

KVAS Meeting Minutes – 4/19/13
Hansford Center, St. Albans, WV
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary

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

Star Parties – Melissa Thorner

Melissa gave a great presentation on Star Parties held in the Eastern US, sharing her experiences attending various parties. She handed out a list of popular Star Parties that occur from March through November – the list will be posted separately on the KVAS website.

Star Parties are a great way to meet wonderful people who are more than willing to offer help and share their experiences – it is a great way to develop a network of people for sharing. Many people attending engage in astrophotography and sketching. You typically encounter a lot of dark skies and get to see some great scopes and equipment. You can typically camp and set up your scope next to your campsite, leaving your scope set up for the duration. Many vendors typically attend, offering great equipment. Melissa described her excitement when she first started viewing objects – it's something you start slowly and then build your capability.

There are good ones in West Virginia, including Almost Heaven and Green Bank. Others that Melissa highlighted include Staunton River, Delmarva, Stellafane, Chiefland, and the Winter Star Party in Key West. She highlighted the Northeast Astronomy Forum in New York in April – which offers a very extensive array of vendors showcasing their equipment.

Bob mentioned that he would be interested in attending the Northeast Astronomy Forum at some point – we may want to travel as a group. He also mentioned that we could go to Ed Connor's observatory at some point.

Green Bank Update – Rodney Waugh

Rodney gave an overview of the annual Star Quest event. This year will be the 10th anniversary. Rodney will provide details next month.

Blackwater Falls – Bob Frostick

Our annual Blackwater Falls Astronomy Weekend will be held the last weekend in September.

- Speakers – let Chuck know your ideas on potential speakers. Suggestions included representatives from the WVU Physics Department, Maria Roselina, Brent Maynard, or to invite other past speakers.
- The consensus was that we “go light” on the speakers – maybe target only 8 to give people time off to enjoy the park.
- We discussed ideas for raffle prizes. The ideas shared are listed below.
 - iPad mini with applications installed
 - Shotgun

- Outdoor Gear
 - Clothes
 - Tents
 - Fishing Gear
 - Blinds
 - Camping Gear
 - Camp Stoves
 - Camp Grill
- Camera
- Wildlife cameras controlled by motion detectors
- IP cameras

We will research the options and discuss at our next meeting.

Observatory Upgrades – Bob Frostick

Trees are growing up and starting to block our view. We need to mark which ones we want to cut.

Plans are to schedule a work party in which we will remove brush, work on the warming shed, etc. Please support.

Order for KVAS Apparel – Bob Frostick

Bob solicited interest in putting together an order for KVAS apparel. There was significant interest, so Bob will pursue this.

Need Volunteers for Meeting Presentations and Refreshments – Bob Frostick

Bob asked members to volunteer to bring refreshments and to give presentations in our monthly meetings.

John and Janet Willson will bring refreshments in May.

Melissa suggested we show the presentation that Fr. Christopher Corbally gave at the University of Charleston.

Miscellaneous Notes

- Scott Blake offered to have the Club visit his sister's farm in Hopkinsville, Kentucky to view the total eclipse of the sun that will occur on August 21, 2017.
- Bob Frostick is considering a trip to South America for 9 days in 2015, visiting Machu Picchu as well as other attractions.

Observatory Telescope Update

Bob mentioned that he hosted approx. 25 students from WV State at the Observatory – it was difficult to find too much, but the scope is great – views look excellent through it!

Rodney and Chuck generously donated money to cover the down payment (1/2 of the total cost) for the new Astrophysics mount. Delivery is scheduled for late May or June. Rodney got confirmation from Astrophysics that the mount will work great with our telescope.

The Club sincerely thanks Rodney and Chuck for their generosity!

The rotating rings that Ed Connors developed and installed also work great. Much thanks to Ed as well.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by John Willson, Secretary

Attendance List

John Willson
Janet Willson
Debbie Frostick
Chuck Spann
Michael Riggs
Dan Pleska
Tom Schottle
Clarence Bowman

Linda Bowman
Patricia Shaffer
Carol Hilleary
James Chapman
Melissa Thorner
Roger Chapman
Robert Dean