

## MONTHLY MEETING

### May 15, 2015

**Location:** Bruce Norlund's home

**Present:** Jim Faux, Phinie Faux, Rhonda MacLeod, Bruce Norlund, Bob Taylor, and Karen Walter.

**Secretary's Report:**

- Jim Faux reviewed the minutes from the April meeting and they were approved without changes.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- President Bob reported the balance as of April 30, 2015 is about \$1,272.46 compared to the March 31, 2015 balance of \$1,339.

**Upcoming Events:**

- The annual dinner with the Brooks is scheduled for Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm at Pappagallo's. 12 club members are planning on attending.
- There will be an observing session on the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> involving our club, SoVerA, and students from Claudio's CALL class at our observatory. Club members are bringing refreshments and check your email for final details.
- *Stay tuned* for possible on-the-fly future club observing sessions. Notifications with details will be by email.
- Our next club meeting is on June 19th at Karen and Rhonda's. The July meeting will be at the Fauxes. KSC is closed down for faculty vacations.
- During May 25-28<sup>th</sup> there will be another observing session with Julie's MRHS astronomy class at the HS parking lot at 9pm. Specifics will be emailed to you.

**Old Business:**

- New club t-shirts. We still have a number of new t-shirts in various sizes. Contact Bob if you are interested. The cost is only \$20. We have 5-XL, 2-M, and Bob is ordering 5 more large sizes. We also have two club hats left.
- The annual [Northeast Astronomy Forum](#) [NEAF] was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at SUNY Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY. Angel, Susan, Kevin and Jim attended and Jim reported on Saturday's event and passed out NEAF goodies.
- On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Bill Fredericks, from Salem, NY, gave a presentation on astrophotography at the SoVerA monthly meeting at Magic Mtn. Bob, Phinie, and Jim attended and were impressed with his experience using a telescope and CCD camera for astrophotography.

**New Business:**

- Bob and Bruce reported on observing session with Julie Farhm's HS class at Monadnock RHS.
- Rhonda discussed the upcoming observing planned with Allison Henry's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Waldorf School class. The session is scheduled to be at Glenbrook Camp, Marlborough on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a possible star party in the planning involving the Salem, SoVerA, and Keene astronomy clubs during September 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Possibly other clubs and Bob Dudley, SoVerA, is the point man. This could be interesting – and local.
- Jim and Rhonda gave an update on the club subgroup on astrophotography. The first meeting was at 7pm on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Jim and Phinie's. Angel, Rhonda, and Jim attended and discussed equipment, stacking software, and different learning curve materials. The next meeting is at Jim's on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm.

- Bob has submitted the annual Town of Sullivan property [shed] inventory of structure upgrades. Our shed is valued at \$1,700!
- Bob paid the Astronomical Society's annual dues of \$47.50 along with a list of members ordering the Reflector.
- Our upcoming club observatory work session is Saturday, the 23rd, from 9 to 12. Shovels, rakes, trimmers, bug spray, and water bottles are in order. Let's have a good turnout!

### **Meeting Activities:**

#### **Astronomical League's Constellation Hunter Program by Angel**

In Angel's absence, Bruce continued our on-going program series for the club: The Astronomical League's Constellation Hunter Program. For April, the focus has been: Leo, Leo Minor, and Sextans. Members' tasks were to learn about these three, observe and sketch the constellations, be able to identify major features and names in the constellations, and identify the adjacent constellations.

Bruce gave each of us a written quiz [personal learning exercise] on each of the constellations where we identified the major stars and neighboring interesting objects and constellations.

For May, the constellations are: Ursa Major, Canes Venatici, and Coma Berenices.

<https://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/consthunt/const.html>

The purpose is to help all of us learn the sky as a group. The monthly schedule will include constellations visible that time of the year between 8-9 pm nightly. Upon completion of the 12-months study and completion of your monthly logs and sketches, you will receive an AL pin and certificate.

The evening concluded with lively discussions on many related and un-related astronomical topics while we all enjoyed Bruce's fruit and cheese delights.

### **Future Projects & Activities:**

1. Observatory
  - a. Apply creosote on base plates and roof support members.
  - b. Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim Fox will procure stones.
  - c. Maintaining the T111 siding as long as possible scrape and paint when necessary and, when absolutely necessary, install vinyl siding one side at a time over a four-yr. period.
  - d. Install removable skirt around bottom of observatory inside wall.
  - e. Install exterior rubber shield over south wall drip shield and/or replace existing wood drip shield where deteriorating.

**NOTE:** For you "idevice" fanatics, Rhonda mentioned a free excellent constellation app, "Ad Astra". It has a singular purpose of providing information on the constellations – and it does it superbly!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Faux, Secretary