

KVAS Meeting Minutes – 12/21/12  
Hansford Center – St. Albans, WV  
Minutes Taken by John Willson, Secretary

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

### **Presentation – The Solar System – Ed Balthazar**

Ed Balthazar made a very good presentation on the solar system. He discussed the condensation theory of the formation of the solar system, in which it was formed from a primordial nebula, with lighter elements being thrown further away from the sun – leading to the terrestrial planets being formed closer to the sun, with the gas giants further away.

Ed reviewed the different types of planets and other bodies in the solar system – terrestrial planets, asteroids, Jovian planets, and comets. He then covered each planet in turn, talking about the structure, composition, features, and moons of each. He talked about Pluto, and the basis for it being excluded as a planet by the IAU. Ed continued to talk in more detail about comets, the Kuiper Belt, the Oort Cloud.

We appreciate Ed's sharing of this well-prepared presentation.

### **Review of Progress on Chuck's Scope Loaned to the Club – Ed Connors**

Ed shared some pictures showing improvements he has made to Chuck's telescope that he has loaned to the Club to use. Ed showed the new tube, rotating rings, teflon and ball bearings he has installed, eyepiece counterweights, and counterweights for the scope itself. Ed's improvements will make it much easier to access the eyepiece when using our reflector. We appreciate Ed's dedication and the work he has done.

### **Financial Report – Bob Frostick**

Bob reviewed the Club's financial picture. We have slightly over \$12,000, with \$8500 of that in CDs. We made \$1350 at Blackwater, before paying \$500 for the iPad raffle prize. We also added \$1000 from the sale of the old scope, and we have spent \$1631 on improvements to our current scope (two payments of \$825 and \$806). We will need to get the grant we are pursuing to be able to upgrade our scope.

At the end of the meeting, a comment was made that we could potentially sell the old telescope tube. Bob will see if anyone in the Club is interested

first.

### **Grant Proposal Preparation – Chuck Spann**

Chuck will be attending a required grant-writing training workshop in January. The grant is to be submitted by 2/1/13. Our plan is to ask for a \$7500 grant – we will know the results in March.

(Refer to notes later in the minutes about including the opportunity to observe upcoming comets and the triple moon transit of Jupiter in the grant proposal)

We can also use our logbook as data around how often we have hosted star parties for the community – to be included in the grant proposal.

Several Club members offered to help Chuck with the grant proposal. After Chuck's training, he will ask for what he needs to help prepare the grant. Educational value will be the focus.

### **Upcoming Astronomical Events – Mike Riggs and Ed Connors**

Mike Riggs mentioned two comets that will be visible in 2013. The first, comet PANSTARRS, will become visible in the northern hemisphere in mid-March at 2<sup>nd</sup> magnitude. The second, C/2012-S1 (ISON), could be very spectacular, potentially being as bright as the moon (magnitude -12), in mid-November.

Mike will continue to follow developments, and suggest internet sites, as well as the best weekends for viewing as we get closer.

Danny Blair suggested we develop a flyer for these comets, and make it part of the grant proposal.

Ed shared that there will be a triple transit of Jupiter's moons on October 11. It was commented that this would be another good thing to include in the grant.

### **January Meeting – Annual Dinner – Bob Frostick**

Bob asked Club members to suggest locations for our Annual Dinner that will occur in January. He will send an E Mail soliciting suggestions.

So far, restaurants that have been mentioned and considered include

- Ponderosa – Elkview
- 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter in Charleston
- Firehouse Grill – Teays Valley (comment was that the room is too small)
- Fat Patty's – Teays Valley
- Angela's on the River – St. Albans (was the old Chilton House)

Comments from the group were –

Teays Valley may be too far away.  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter has a good room.  
Bob will check out the Ponderosa.  
Angela's would be OK.

Bob will take everyone's input, and book the one that seems the best.

### **Future Meeting Topic – Bob Frostick**

Bob mentioned that we need to do some planning to decide how many star parties we can support in the future. He proposed that we make it a future meeting topic.

### **Meteorite Sharing – Chuck Spann**

Chuck passed around some meteorites he has, and he also gave each member a tektite, which are gravel-sized bits of natural glass that are formed from terrestrial debris ejected during extraterrestrial impacts.

### **Dues Due in January**

A reminder that dues are due in January, so remember to give your \$25 to Danny at the next meeting.

Bob Frostick adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by John Willson, Secretary.

### **Attendance List**

Chuck Spann, Debbie Frostick, Sandy Blair, Danny Blair, Robert Dean, Bob Frostick, Ed Connors, Carol Hilleary, Ed Balthazar, Molly Dean, Sam Willson, Janet Willson, Michael Riggs, Roger Chapman, John Willson.