

KAA July 5, 2013 business meeting summary

On-going Business

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the August 2nd meeting at Sullivan are: 2, 6, 9 and all of the new business items.
- 2) **The Observatory work session is scheduled for July 14th from 9am to noon. The work to be tackled will be determined at the July 5th business meeting. The items are C and H**
 - a. Apply Chreocoat on base plates and roof support members.
 - b. Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim to procure stones.
 - c. **Finish removing saplings along west side of observatory. 75% Completed.**
 - d. Junie will fabricate and install new roof retainer brackets when he can.
 - e. Procure and install new 1/8" cables for opening and closing the observatory roof. (Fall 2013)
 - f. Replace portions of existing roll off roof deteriorating wood beams. (Fall 2013)
 - g. Scrape and paint outside of observatory. On hold pending obtaining new siding.
 - h. **Mow field**
- 3) The Six Dobsonian telescope bases and side supports are in Junie's possession. Some assembly issues, per Junie, have arisen on the prototype. Until they are corrected the date for assembling all of the bases is on hold. **Brackets need to be fabricated (by Junie when time permits) to hold 6" telescope tubes on 1/2" bases plates.**
- 4) The Obsession telescope issue: **The primary mirror was moved 3/16" closer to the secondary mirror to improve clarity under high magnification. The optics were tested and found the image came in focus under high magnification where it had not before, but under high magnification the image was vibrating considerably. The vibration may be caused by the floor, which will be tested in August by setting the telescope up outside on the ground. If that doesn't stop the vibrating then the problem is internal to the telescope.**
- 5) It was determined that the Observatory siding should be up graded to vinyl. Our only option seems to be to purchase new siding because our other possible options have evaporated. This is not an eminent problem. It will need to be done in stages do to the \$750 cost.
 - o One side per year – minimize cost
 - o Vinyl side the square walls of the observatory only; scrape/prime/paint the A-of-the-roof.
- 6) Jim Faux to contact Jonathan Weis at Dublin to see how things are going with their telescope and the astronomy program. **Jim has Emailed Jonathan and is waiting for a reply.**
- 7) Gail is interested in KAA doing more outreach observing and teaching for the Library. **Bob will be doing a "hands-on" loaner telescope training and providing the basics of finding objects in the sky using sky charts Thursday September 12th at 6:30pm at KPL.**
- 8) Junie suggested that we look into purchasing a hydrogen-alpha solar telescope with the anticipation of doing public solar observing. This would allow us to view solar eruptions as well as sun spot activity. Used HA telescopes at this time anyway seem to not be available and a new one would be cost prohibited at \$700, so other avenues will be investigated. **This item is still being pursued and should have some concrete information at the Sept. business meeting.**
- 9) Bob suggested looking into having baseball caps, T-shirts. Sweatshirts, and etc. made by a company called Café Press or by a local supplier with KAA's logo on the items. **The logo and hat type has been decided on and Bob is going to have a few hats made by a local supplier, which will be available to see at the August meeting.**

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Completed Items

1) Gail is interested in KAA doing more outreach observing and teaching for the Library. Bob completed a “hands-on” loaner telescope training and providing the basics of finding objects in the sky using sky charts Tuesday June 25 th at 6:30pm at the KPL. This went very well and the student attended KAA’s July business meeting.

New Business

- 1) Bob has sent an Email to Gail on setting up an event for viewing the anticipated comet “Ison” in November or December at Ashuelot Park or the Otter Brook Dam depending on its arrival and location in the sky. Bob also requested information on when the International moon viewing will take place.
- 2) Jim Faux wanted to remind everyone that there are three upcoming area Astronomical Gatherings (Conn. River Valley Astronomers Conjunction- July 12-13; stellafane August 8-11; and New England Fall Astronomy Festival-Sept 13-14) that are listed on our home page with links to their sites providing all the detailed information about the events. Jim has also provided an intro about each event on our site. There is also a host of other great sites to explore on our home page.
- 3) We plan to have a verity of presentations on specific topics after the business meetings starting in the fall. One suggestion was to show videos such as “Journey to the stars” and “400 years of the telescope” along with presentations on topics such as Comets, Black holes and etc. If any one has any topic of interest, please let me know. Don’t feel the topic has to be exotic. Just going over the basics is usually much more beneficial to learning the night sky. Such as how to set up and operate you telescope, how to get the most out of sky maps, charts, magazines and all the astronomy info available on the internet.
- 4) One other topic that was brought up was getting back to keeping the business meeting moving right along and not straying into non essential topics until after the meeting, getting more members involved with KAA activities, looking for feed back from every member on all the issues.