

KAA June 25, 2008 business meeting summary

- 1) Junie's mirror analysis of the Obsession Telescope 15" mirror was confirmed by Optical Mechanics that it has a turned edge. They are in the process of correcting the problem and it should be ready for shipment by the end of June.
- 2) The KAA Bylaws have been posted on our web site.
- 3) A new declination pointer has been made and is ready for installation.
- 4) Staining of the Observatory exterior siding is still scheduled for Saturday June 28th at 9am. Update, Keith and Jim on Saturday were able to get one coat of stain on the north and south sides along with half of the west side. A second staining session has been scheduled for Sunday July 13th at 10am. If you plan on coming for the staining, please let me know by the 11th, so we can have enough material available. What we found out is the siding is much drier than we thought, so it's taking much more time and stain. We estimated 4gal and it will probably take 8 to 10gal.
- 5) Keith finished 90% of our observatory sign and it was put up Friday night for those coming for observing. The sign just needs a direction arrow.
- 6) Thank you Keith for mowing the field.
- 7) The push lawn mower deck took quite a beating over the winter as 60% of the deck has rusted away from the rest of the frame. It should make it through this summer, but that's about it. If any one has a mower their getting rid of that still works well or know of one, please let me know.
- 8) In testing the declination-setting circle it was discovered that the existing right ascension setting circle does not function. In order to determine the problem the telescope will have to be removed from its mount. This investigation will occur on Sunday July 13th at 10am.
- 9) The lighting initiative for the club has been put on hold. The reason is a newly formed very active NH IDA group, with plenty of manpower, is pursuing dark sky legislation at the state level that may include town ordinances, which may be a duplication of our work. Once we know exactly what their objectives are, we'll then determine whether we need to pursue local legislation or not.
- 10) Our dark-sky initiative in the town of Dummerston, VT has led to the testing of new full cut-off and semi cut-off street light fixtures with metal halide lamps to replace the existing non cut-off fixtures with mercury vapor lamps. The test has been completed. Unfortunately, the metal halide light was too sharp and penetrating for such a rural setting where the streets are narrow and the houses are close to the road. In addition, with the large distance between the two test lights there was a large dark area on the road compared to the non cut-off fixtures. A meeting with the town officials, residents and Power Company will be held the end of September to address what other lighting options are available.
- 11) On Saturday July 26th club members and non-members are invited to meet at the Elm City Brewery in Keene at 7pm for dinner. Unfortunately, the club cannot afford to treat, so it's a BYOB (BUY YOUR OWN MEAL) affair. After dinner we'll go to Sullivan for Observing.
- 12) Observing took place after our business meeting as the sky cleared. We were able to view some Globular Clusters, Double Stars, Jupiter and other objects.