

KAA Monthly Business Meeting
and Observing
September 19, 2025

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

Present: Ed Lotkowski, Jeff Luebke, Bruce Norlund and Bob Taylor.

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

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting will be Friday October 17, 2025 at 7pm at the Keene State College in the Young Student Center. Observing is scheduled for Saturday September 20th at 7pm at the Sullivan Observatory.
- * The Chesterfield Library has requested Erik Schmitt to do a talk on "Solar System Exploration and Colonization" Thursday September 25th at 6:30pm.
- * The International moon observing event is scheduled for October 4th starting at 6:30pm at the Ashuelot Park. The KPL is going to set up a moon event table for kids again this year and bring their telescope and binoculars. At present several members of KAA will be setting up telescopes for moon viewing. We can always use more volunteers to set up telescopes and/or be available to answer people's questions.
- * Tuesday October 14th at the Keene Public Library Susan Rolke will conduct a talk on her Chile trip starting at 6:00pm.
- * 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.
- * Wednesday November 12th at 6:30pm at the Fitzwilliam Library in Fitzwilliam, NH Susan Rolke will present her talk on her trip to Chile.

Old Business:

- * Observatory work: **The vinyl siding of the north and south gable ends has been installed by Dan Russell a professional carpenter. What a great job done and it looks great.**
- * A 2" X 2" X 20' transition strip on the south side of the observatory is rotted and needs to be replaced. **This rotted transition piece has been removed and some T1-11 siding that had also rotted and both these pieces have been replaced with new material by Dan Russell. In installing the vinyl siding on the north side the old rubber flap was removed and replaced with a new rubber flap..**

Old Business, continued

- * 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.

New Business:

An October work date has still not been determined to tackle the following items. 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. At this time no work date was determined. **We should have a date by early October.**

- * Susan has submitted the September newsletter, which explores the interstellar comet visitor Atlas 31 and provides a list of viewable Messier objects to see this month and with detailed drawings to navigate the mid September sky to find the summer triangle and northern cross and much more. **Susan's Chile blog is listed in the August newsletter and she is at day eight of her 11 day trip. 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"**
- * Bob generated an update to the list of duties and responsibilities of the officers. Those in attendance will review the updates and when they are all approved they will be issued to Gabe to post on our website. **The officer duties updates were approved and will be sent to Gabe for posting on our website.**
- * In an effort to make sure we don't lose our data from the website if for some reason it went down and couldn't be restored Gabe assured us he backs it up in a very secure way and it can be transmitted to others if needed, which is very good news.
- * 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.
- * Election of officers will be conducted at the October meeting. Anyone interested in becoming an officer please look at the officer requirements on our website. The positions up for election are the President, VP, and Secretary. The treasurer position is not available at this time.
- * KAA wants to welcome our newest member Dan Russell. Dan is looking forward to doing observing with his son and learning more about the various types of telescopes and the night sky. Welcome aboard Dan.

New business, continued

- * November first starts our new fiscal year, which means Dues are due at that time, which are the same as last year as indicated below. **In addition KAA is requesting donations to help cover the costs of the construction work. Any amount would be appreciated.** At this time the incurred cost is approximately \$700.00 with some more work still needed to be done.

Singe/family mambership - \$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

105 Kaufmann Drive

Peterborough, NH 03458

- * Thank you Jeff Luebke for vacuuming up the observatory floor, oiling the roof wheels and roof ties and for fixing two of the finder scopes operations problems. That saved us \$100.00 or so.
- * Bob did a short talk on Edmond Halley of Halley's comet. Like many famous people they are usually known for one thing but are accomplished at many other things and Edmond is no exception and his biggest accomplishment's are actually in other areas.