

KVAS Meeting Minutes – 5/18/12
Hansford Center – St. Albans, WV
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary

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

Night Sky – Brent Ogle

Brent Ogle presented the Night Sky for May, highlighting the upcoming Venus Transit, as well as the constellations Draco, Lyra, Scutum, Serpens Cauda, and Ophiuchus. Special thanks to Mike Riggs for his contribution to this month's Night Sky.

Meeting Minutes Archives

Bob asked all members to find any old minutes that they may have on file, and send them to him – Bob will post on the website. Melissa Thorner and Rodney Waugh thought they may have documentation of old minutes – they will look for them.

Telescope Tuning – Ed Connors

Ed Connors made a presentation on tuning telescopes, showing examples of how to tune both a refractor and a reflector. Ed uses a laser (he says to get a good one!), to "square-up" the light gathering lens or mirror, and to make sure the eyepiece and eyepiece mirror are aligned. Let Ed know if you would like him to tune up your telescope, to get the best performance from your optics.

Solar Eclipse / Venus Transit – Bryson McCain and Rodney Waugh

Bryson shared various techniques to use to safely view the upcoming solar eclipse and Venus transit of the sun that will occur on June 5/6. He also reviewed the biological effects of sunlight on the eye, and how damage is caused. Bryson also shared a handout that had websites where you can watch the annular eclipse

<http://events.slooh.com>

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/scottys-sky>

<http://panasonic.net/eclipselive/>

<http://www.weather.gov.hk/gts.hksm/astrophoto.htm>

<http://www.nightskiesnetwork.com>

<http://www.transitofvenus.org>

Rodney Waugh then shared a handout giving more background information on the Venus transit, and also passed out copies of a photograph he took of the last Venus transit on June 8, 2004.

Observatory Report – Robert Dean

Robert has obtained a new light curtain for the Observatory. He suggested we start taking the curtain down after Star Parties, to avoid damage.

Club Presentations

There are several upcoming presentations the Club will be supporting.

June 2 – 11:00 am until 2:00 pm – Clendenin Street – Library Commission event. Anyone is welcome to come and support – bring a scope if you can. Janet Willson is coordinating. Let her know if you plan to attend.

There was a request from the Wayne County 4-H Club for us to present to 80 9-12 year olds in mid June. We decided we could not support this event due to the numbers involved.

Our July meeting will be held at the Observatory on the 3rd Friday (July 20).

Janet Willson suggested that we compile a library of presentations that could be used for various groups. A balancing thought shared was that presentations are relatively personal, and that it is difficult for one person to present another's material.

KVAS Banner

Our KVAS banner is currently missing. Melissa thinks she might have brought it home from Blackwater last fall – she will check. A motion was passed to buy a new one if the old one can't be found within one month.

Star Quest

Star Quest will be held June 20 – 24 at Green Bank. The schedule is being finalized. You can get more info at the Star Quest website --

www.greenbankstarquest.org. Rodney has the financial statements from past Star Quest events.

Blackwater Falls

Carol Hilleary is in charge of getting prizes. Chuck Spann is lining up speakers. We currently have 1 and need 8. – we will have 3 speakers on Friday and 5 on Saturday. Several people volunteered to make presentations –

Rodney – Venus Transit

Brent – Night Sky

Melissa – Star Walk at Dusk

We may also be able to get a physics professor from Concord University

All members are asked to think about presentations you could make or suggest – we will continue to discuss at future meetings.

A motion was passed to buy an i-Pad for a raffle prize. We agreed to get a 16 GB unit with a gift receipt, so that the winner could take it back and upgrade at their expense if desired.

Telescope Committee Report – Ed Connors

Ed reviewed options that have been discussed for upgrading our Observatory telescope. There was significant discussion, but no consensus as to which option to pursue. The committee was asked to prepare a handout showing the options, costs, with pros and cons of each option that members can use to assess the options.

Chuck Spann offered to loan the Club his 16-inch telescope to use at the Observatory until the Club can decide on a permanent resolution.

Bob Frostick requested a Board meeting (that was held after the Club meeting) to discuss liability if we use Chuck's scope. In the subsequent Board meeting, Chuck signed a waiver relieving the Club from any liability for damage or loss of the scope. Based on this, the Board agreed to the temporary use of Chuck's scope until we can make a decision on our final option.

Other points made –

We should decide how much we are willing to spend on a new scope installation and budget our funds.

We should pursue getting a grant to pay for part of the cost of the new installation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Attended

Bryson McCain
Chuck Spann
Carol Hilleary
Janet Willson
Judy Waugh
Bonnie Dean
Melissa Thorner
Danny Blair
Sandy Blair
Robert Dean
Debbie Frostick
Bob Frostick
John Willson
Sam Willson
Glen Taylor
Dewey Ponthieu
Dan Pleska
Cat Pleska
Rodney Waugh
Ernie Powell (visitor)
Brent Ogle
Michael Riggs
Wm. Blilus (??)
Lewis A. Cook

Submitted by John Willson, Secretary.