

## **KAA December 10, 2010 business meeting summary**

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the January meeting are: 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 & 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 November 13<sup>th</sup> work session went very well with the following items completed.
  - a. All of the wall cabinets on the west wall were relocated to the east wall.
  - b. Seventy five percent of the bottom 8" of particleboard was removed to help mitigate the mouse problem.
  - c. The foam paneling was installed on the south and west walls which will be used as a bulletin board and for mounting material.
  - d. Phil's plaque was mounted on the west wall.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Telescope loan program – many members did not receive the email sent by me on 12/9/10. The loan program information will be issued with this business summary for your review and comment. Your comments will be reviewed for incorporation in the loan program and finalized at our January 7<sup>th</sup> business meeting. I will need your comments by Jan 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 6) 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.
- 7) We met with Jonathan at Dublin on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the telescope mechanical/computer issues and discussed the possibility of a live video program with the Keene Library some time in 2011.
- 8) As you know Junie conducted an astronomy slide show presentation Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and Jonathan Weiss is doing an observatory construction presentation Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at the Keene Public Library. Both events sponsored by KAA.
- 9) KAA is generating a member list with phone numbers and email addresses, which will be available to all members. This list will be available after the January business meeting. Anyone not wanting his or her name on the list, please let me know ASAP.

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### **10) 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.

- 11) 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.
- 12) Jonathan Weiss of the Dublin School has offered to host spontaneous viewing sessions at the Dublin Observatory. Notification of such events will be via email to KAA's member list.
- 13) The 2011 business and observing sessions schedule is attached. The first part of the years Saturday observing is a week later from our business meeting so as not to conflict with Stellafanes schedule.
- 14) Jim Fox will send Gail Zachariah of the Keene Library, the link to "The Great Course" website for information regarding their course on "Understanding the Universe", a 96 lecture, DVD series by Alex Filippenko of UC – Berkeley. They would be a valuable addition to the Keene library's astronomy resources.
- 15) KAA wants to welcome two new members: Jonathan Weiss and Bruce Norlund.
- 16) KAA wants to thank Jonathan for letting us use the Dublin's observatory for our business meeting, unfortunately the sky did not cooperate to allow observing
- 17) Jim Fox conducted a great presentation on the 0 to 6<sup>th</sup> hour of the sky. The presentation was much enhanced by having Internet access for showing the objects he was presenting along with generating charts and etc.
- 18) Discuss how to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> observatory anniversary.