

KVAS Meeting Minutes – 3/21/14
Hamblin Hall, WVSU, Institute, WV
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary

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

Bob welcomed everyone, and introduced us to our new meeting place at Hamblin Hall at West Virginia State University. We have access to classroom 005 and the auditorium in room 007, as well as access to the 3rd Floor Physics Lab. The facilities are excellent, and Bob has been able to arrange them for our use at no rent!

Presentation on Black Holes – John Willson

John made a presentation entitled “Are We Living in a Black Hole”. He gave some history of black holes, talked about how they are formed, gave some illustrations to show their enormous density and energy, talked about structure of black holes, and imagined what it would be like to be sucked into a black hole.

Need for Volunteers – Bob Frostick

Next month, Dan Pleska will make a presentation on the Hubble Telescope. Bob asked other Club members to volunteer to make presentations at other future meetings.

Volunteers are needed for May, July, August, October, November, and December. We will have our annual picnic in June, and we will attend Blackwater Falls in September. We need volunteers to bring refreshments as well.

Chuck Spann offered to do a presentation on meteorites at a future meeting.

Observatory Updates – Rodney Waugh and Ed Connors

Rodney updated the group on several developments around the Observatory.

- Rodney has prepared a streamlined operating manual for the new telescope mount. It should be more user-friendly than the official Astro-Physics manual. He will E Mail the manual to members.
- Plans are still to raise the scope a couple of inches to prevent it dragging on the ground.
- Rodney has been cleaning out old materials at the Observatory. He has cleared out the existing storage building and bought new locks for it, and purchased a 3 step ladder that has handrails, for use with the telescope.
- There was discussion on how we schedule star parties at the Observatory. Ideas shared and points made were –
 - Develop a standard Observatory schedule, possibly the Saturday before the New Moon every month.
 - We will need volunteers to lead events and lead use of the new scope.

- Hold training sessions on how to use the new scope as a way to develop more leaders.
 - Manage the schedule on a more informal basis – sharing E Mail when members are interested in using the Observatory.
 - The phone numbers to contact the Camp Virgil Tate manager were shared – they need to be notified to gain access. The office number is 304-984-3311, and their house number is 304-984-2228.
- Ed has installed new knobs and a new dual-speed focuser on the scope. He reported that both the new focuser and the “Go-To” functionality are working great.

Green Bank Star Quest XI – Rodney Waugh

Rodney gave an update on plans for Green Bank Star Quest XI, which will be held at Green Bank on June 25 – 28. The cost remains \$85 for the 4 days. He gave a brief review on the Green Bank budget and financial situation.

There was discussion on how Green Bank might be affected by budget cuts, and the current and future possible relationships between Green Bank and West Virginia University.

Insurance for the Scope – Ed Connors

Ed brought up the question of whether we should buy insurance for the telescope – liability and/or loss coverage. He is obtaining quotes for future Board consideration.

Work Party at the Observatory – Bob Frostick

Bob proposed that we have a Work Party at the Observatory in either April or May to remove rust and do some painting, as well as general cleanup. More details will be shared as plans are finalized.

Messier Marathon – Rodney Waugh

The Messier Marathon is planned for this coming Saturday, March 29th, with Friday the 28th as the backup date. Rodney will send E Mail to club members on Wednesday, and follow it up with another E Mail the night before the event. We will meet at the Observatory at 7:30 pm. Interested members are planning to eat dinner at the Pizza

Hut in Cross Lanes at 6:00 pm. We will plan to be at the Observatory all night to attempt to observe all of the Messier objects.

Club members can bring guests if desired.

Update on Yuri's Night – Bob Frostick

Bob discussed the upcoming "Road to the Stars: A Yuri's Night Celebration" in Scott Blake's absence. The event will be Saturday, April 12. Scott has invited Melanie Vickers to participate, and has been working with the library. The Cross Lanes Library will have exhibits set up in the lodge, and we will have the observatory open. Volunteers will be needed to come out and support viewing at the observatory.

Bob will talk to Scott to understand the Club's commitment for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Attendance

John Willson	Janet Willson
Carol Hilleary	Robert Dean
Bonnie Dean	Debbie Frostick
Brent Ogle	Dan Pleska
Danny Blair	Sandy Blair
Judy Waugh	Rodney Waugh
Michael Riggs	Ernie Powell
Ed Connors	Jane Carothers
Chuck Spann	Bob Frostick