

KAA December 14, 2012 Business Meeting summary

On-going Business

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the January 18th meeting are: 5, 7, & 8 in this section and all items under *New Business* below.
- 2) The next Observatory work session will be scheduled for next spring. The date to be determined.
 - a. Spring 2013 - loppers to continue to cut tree saplings along west side stonewall.
 - b. Apply Chrecoat on base plates and roof support members.
 - c. Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim to procure stones.
 - d. Finish removing saplings along west side of observatory.
 - e. Junie will fabricate and install new roof retainer brackets ASAP.
 - f. Procure and install new 1/8" cables for opening and closing the observatory roof. (Spring 2013)
 - g. Replace portions of existing roll off roof deteriorating wood beams. (Spring 2013)
 - h. Scrape and paint outside of observatory. On hold pending obtaining new siding.
- 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) The Obsession telescope issue:
 - a. The Obsession was checked out and determined that the primary mirror needs to be moved closer to the secondary mirror. There is also a possibility that the secondary mirror maybe undersized. This mirror primary correction and secondary mirror checkout will be done in the spring.
- 5) **KAA archive slides – Bruce to bring his blow-the-dust-off 35mm projector to next meeting, Jim Faux to bring the slides and we will show them at Bruce's home at the December meeting to understand what we have for history.** Junie gave us two trays of archive slides that he would like the club to "scan and record digitally". **The slides were reviewed and now we need to determine which ones we want to retain and which ones should go to Stellafane.** We will need Junie to determine the selection. We also need to explore ways to convert KAA slides from the 35mm format to digital.
- 6) It was determined that the Observatory siding should be upgraded to vinyl but the process of doing it needs to be ironed out. We have an order request into ReNew in Brattleboro for used vinyl siding. If we have to purchase new siding it will need to be done in stages do to the \$750 cost. Considerations:
 - o One side per year – minimize cost
 - o Vinyl side of the square walls of the observatory; scrape/prime/paint the A-of-the-roof sides
 - o What is outside help?
Local optic? – Bruce
 - o Putnam Foundation
- 7) KAA in conjunction with KPL will conduct a moon viewing scheduled Thursday December 20th and Saturday January 19th between 5:30pm and 7:30pm in the Ashuelot Park in Keene.
- 8) Jim Fox to contact Jonathan Weis at Dublin to see how things are going with their telescope and the astronomy program.

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Completed Items

- 1) KAA has joined the Night Sky Network of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and we look forward to future events with them. Jim Faux to see what logos may be put on our web site from NSN or JPL and determine requirements for future event gifts. Jim Faux to contact NSN prior to our December meeting. **We received our first tool kit from NSN and it's filled with really cool stuff. Jim determined the hold up in receiving our kit was not that we didn't "log in" enough events, three per quarter, it was that we didn't submit the required follow up report, which we're now doing.**
- 2) The 2013 observing schedule was submitted for review and will be finalized at the December business meeting. **The schedule was finalized and it will be sent to everyone and also posted on our web site.**
- 3) The 2013 membership dues are now due. The dues are the same as last year as follows:
Single/family KAA membership – \$20.00.
Single/family KAA membership including Astronomical League membership – \$27.50.
Please make checks payable to “Keene Amateur Astronomers, Inc.”
Please mail payments to:
Keene Amateur Astronomers
C/O Bob Taylor
P.O. Box 467
West Dummerston, VT 05357

New Business

- 1) KAA members need to review and understand the items in the NSN tool kit and then determine how they can be used at future observing events.
- 2) Determine presentation topics for coming year.