

KAA April 8, 2011 business meeting summary

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the May meeting are: 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15.
- 2) The remaining Observatory work items to be tackled in the spring (May) 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 50% of bottom 8" of wall particle.
 - e. Put a new coat of Chreolite on base plates and roof support members.
- 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) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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 brought two focusers to the February meeting, but time did not permit us to discuss the details of them. Both of them will require mounting plate modifications. To achieve making the new mounting flange Junie indicated the dimensional information required of the existing focuser, which will be obtained for submittal at the May meeting. This info was obtained at Saturdays observing session.**
- 7) The club 40th observatory anniversary barbecue/cookout will be held at Jim and Phinie's July 23rd starting at 5pm. All those that plan attending, please let me know by July 5th so we can make food plans at our July 8th meeting. Observing will take place at Sullivan after the party.

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- 8) Jim spoke with Heather Jasmin with the KSC CALL program about room availability for non-profit groups and she indicated the rates were \$25/hr for the first two hours and \$15/hr after that. We are looking for a room to setting up our laptop computers, projector and screen to conduct our astronomy presentations. Jim Faux to check with the Keene Recreational department as a possible meeting location.
- 9) Junie conducted a great conclusion presentation on "**choosing the right telescope for you**". Junie brought in several interesting telescopes and detailed the optics differences of each and how focal lengths effect observing and eyepiece selection.
- 10) Observing took place at Sullivan Saturday the 9th at 8pm.
- 11) Jim Fox will re-connect with the Dublin School and Jonathan Weiss.

- 12) We are investigating dates to have a club dinner at Papagallos in Keene before the end of April. It will be a good chance to discuss upcoming events and put the winter behind us. Unfortunately, the club is not in financial position to pick up the tab, so it will be a buy your own dinner arrangement.
- 13) The May business meeting will take place at KSC in the YSC on May 6th at 7pm as long as the YSC is open with graduation taking place on the 7th. I will check into its availability and let you know if there is a meeting location change. We urge everyone with a WI-FI computer to bring it. We will be investigating web sites of other astronomy clubs in the area and then look at everyone's favorite astronomy web site.
- 14) The June 3rd business meeting and observing will be held at Junie's at 7pm. Anyone needing directions to his house please let me know. No presentations will be conducted thru the summer months of June, July, and August.
- 15) A work session has been scheduled for May 21st at 9am at the observatory. Details of work to be tackled will be determined at the May 6th business meeting.