

President's Corner

Dan Tibbetts

Hello all.

As I am your duly elected new President, I wish to thank you for your support and confidence in me. I pledge that with your total support and unfailing admiration, not to mention unfailing obedience and devotion I will lead you to glorious new heights. As "President For Life" your great leader will dictate your every action and thought. No deviation from my inspired plans will be permi um maybe I should start again...

Hello all. As your new President I am humbled by your confidence in me. I will endeavor to serve you, the people, as a faithful representative of your needs and desires. No problem or need will be too small for my diligent and dedicated perusal. I will be total in my commitment to furthering the causes of NEKAAL and its individual members. All I ask in return is Total Obedience and Devotion... (Coughs quietly).

OK, third try. Hello all. As I have been elected president of this august organization for this year I will try to be up to the task. I know there are challenges involved and needs to be met. This organization is blessed with a remarkable recourse in the physical observatory at its disposal. Thanks to the efforts of many in the past we have an excellent observatory and equipment. We have people interested in education and outreach, amateur scientists, and even a few observers. Unfortunately there have been few observers recently taking advantage of our resources. Hopefully this can be reversed.

The NASA grants which have provided us with both opportunities and obligations are waning, leaving us with improved facilities and equipment. The Tombaugh telescope is an excellent deep sky photographic instrument. It is difficult to use for planetary imaging due to the large light gathering ability and the sensitivity of the camera, though with aggressive tweaking it can handle even the bright moon. It is suitable for imaging in general, obviously for asteroid and even trans-Neptunian searches, photometry, variable star observing, Nova searches, etc. Obviously we cannot compete with multi-million dollar observatories on mountaintops with paid staff. But with the weather's cooperation, the Tombaugh could do a lot with the help of slave- err, I mean "volunteer" operators. Dr. Twarog at KU has even expressed interest in using the recourses this telescope provides. But foremost, the telescope needs to be an easily utilized tool for the pleasure and enlightenment of hopefully all NEKAAL members.

The ever present and expanding light pollution, which impedes the observations of the dedicated and blocks the interest of the uninitiated has not yet swamped Farpoint observatory, though we do have some local light pollution issues. And the final outfitting of the new Kessler observatory building and telescope will soon be completed, allowing easier visual (and photographic) astronomy with substantial equipment. And it provides further capability for the educational efforts of members such as Janelle and others.

Our monthly meetings allow for the social interaction of astronomy enthusiasts and the presentation of interesting topics. As President I am responsible for these presentations. As such I will personally expound on the Tombaugh Telescope-making and tweaking (except for mirror grinding- you have to be nuts ... err dedicated to try that), cosmic wonders, and down-to Earth-terrestrial issues. If anyone wishes to present a topic, they will be welcome to do so (please..). Also, hopefully we can have some august guest speakers recruited to present.

Hopefully we can have some gatherings at Farpoint Observatory for group observing and entertainment.

So, in conclusion, I look forward to expending my efforts towards the betterment of NEKAAL and look forward to your total and complete devotion and obedience to my Eternal Reign.....

Dan Tibbets