

**KVAS Meeting Minutes – 11/15/13
Hansford Center, St. Albans, WV
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary**

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

Update on Comet ISON – Rodney Waugh

Rodney gave us an update on the status of Comet ISON. The comet is giving off water at 130 lb/min, and dust at the rate of 112M lb/min. It is estimated to be about 3 miles in diameter. It became visible to the naked eye on 11/15 in Virgo – it is visible from about 5:00 am until sunrise in the southeast sky. Given that we don't know its fate after it goes around the sun, we should try to see it in the next few days. It will go behind the sun on Thanksgiving day – 11/28.

Asteroid P/2013 P5 – Michael Riggs

Michael discussed and passed around some information on asteroid P/2013 P5, which has 6 tails! Very interesting!

Film on Comets – “Crystals of Creation” – Bob Frostick

Bob showed a video called “Crystals of Creation”, which gave great background information on formation and features of comets.

Recent Equipment Additions for our Telescope – Ed Connors

Ed brought 3 new additions we have purchased for our telescope at Breezy Point, showed them to the group, and discussed their use.

- Variable polarizer – this consists of two polarizers that you can adjust in opposition to control the amount of light passing through. This will be very useful for observing the moon, especially in full or near full moon conditions.
- New focuser – this new focuser has larger knobs that will be easier to use in the dark, as well as course and fine focus adjustment.
- 2x Powermate – the Powermate will double the power of our existing eyepieces. It also has an adapter that can be used to attach a camera for astrophotography.

Power of our existing eyepieces

Power with Powermate

59

118

91

182

140

280

Ed suggested that, for the future, we consider purchasing an 8mm eyepiece, which will give 228 power, with 456 when using the Powermate.

Bob reminded the group to be very careful with the scope when it is aimed in the near vertical position – there is very little clearance at the bottom when the scope is pointed up. Also, when using the controller, it overshoots slightly after you stop the movement – so be very careful. Ed plans to raise the mirror up slightly to give more clearance.

Demonstration of Starry Night Software – Bob Frostick

Bob demonstrated some of the capability of the Starry Night – College program. It contains a full working version of Starry Night Pro and also has tours, demonstrations and exercises built-in. It can be upgraded to Starry Night Pro Plus. The Starry Night – College program sells for \$150, but is available for \$60 to Club members. Bob will send an E Mail to the members with information on how you can purchase the program if desired.

Bob would like to pursue using the program to connect to and control our Club telescope. Being able to see objects on the computer screen, then view them live through the telescope would provide a neat capability for us.

Club Featured in Capitol City South Magazine – Rodney Waugh

Rodney shared copies of the October 2013 edition of Capitol City South Magazine, which featured KVAS. It was a very good article with many pictures, and gave the Club a lot of good press.

Business Meeting – Bob Frostick

- Our treasury has about \$6000, after purchase of the 3 telescope additions discussed above.
- Potential relationship with West Virginia State University. We discussed several potential benefits of forming a closer relationship with WVSU.
 - We could move our meeting location from the Hansford Center to WVSU – advantages discussed were less cost, a more dedicated and accessible room, and a potentially safer environment.

There may be a conflict for our normal December meeting, which we think would normally occur during Christmas break for WVSU. We could either move our annual dinner to December, or otherwise schedule around this.

- We would offer use of our 16 inch scope to WVSU for research use.

- WVSU has applied for a grant to purchase a 12.5 inch Meade telescope, which they would install in a new observatory at WVSU. Our old pier would work for their new scope, and we discussed donating our old pier to WVSU. We estimated that we might get \$900 -- \$1000 if we were to sell it.

Danny Blair made a motion that was seconded and passed to allow Bob Frostick to lead negotiations and to do what he feels is best.

- Our December meeting will be held on 12/20/13 at the Hansford Center. Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Rodney has a presentation on the installation of our new telescope mount that he will present at the meeting.
- The January annual dinner will be held at Ryans again – Bob will try to reserve the same separate room we had last year.

Donation of “Finder Charts of Select Double Stars” – Ed Connors

John Dennis has donated a copy of “Finder Charts of Select Double Stars” for the Club’s use.

We entered into a discussion on the need to protect paper charts and books from mice at the Observatory. One idea was to buy a plastic tub, but Robert shared that they sometimes encourage condensation. Rodney suggested a stainless steel cabinet. Bob expressed that we need a consolidated plan for the Observatory that would include storage needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.
Submitted by John Willson, Secretary

Attendance

Rodney Waugh	Michael Riggs
Robert Dean	Danny Blair
Sandy Blair	Judy Waugh
Janet Willson	Carol Hilleary
Ed Connors	Dan Pleska
Bob Frostick	John Willson