

## KAA October 7, 2011 business meeting summary

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the November meeting are: All items except 3, 5, 6, 11, 14, 16, 18 & 19.
- 2) **The next Observatory work session is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon. The items to be tackled are: Please let me know if you plan to come so I can contact you if any change occurs or weather issues arise. Items a, b, c, and e to be addressed at this work session.**
  - a. **Finish removing last 25% of bottom 8" of wall particle board.**
  - b. **Apply Chrecoat on base plates and roof support members.**
  - c. **Mow field.**
  - d. **Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim to procure stones.**
  - e. **Finish removing saplings along west side of observatory.**
  - f. **Junie will fabricate and install new roof retainer brackets ASAP.**
  - g. **Procure and install new cables for opening and closing the observatory roof. Next Spring.**
  - h. **Replace existing roll off roof tracks. Next Spring**
- 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.
- 4) Obsession telescope issues:
  - a. Determine if a ramp for the Obsession telescope is necessary to get it in and out of the observatory when taking it on the road or just breaking it down and reassembling it at the location is on hold until the cart handle configuration is modified.
  - b. One other issue with the 15" Obsession is its carrying cart. The handles are only 6" off the floor and need to be modified so the telescope can be lifted and moved while in a standing position rather than in a bent over position. Junie is looking into a new handle arrangement.
- 5) **The new 2" motorized focuser and the existing 1 1/4" focuser repairs have been completed and they are now at the observatory. The 2" focuser has been installed on the 12 1/2" telescope and the 1 1/4" focuser is there, if needed.**
- 6) The club's 40<sup>th</sup> observatory anniversary barbecue/cookout has been moved to Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Olive Garden at 6:00pm. Please let me know if you're attending by Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.
- 7) Jim Fox will re-connect with the Dublin School and Jonathan Weiss.
- 8) Dale Moore will be KAA's listed contact on the NH astronomical Society web page, in place of Junie. Dale is in contact with the NHAS and hopes to have this change made shortly.
- 9) The Keene High School science classes will be at the observatory Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November at 6:30pm for observing the moon, Jupiter and other stellar objects. The rain date is set for the following night Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>. They are expecting to have between 20 to 25 students, parents and faculty

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- 10) NASA has announced the availability of a poster exhibit **From Earth to the Solar System (FETTSS)**. There are over 90 images available for download. FETTSS has been exhibited all over the world in shopping malls, metro stations, parks, airports, and other unique locations, reaching millions of people in such locales as New York City, Reykjavik, Alexandria, Shanghai, and Lima and with the Keene Public Library. Gail at the library is interested in the posters, but we need to find funding for printing the posters and building frames to display the pictures. We should discuss venues and other activities that might be part of the exhibit, i.e. guest speakers. **Jim Fox to pursue with Gail the possibility of downloading these photos and projecting them onto a screen in a rotating fashion for viewing prior to the astronomy presentation at the Keene Library in February.** We may also be able to use these photos prior to our presentations through our laptops. Jim will also make a list of companies we could contact that may also print some photos for the library. Jim Faux indicated any computer work needed to download the photos and get them setup for a slide show he would do.
- 11) **NEW OBSERVING REQUIREMENTS: To help the person responsible for manning the observatory on observing nights only (Saturday nights), we are requesting all members that plan on coming to observe to email or call me by 3pm on the Friday before the observing night so we can let the person know at our business meeting if he needs to be at the observatory or not.**
- 12) Gail with the Keene Library appears to be on the verge of getting a telescope from the NH Astronomical Society to loan out to library members. The telescope modifications we assume were made Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, but Gail has not received the telescope as of Oct 7<sup>th</sup> so she is going to contact NHAS about its disposition.
- 13) At this time Gail is also looking for suggestions on topics for the February 2012 astronomy series. Please let me know what you would be interested in and I will pass it on to Gail or you can contact Gail directly.
- 14) The International Moon Night October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Ashelote Park in Keene was a real success with perfect weather and a great turnout. We set up the binoculars the library received, 20x50's with tripod, along with two 4 1/2" telescopes to view the moon and Jupiter
- 15) Jim Fox and I met with Jodi Turner, whom has a new show on channel 8 called **In Your Back Yard** and she was inquiring if KAA would be interested in doing a 30 min segment or more on her show. They do filming one day every month and we indicated it sounded interesting and we would bring it up at our October meeting. Her show is geared for kids. We decided that the earliest we would be ready for doing the filming would be January.
- 16) KAA welcomes our newest member Ellen Hayes.
- 17) The election of officers was postponed until November's meeting. Anyone interested in filling any of the positions, please be at the meeting.

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- 18) Well it's hard to believe another year has come and gone, but during the year we have had another very successful year. We have really made the space inside the observatory expand by repositioning cabinets and removing unused items and doing a major cleaning. We have helped the Keene Library procure a telescope and binoculars for loan. KAA conducted the Lunar observing session through the Library and helped Gail with the February astronomy presentations. We also helped investigate the telescope issues at the Dublin School Observatory and formed a relationship with Jonathan Weis, director of observatory. We purchased a new 2" motorized focuser and had the 1 1/4" focuser broken flange replaced.
- 19) 2012 looks to be another very exciting year with observing sessions for science students from local schools. The pursuing the channel 8 astronomy-filming sessions. We are also be working with Gail on next ebruary's astronomy presentations at the Keene Library. And our usual maintenance of the observatory and up-grades as indicated in item 2.
- 20) The 2012 membership dues are now due. The dues are the same as last year as follows:

**Single/family KAA membership - \$20.00.**

**Single/family KAA membership including Astronomical League membership - \$27.50.**

**Please make checks payable to "Keene Amateur Astronomers, Inc."**

**Please mail payments to:**

**Keene Amateur Astronomers  
C/O Bob Taylor  
P.O. Box 467  
West Dummerston, VT 05357**

