

KAA February 4, 2011 business meeting summary

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the January meeting are: 5, 6, 9, 11 and 18.
- 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 make the final revisions to the Loan Agreement. The agreement was approved. So the loaner telescopes will be available by our March meeting.
- 5) Jim Faux will make two copies of the loaner telescope manual. Jim will also check into purchasing a carrying case from Home Depot for the eyepieces, planisphere, manual and etc.
- 6) I'm to purchase two planisphere's with a white background.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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. **Junie brought two focusers to the meeting, but time did not permit us to discuss the details of them. Both of them will require mounting plate modifications, which will need to be discussed at the March meeting**
- 10) 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 April meeting.
- 11) 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. **Jim Faux will also check through the KSC-CALL program for room availability.**
- 12) Jim Fox will contact Michael Brooks regarding snow plowing the driveway and parking area for our observing session Saturday February 12th at 7pm.
- 13) Bruce Norlund conducted an excellent presentation on the optical companies in New Hampshire at the KPL Jan. 24th. Bruce has worked during his career for most of the NH firms either as a direct employee

or as a consultant. This was a very informative insight in to each companies engineering and manufacturing capabilities. If your interest is pursuing a career in optics in NH this informative talk was a steppingstone.

- 14) Just a reminder that February is Astronomy month at the Keene Public Library. Lectures will be conducted every Thursday (3st, 10th, 17th and 24nd) throughout the month starting at 7pm. The topics are posted on our front web page.
- 15) Junie conducted a great presentation on “**choosing the right telescope for you**”. Junie, Jim Fox and I brought a verity of telescopes to demonstrate the many variations in telescope design and their mountings. Junie’s lecture showed how the focal length of the telescope changes the length of the telescope, field of view and magnification.
- 16) Observing will take place at Sullivan Saturday the 12th at 7pm; weather permitting and the successfully cleaning of the driveway of snow.
- 17) KAA welcomes our newest family members Paula and Katya Ceranowicz and Jim McCann.
- 18) Jim Faux to contact Gail at the KPL about the State telescope loan program. Perhaps the library could get involved in this program.
- 19) Jim Fox will re-connect with the Dublin School and Jonathan Weiss.