

## *A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Brad Hutton

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. With the New Year, change comes to NEKAAL. The new President and Board is made up of returning members, some new faces and members returning to the Board after taking time off. I look forward to working with the Board on planning for the future of NEKAAL and planning club events for this year. At our first Board meeting, new ideas were discussed that I feel will provide opportunities for the membership to enjoy their Club. The life blood of any club is its membership and the support they give. I would like to set as a goal of this Board an increase in participation of club members in events and use of FPO. The great thing about the hobby of astronomy is that it allows for a large diversity of interest. You can enjoy the hobby with as little as the human eye or the use of a large telescope. Your interest can be the science or just the WOW! of seeing neat objects in the night sky. It can be as simple as sky charts or as complex as computerized GOTO drives. You can buy your equipment or be an adventurist and build it.

One change coming soon to FPO is the addition of a new telescope. Walt Cole's, JMI 18", telescope has been donated to the club by Walt's wife and current treasurer, Nancy. The telescope is currently being refurbished at JMI with funds donated to NEKAAL in memory of Walt. The telescope will be available for visual observation and will be used at EPO events. This will bring the telescope count at FPO to three. There should be no shortage of opportunity for all members to view the night sky through an excellent telescope.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who served on past Boards. We the members of NEKAAL wish to thank you for all of your hard work and commitment to the club. We hope we can count on your continued participation and support.

I would also like to thank Bill Leifer for continuing as the Editor for the Observer newsletter. Bill needs articles for the newsletter, and if you would like to submit an article please email them to him. If you read something on the Web that others might enjoy, we can also publish them just make note of the Web site, URL, and author so we can give them credit. Just email Bill the link to the Web page. The cutoff dates for future newsletters are March 24<sup>th</sup>, May 24<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup>. Please help make the Observer a great newsletter.

The Board also welcomes suggestions for events or activities that you would like the club to schedule. The Board would also love to know of subjects that you might want to see presented at the general meetings, or better yet a program you might be willing to give at one of the meetings. So if you have an ideas, contact me or another Board member.

Watch the club user group on Yahoo for announcements of up coming events.

Clear Skies  
Brad Hutton, President NEKAAL