

Bob Frostick called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Electric Sky Theatre Presentations

We met in the Electric Sky Theatre, and viewed the show “Saturn, Ringed World”, followed by a discussion of the night sky, along with a discussion of content and strategies for the presentations that are made to the public. Future plans for the planetarium were presented.

In May, the Clay Center will host a presentation by Konica / Minolta on future technology for the Electric Sky Theatre.

Business Meeting

Treasurer’s Report – we currently have slightly more than \$12,000 in our treasury.

Robert Dean announced that the Observatory clean up day originally scheduled for Saturday 4/21 was being cancelled, due to rain in the forecast.

Rodney Waugh reported on his new telescope acquisitions, including a new solar telescope that is showing excellent views of solar prominences.

Ed Connors asked about the light curtain at the Observatory – Chuck reported that he had taken it down because it was in poor shape.

We discussed changeover in the Camp Virgil Tate staff

- Cody White is the new Director
- Bruce is the new maintenance person.

For anyone using the Observatory, be sure to make a good impression as they get to know us.

We have had 3 upcoming events that need volunteers

- Astronomy Day at the Clay Center will be April 28. Rodney will bring his solar scope and set up around 11:30 am. We will go from noon until around 4:00 pm.
- Saturday, June 2, the Kanawha County Library Commission has asked us to set up some telescopes in support of an event they will be having on Clendenin Street. Janet and John Willson will take 2

scopes, we need 3-4 more volunteers who can bring their scopes or volunteer to man the event. We will be there from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

- The Kanawha County Library Commission has also asked us to conduct a Star Party on July 20. Volunteers are needed to help.

Observatory Telescope Options

Ed Connors shared a handout that summarized 3 options for the observatory telescope – purchase of a new 14-inch Meade scope for \$7,000, purchase of a new Astrophysics mount for \$10,000, or repair of our current scope for \$1,300. Ed discussed the pros and cons of each option (handout is posted on the KVAS website). Bob will send information on websites related to each option, and encouraged members to review information there. In the May meeting we will vote on which option to implement.

Rodney Waugh suggested a 4th option – a \$2000 mount that he proposed as a better option than repairing our current scope. Its capacity would support a maximum size 12 inch telescope. We agreed to discuss at the May meeting.

Timing for each option was estimated to be 5 weeks to repair our current scope, 2 weeks for the Meade, and 2 weeks for the Astrophysics mount.

Other Agenda Items

Bob asked members to be thinking about good places we could have the Christmas Party, and also asked members to think about a good raffle prize for Blackwater Falls.

Brent Ogle reviewed the April / May Night Sky, highlighting upcoming celestial events and the constellations Hercules, Corona Borealis, Serpens Caput, and Scorpius.

Ed Connors is available to tune up your scope.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on May 18 at the Hansford Center in St. Albans.

Submitted by John Willson, Secretary