

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
September 13, 2024

Location: KSC in the YSC
Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Present: Ammiel and Aram Alcalayand, Bruce Norlund, David Hayward, Ed Lotkowski and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting will be October 4th at 7pm at Keene State College in the Young Student Center. Check at the front desk for where we are meeting.
- * The International Moon observing is September 14th at the Ashuelot park at 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Everyone is more than welcome to come and set up their telescope. **Susan Rolke, Dominic Heath and Junie Esslinger setup telescopes and the Keene Library setup their 20x80 binoculars and setup a kids moon game table. The event was a real success with around 40 people in attendance. See Bob's prior email for details.**
- * The Frost Free library in Marlborough, NH has requested KAA to do an observing session there this fall. **At this time no date has been determined.**
- * Susan Grover the principal of the Symonds elementary school in Keene is interested in having an observing session this fall.

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.
- * 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 tarp on the north east side has been temporarily 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 that need to be repaired. There is also a new roof leak at the north west corner of the building, which has renewed carpenter ant activity producing considerable wood shavings causing wood damage. The observatory corners of the building need to be painted. **Junie this past Friday has repaired the east side roof leaks and removed a couple of rusted cabinets and an old burning barrel.**
- * Junie Esslinger would like to have a club meeting and observing session at his home in Alstead, NH this coming fall. He has an observatory with a 10" telescope at his home and there is plenty of parking space for everyone. Observing at Junie's is now scheduled for late fall when the planets return to the evening sky.

Business meeting, continued.

* The Town has widened Tyler lane road especially at our driveway entrance, which has created a considerable high entrance into our driveway, which needs to be lowered to make the entrance easier especially for low frame cars.

New Business:

* Susan has submitted the September newsletter, which details the international moon event September 14, 2024, information on the Apollo moon missions, the US Artemis moon mission, which is a multinational endeavor and the world's space race to the south pole of the moon. There are interesting articles about each of these events along 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"**

* A work session is set for Saturday October 19th from 9am to noon at the Observatory. **The main work to be tackled is the brush and tree removal on the south property boundary and trimming around the observatory and the posts for the removable roof and work on the driveway entrance.**

* Steve Ringland brought his 8" Dob to the meeting, which he just had the primary mirror recoated and wanted to have the mirrors collimated. The collimation test showed the secondary mirror appears to be way off center. The secondary mirror realignment was not possible at that time as the proper size screw driver was not available. Further mirror collimation will be none ASAP. **Steve was able to align his secondary mirror with his new laser collimator.**

* Dominic Heath brought his Sarblue 60mm telescope, which he has had a double image problem for a while and thought it maybe a focuser issue and would like KAA look at the problem. Junie has indicated that with that size telescope the coatings on the lenses after a certain amount of use start to breakdown and cause this double image problem. To be perfectly certain of this diagnosis a star test is required. **To date a star test has not been conducted.**

* Dominic also brought his 6" Quattro telescope which he felt was not giving a clear enough image. In doing a collimation test both the primary and secondary mirrors need some adjustment. The primary mirror was centered, but the secondary was not as the required size screw driver was not available. He and his dad will finish the collimation of the secondary mirror. **Status of the secondary mirror alignment is pending.**

* The observatory entrance hand rail recently broke and it is in the process of being replaced. **A new handrail has been installed.**

* The observatory tax assessment has increased from \$2,400 to \$4,100, which means our building tax will be increasing. The amount of the increase is not known at this time.

* Possible visible comet C/2023A3 (Tsuchingham Atlas) around October 9th.

Business meeting, continued.

* Determine the eligibility of a middle school student for honorary membership to KAA. **It was voted to make Dominic Heath an honorary member of KAA, which is free membership, with non voting rights. If he chooses to join the Astronomical league he will need to pay the \$9.00 membership fee.**

* Election of officers is next month. All those interested in becoming an officer please let Bob know. The only two positions not open are treasurer and webmaster. President, VP and secretary are up for reelection.

* KAA wants to welcome are newest club members Ammiel and Aram Alcalayand and Nathan and Dominic Heath.

* Congratulations to Susan Rolke for being selected as the astronomy in Chile education ambassador program, which means Susan is going to Chile next summer to visit the worlds largest telescopes on Mt. Las Campanas Peak. Susan was also selected as one of the four fully funded trips out of ten for the trip. Susan will keep us updated on her trip preparation and will generate a blog of the trip.

* Bruce received an email addressed from me about gifts to the officers. Bruce contacted me and I confirmed I did not send him an email determining it was yet another scam.

* Bob presented an introduction on the Milancovitch Cycle, which will be discussed further next meeting as the members present are gathering more information about the cycle which they will present and we welcome everyones input on this very interesting cycle.

* Our fiscal new year starts November 1, so the 2025 dues are due in October and they are the same as last year at \$20.00, but the AL dues are up from \$7.50 to \$9.00.

Single/family membership - \$20.00.

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

The AL membership allows you to get awards 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

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