

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**July 17, 2015**  
**[Attention: Hyperlinks Below]**

**Location:** Jim and Phinie's home

**Present:** Cheryl Burrows, Jim Faux, Carol Littleton, Angel and Suzanne Rosario, Bob Taylor.

**Secretary's Report:**

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

- President Bob reported the balance as of June 30, 2015 is approximately \$1,216.00 compared to the May 31, 2015 of \$1,216.00. The club's bank sends statements quarterly.

**Upcoming Events:**

- *Stay tuned for* possible on-the-fly future club observing sessions. Notifications with details will be by email.
- Our next club meeting will be on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at Karen and Rhonda's home in Marlborough. KSC is closed down for faculty vacations. The August scheduled observing session will be at the club observatory, weather permitting, and beginning at 9:00pm.
- Our July observing for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> have been clouded out.
- The Perseid meteor shower is named after the [constellation Perseus](#), which is located in roughly the same point of the night sky where the Perseid meteor shower appears to originate from. This is a useful naming convention, but not very accurate. The source of the Perseid meteor shower, which occurs every year between July 17 and August 24, is actually debris from the comet [Swift-Tuttle](#). Every year, the earth passes through the debris cloud left by the comet when the earth's atmosphere is bombarded by what is popularly known as "falling stars." This year, peak viewing occurs on August 12-13 beginning at 9:30 PM ET on the 12th, and growing more spectacular after midnight and into the early morning hours until dawn. It doesn't look like the club will be organizing a formal gathering. So, find an open spot, bring a lawn chair and thermos of coffee along with your camera and tripod and enjoy!
- [Stellafane](#): This year's convention will occur during August 13-16 on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont. If you haven't attended, you need to. Check out their website.
- [Rockland Summer Star Party](#): The Rockland Astronomy Club, think NEAF, will hold its 25th annual summer astronomy event at the Peppermint Park Camping Resort, Plainfield, Massachusetts, in the Berkshire Mountains over ten days from August 7-16. How's your calendar?
- On August 11<sup>th</sup> The [SoVerA](#) astronomy club will feature a presentation by Rick Hunter on the [HR](#) [Hertzsprung–Russell] Diagram with possible Perseid meteor observing afterwards. The location is at the [Magic Mtn. Lodge](#) in VT and his presentations are well-prepared and very interesting. See you there.

**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 sizes: 5-XL, 2-M. We also have two club hats left.
- The planned observing with the Fresh Aid Fund children visiting Peterborough and Keene has been postponed to 2016 due to their organizational issues. We tried!
- Cheryl attended the [Astronomers Conjunction](#) 33<sup>rd</sup> annual star party in Northfield, MA, July 10-12, and reported on the numerous topics and speakers present. With 50-60 folks present, the topics included light pollution and solar observing with quality speakers such as Sue French. She emphasized the concern about the possible light pollution from the [Northeast Energy Direct](#)

project. For more information on its effect on us, visit the [NH Pipeline Awareness](#) site or the [pipeline routes](#).

- There is no update on the possible star party in the planning involving the Salem NY, SoVerA, and Keene, and possibly other, astronomy clubs during September 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Bob Dudley, SoVerA, is the point man. Keep tuned.
- The astrophotography subgroup is still waiting to hear back from the Nebulosity software developer on obtaining his discount. Due to members' personal schedules this time of the year, the subgroup will resume formal meetings in the fall.
- The Observatory work session was postponed as the mowing is being done as needed and little else really needed to be tackled.

### **New Business:**

- Our upcoming club observatory needs repainting on the east and south sides: scraping and painting. Ideally, this needs to happen before the snow flies. We also discussed sprucing up, aka beautifying, the walls where they join the floor.
- Telescope Donation: Aileen Cormier, Milton NH, contacted us and graciously donated her Tasco 11-TR 4.5" telescope to the club in late June. The mirror has issues and Bob has agreed to take it under his wings and make it operable for club members to use.
- Possible club outreach: Bob is planning an upcoming observing session at the Community Center in Dummerston, VT.
- The members discussed the possibility of creating a club Facebook page similar to the [Tulsa](#) or [Huston](#) clubs.
- Bob mentioned two excellent books he recently read and highly recommend both: [The View from the Center of the Universe](#) by Primack and [Rare Earth](#) by Ward & Brownlee.

### **Meeting Activities:**

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

Angel continued our on-going program series for the club: The Astronomical League's Constellation Hunter Program. For May, the focus has been: Bootes, Ursa Minor, Corona Borealis. 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.

Angel 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 July, the constellations are: Draco, Hercules, Serpens Cauda, and Serpens Caput.

<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 10-11 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 at the Fauxes.

**Future Projects & Activities[Updated July 17, 2105]:**

1. Observatory
  - a. Apply creosote on base plates and roof support members.
  - b. 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Faux, Secretary  
July 18, 2015