

KVAS Meeting Minutes – 7/19/13
Hansford Center, St. Albans, WV
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary

Rodney Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

New Club Telescope Mount – Rodney Waugh

Rodney gave an update on the new scope mount. The Astro-Physics 1600 GTO mount has arrived. Rodney reviewed some of the features of the mount, and stated that it is very well built, and that we will be happy with it for years to come.

There are several items that need to be completed to make the mount functional.

- We need to get a new pier made – we will need to contract this out.
- We will need sand to fill the pier to minimize vibration.
- We will need to bore out the counterweights to make them fit, and will probably need to add an additional one.
- We need a mounting plate that goes between the mount and the telescope. IT will be about 18 – 20 inches long and about 8 inches wide – we will need to contract this out.

Rodney and Ed Connors will get an estimate of the cost to complete these items, and will send Bob Frostick an E Mail summary to use to seek Board approval for the expenditures.

The existing pier is of no use in the new installation, and Rodney suggested we sell it. He estimates we could get approximately \$800 for the old pier. We need Board approval to sell the height adjustable pier.

Rodney estimates that the new mount will be operational by September 1.

Ed Connors donated a ladder we can use to access the eyepiece. We appreciate Ed's generosity.

Timbering at Breezy Point – Rodney Waugh

Rodney pointed out that Camp Virgil Tate is going to be harvesting timber from their land to raise money to replace the swimming pool. He mentioned that this might be an opportunity for us to point out some trees we would like to have harvested, so as to improve our viewing from the Observatory. Bob Frostick has dealt with Camp Virgil Tate management before and may want to talk with them about getting rid of obstructing trees.

Star Quest Summary – Rodney Waugh

Rodney reviewed last week's annual Star Quest event at Green Bank. The weather did not cooperate – every night was cloudy and there was no opportunity at all for observing – but this was offset by the usual outstanding speakers who were there. The schedule showing all speakers and lectures is on the Starquest website.

Rodney commented that there is always great food and infrastructure there, and that if Club members volunteer to work to support the event, that they will waive the \$85 fee as well as provide free meals. Next year's Star Quest will be the last week in June, 2014. There are good posts on Facebook that show pictures

Chuck highlighted a session led by Dave Holden on etching meteorites. This was the first such class held in the U.S. Chuck passed some etched meteorites around for the group to see. The crystal signature is unique for every meteorite "fall" – and can be used to identify which group they came from. Rodney mentioned that Dave Holden is also going to be at Blackwater, and we could hold a similar etching session there as well. Chuck will order some meteorite slices that we can use.

Chuck also passed around some meteorites that he purchased at Star Quest – he had examples from Canyon Diablo, Morocco, and Argentina.

Blackwater Falls Preparation – Chuck Spann

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

Speakers committed to date include:

- Pam Casto – NASA
- Indy Kotche
- Brent Maynard
- Dave Holden
- Rodney, Chuck, and Ed plan to do a presentation on our new mount
- We thought Bob Frostick might be willing to do his presentation on constellations
- Need 3 more – Chuck will contact Marshall University and WVU.

Rodney has the schedule prepared, and just needs to add speakers.

The comment was made that we should do a group picture during the event. Chuck will also plan to lead a "to scale" representation of the solar system in the parking lot – showing the relative distances and density of the solar system.

Blackwater has donated use of one 8-person cabin, and two 4-person cabins. Let Rodney know if you are interested in staying in one of the cabins.

When you call Blackwater to make reservations, be sure to tell them you are with KVAS and are attending the Astronomy weekend – they will give you 10% off room charges.

We need to get tickets made up for the iPad raffle prize. Chuck agreed to print up some tickets.

Next year's Blackwater event will be the 25th anniversary. Ideas floated were:

- Publicize in the West Virginia magazine.
- Solicit donations to support getting a national speaker.
- Organize a scavenger hunt for the children.

Items for Next Month's Meeting

- Estimate for new pier, counterweights, etc.
- Chuck will hand out raffle prize tickets for Blackwater.
- Chuck will share the Blackwater schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

The Willson's brought delicious pies, cookies, chips & salsa, and cold beverages for the members. Thanks to John and Janet!

Attendance

John Willson	Robert Dean
Janet Willson	Brent Ogle
Carol Hilleary	Judy Waugh
Chuck Spann	Rodney Waugh
Michael Riggs	