

KVAS Meeting Minutes – 2/17/12
Hansford Center -- St. Albans, WV
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary

Bob Frostick called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

- Brent Ogle presented the Night Sky highlights. We will post Brent's handout on the website each month for reference.
- Brent Maynard, our guest speaker, made an excellent presentation on "DSLR Astrophotography on a Budget"
 - Brent covered cameras and lenses he uses, shared many of his excellent photos, discussed image stacking, creation of videos from individual pictures, and use of "magic lantern" software. Brent compared the width of view obtained with various telephoto and wide-angle lenses, and showed examples of pictures taken with each
 - Brent agreed to attend a future meeting to talk more about image processing.
 - Brent will lead a discussion and field workshop at Green Bank this summer, in which those interested can practice astrophotography techniques in the observing field.
- Business Meeting Highlights
 - John Willson reviewed minutes from the January Club meeting, and the 2/17 Board meeting
 - Danny summarized the Club's financial status.
 - Robert Dean discussed the 3/17 Observatory Clean-up Day. It will start early afternoon (1-3 pm), and be followed by a start party that evening if weather allows. We will reschedule in April if weather doesn't cooperate.
 - Various members shared highlights of their recent viewings.
 - Bob asked the Club members to consider volunteering to lead and / or bring refreshments for future meetings. Ideas were to share favorite books on astronomy, favorite I phone apps (satellite vis was recommended), presentations using the Night Sky Network, or various NASA programs. Send Bob an E Mail if you would be willing to volunteer.

- Bob suggested we plan a big prize for Blackwater Falls. Send Bob E Mails with suggestions.
- Send Bob E Mail suggestions for locations to hold the Annual Dinner.
- Our April meeting will be at the Clay Center – ask your friends and neighbors to attend.
- Ed Connors summarized status of ideas for Observatory telescope improvements. Discussion centered around the point that the current scope is now working OK, so ideas for improvement are on hold for now, but set to be implemented when needed.

Options

- 14-inch Meade – approx. \$ 7000
- Astrophysics mount – approx. \$ 10000

Ed will develop a written summary of options.

- Deb Frostick suggested we invite dormant members to come back. We could send them a postcard stating that we miss them, the club is active, and we'd like you back. Another idea suggested was a personalized E mail. The group agreed it would be a good idea to encourage past members to return. Deb agreed to pursue.
 - It was suggested that we have an electronic newsletter. We will seek volunteers at the next meeting.
- Next meeting will be March 16 at the Hansford Center. Observatory Cleanup will be the next day – March 17.

Attendees –

John Willson	Bonnie Dean
Janet Willson	Robert Dean
Glen Taylor	Debbie Frostick
Sandy Blair	Bryson McCain
Danny Blair	Carol Hilleary
Michael Riggs	Janet Willson
Clarence Bowman	Brent Ogle
Linda Bowman	Ed Connors
Dan Pleska	Bob Frostick

Submitted by John Willson – 2/19/12