

## MONTHLY MEETING

June 19, 2015

**Location:** Rhonda MacLeod and Karen Walter's home

**Present:** Julie Farhm, Jim Faux, Phinie Faux, Rhonda MacLeod, Susan Rolke, Angel Rosario, Bob Taylor, and Karen Walter. Guests: Karl and Susan Dahlen (from Milford)

### **Secretary's Report:**

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

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- President Bob reported the balance as of May 31, 2015 is approximately \$1,216.00 compared to the April 30, 2015 balance of \$1,272.46. Our club bank sends statements quarterly.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- *Stay tuned* for possible on-the-fly future club observing sessions. Notifications with details will be by email.
- The Connecticut River Valley Astronomers' Conjunction in Northfield, MA, will be held on July 10-12.
- Our next club meeting is on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Jim & Phinie Fauxes. The August meeting will be at Rhonda MacLeod and Karen Walter's home. KSC is closed down for faculty vacations. The June scheduled observing session will be at the club observatory, weather permitting, and beginning at 9:30pm. Update: It was clouded out.
- Our July observing will begin at the Sullivan observatory at 9:00pm.

### **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 Allison Henry's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Waldorf School class at Glenbrook Camp, Marlborough, on June 9<sup>th</sup> was weathered out and will be rescheduled for the fall.
- 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. Stay tuned.

### **New Business:**

- Update on the club subgroup on astrophotography. The second meeting, scheduled to be at Jim's on June 12<sup>th</sup>, was postponed. The committee decided to look into a group purchase for processing software, the choice was Nebulosity, and Angel has obtained a discounted club member license for Nebulosity. Angel will notify club members of purchasing details when he obtains them. The next meeting will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June at the Fauxes at 8:30pm.
- Our upcoming club observatory work session is Saturday, July 11 or 12th, from 9 to 12. Shovels, rakes, trimmers, bug spray, and water bottles are in order. Let's have a good turnout! Also, several club members will attend to the mowing/weed whacking in the coming days.
- Possible club outreaches:
  - a. UU Church: Tom Julius, their outdoors group coordinator, contacted us about having his multi-generational group do some observing with us. He is thinking maybe 8-10 members to look at the sky and talk about equipment. They would work around our schedule for observing dates and he thought the fall with earlier observing times would work better than this summer. We will keep him informed of on-going observing sessions.

- b. Plaistow: Brianna Sullivan, the Adult Programming/PR Director for the Plaistow Public Library, is looking to set up a guided astronomy/ star gazing session at their library during July 27-31. She is looking for a lecture/discussion and then outside viewing for about 20 adults. After a discussion, the club decided to decline the request, based on the distance, and will inform her.
- c. Peggy, from the Fresh Air Fund from NYC, has contacted us about a possible presentation/observing session on July 9 or 10/11 for FAF kids aged 6-18 in the Peterborough & Keene areas this summer. Claudio would be the speaker and he and Bob are investigating locations and times.

### **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: Ursa Major, Canes Venatici, and Coma Berenices. 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 June, the constellations are: Bootes, Ursa Minor, Corona Borealis.

<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 Rhonda and Karen's hospitality.

### **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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Faux, Secretary  
June 21, 2015