

KVAS Meeting Minutes – 12/20/13
Hansford Center, St. Albans, WV
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary

Rodney Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Presentation on New Telescope Mount – Rodney Waugh

After giving a brief history of the telescopes that the Club has had over the years, Rodney reviewed features of our new scope and mount. Rodney and Ed have designed and installed many features for the 16-inch reflector that Chuck donated to the Club. These include the design of supports and bearings for the rotating rings, braces, sliding counterweights, and capability to attach a second scope or camera. All of this was done with excellent workmanship. We appreciate all of the work they put into the design and installation of the new mount, and of course appreciate Chuck's support in his donation of the telescope.

Rodney also reviewed features of the new mount – the base plate we had made at West Virginia Steel, adjustments for latitude, its "go to" capability, controls, and recent observations made with the scope.

One caution was shared – if the scope is pointed straight up, the bottom plate could contact the concrete pad. Plans are to move the mirror up an inch or two, but in the meantime, anyone using the scope should be careful. The "stop" button must be pushed about 3 seconds early, because it will drift slightly before it stops.

Suggestions were made to develop a simple "cliff notes" version of directions, and have them laminated and posted at the Observatory.

Night Sky Observations

It was noted that there is a new crater on the moon that is 100 feet in diameter. Comet Lovejoy's tail is also prominent – stretching 20 degrees across the sky.

January Meeting – Bob Frostick

Bob reminded the group that our January meeting will be our Annual Dinner, at Ryan's starting at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Appetizers and Desserts

After Rodney's presentation, we shared delicious appetizers and desserts that were brought by members to celebrate Christmas.

Submitted by John Willson, Secretary

Attendance

John Willson
Danny Blair
Judy Waugh
Bonnie Dean
Carol Hilleary
Ed Connors
Dan Pleska

Michael Riggs
Sandy Blair
Robert Dean
Janet Willson
Jane Corathers
Rodney Waugh