

KAA January 7, 2010 business meeting summary

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the January meeting are: 4, 6, 9 and 10.
- 2) The remaining Observatory work items to be tackled next spring are:
 - a. Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim to procure stones.
 - b. Finish removing saplings along west side of observatory.
 - c. Junie will fabricate and install new roof retainer brackets ASAP.
 - d. Finish removing last 25% of bottom 8" of wall particle.
- 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) Telescope loan program – Jim Faux will revise the Loan Agreement. The revised Loan Agreement will be sent to members via email to review and comment. As, before, please send your comments to Bob Taylor. We will review the Loan Agreement and finalize it at our next meeting in February.
- 5) Contact new tenants across entrance to observatory and explain who and what we are, and to let them know their welcome to join us at our observing sessions. We need their email and phone number to keep them in the loop. This is to also help with the lights should we do outside the observatory observing.
- 6) 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 optics issues are resolved and 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.
 - c. After Dale's presentation we adjourned to Sullivan and worked on the 15" telescope. The primary mirror was collimated. During the collimating process we found the secondary mirror assembly very loose. We changed out the main washer that improved its stability, but the fine adjustment nuts were too difficult to adjust so new ones will need to be purchased and installed. Until this assembly is fixed and working properly the star test is on hold. Once the star test is done Junie will determine if a finder scope purchase for this telescope would be beneficial.
- 7) Investigate buying and installing a 2" focuser and new mounting plate for 12 1/2" telescope. Should order focuser first and then match mounting plate to it. Junie has ordered two focusers thru Tony that have not arrived yet. Once they are in we will evaluate them.
- 8) "The Great Course – Understanding the Universe" a 96 lecture, DVD series by Alex Filippenko of UC – Berkeley has been viewed by the members of the club and the comments have been favorable. The DVD'S are available for 2 weeks. There are 45 or so lectures per DVD box. Each lecture is 30min. These are a valuable addition to the KPL and good resources for KAA members.
- 9) The club 40th observatory anniversary will be held in the spring of 2011 and will incorporate a barbecue/cookout possibly at a member's home and then observing afterwards. Dates will be reviewed at the February meeting.
- 10) Jim to speak to Chris regarding the use of a room in the KSC Student Union for further meetings. The hope is to find a classroom or meeting room that has Internet access to facilitate our educational aim for our monthly meetings. Jim Fox may have access to a projector. Any member notebook/laptop could be used to make these presentations possible. If you have one please bring it to the February meeting.
Thanks.
- 11) Jim Fox will call Michael Brooks regarding snow plowing the driveway and parking area. Michael will be available this Saturday 1/15/11 in the morning to show KAA members how to use his plow. Thank you Michael for your help!!!!
- 12) Our Bruce Norlund will do a presentation at the Keene Public Library on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7pm to discuss the Keene history of optics research and success. We have many optical companies in

the Keene area. They each have their own focus. It will be interesting to learn more about how our area has such a top crop of optical technicians.

- 13) Just a reminder that February is Astronomy month at the Keene Public Library. Lectures will be conducted every Tuesday (1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd) throughout the month starting at 7pm. We will post the topics on our web page as they become available or you can check the KPL site for details.
- 14) After our business meeting on February 4th at KSC YSC, Junie will conduct a presentation on **“choosing the right telescope for you”**. He will bring several telescopes to review and give us hands on use, weather permitting.
- 15) Observing will take place at Sullivan Saturday the 15th at 7pm; weather permitting and we successfully clean the driveway of snow.
- 16) KAA welcomes our newest member Jim Poulette.
- 17) We want to thank Jim and Phinie Faux for their dedication to keeping our web site up to date. If you haven't looked at our site lately, please do, the format has changed significantly especially the front page. It really really looks great. To the news section “space.com”, has been added. Two new sections were also added to the front page: Astro images and members in the news. We welcome any suggestion you may have.
- 18) Attached is the corrected internal KAA membership list.