a table and from one of the draws. All of the vinyl siding was cleaned except for a couple of short pieces that were too damaged by the mice. In an effort to prevent the mice from building more nests all of the vinyl siding cardboard box and other mouse nest building material has been removed.
- \* **In reviewing what maintenance in the observatory is needed it became clear we have a lot of items stored in the observatory that need to either be thrown out, find a new home where they get used, and items that are essential to the observatory. A list of these items is attached. If anyone can help us in anyway to either get rid of the items listed as such or find a home for those items mentioned, please let me know.**

- \* Carol Requested looking into a possible ramp to replace the stairs to make it easier to take the 15" telescope out of the building easier. The problem with viewing with the 15" telescope is it sits the floor so when there is movement on the floor it translates into the telescope and produces movement in the eyepiece disturbing viewing.
- \* Bob will do a presentation on Brown Dwarfs for the October meeting.