

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, it is spring, and those great springtime objects will be up for us to enjoy. So, dust off those scopes, binoculars and lawn chairs. The excuse “it is too cold out” can no longer be used. Come on out to FPO during the open houses as there is always someone there. No need to bring any equipment. You can just hang around the group and look through the club’s equipment (your equipment). So come on out.

There is a lot going on this year because of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA). We are planning a special FPO open house on April 4th at 8:00 P.M. to mark 100 hours of Astronomy as part of the IYA. Stay tuned to the Yahoo users group for more information. On April 22nd NEKAAL will be part of the kick-off event for the traveling exhibit, “Visions of the Universe” presented by the Shawnee County Topeka Public Library (SCTPL). This event will run from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the library, so come out and be a part of the event. Wear your NEKAAL gear. On May 28th Gary Hug will be presenting a program on “*Chasing Near Earth Objects in Northeast Kansas*”. This will be an advertised program by the SCTPL and will replace our May club meeting.

On April 1st, we are scheduled to pick up the 18” telescope that is being refurbished by JMI. This will give us an additional great instrument to use at FPO. This scope is being donated to the club by Nancy Cole in memory of Walt Cole.

A clean-up day is being planned for May 2nd at 3:00 P.M. Watch the Yahoo group for more details.

I am planning an open house for my Observatory, Windy Hill, in June. This will be a chance for you to come out and see the observatory. As part of this event, I am planning a NEKAAL social. We will have food and drink. Bring your scopes, lawn chairs, etc. to enjoy a good time looking at the night sky or just to enjoy the company. More details later.

Now for the business part of NEKAAL: as you all know we are a small club with only about 25 paid memberships. Unlike many clubs NEKAAL has expenses to operate FPO such as lights, phone, insurance and upkeep. Most of the time the shortfall is made up by donations. The club is tax exempt so any donation you make is deductible. We could use your donations no matter the amount. We could also use donations of your unused equipment such as eyepieces, barlows, filters etc. We need these items to use with the various pieces of club equipment we operate. Equipment can be donated in-kind and you may be able to deduct this also.

Clear Skies
Brad Hutton, President NEKAAL