

President's Message

The IYA kickoff event at the Library went well. We had a display table and telescopes set up inside the Library and a telescope with a solar filter setup outside the Library atrium. Many people stopped by to talk about astronomy. The feedback from the Library staff was positive about NEKAAL's participation. Thank you to all of the club members that help with this event.

Remember that the May meeting will be in the large meeting hall on the first floor of the Library, Marvin Auditorium 101C. Gary Hug will be presenting a program as part of the Library's IYA programs. The program will be "Chasing Near Earth Objects in Northeast Kansas," Gary's account of how NEKAAL has played a major part in the effort to track NEO's.

Workday at FPO went well. Club members did basic clean up; a new baffle was installed in the Tombaugh, and the Meade 14" was installed on a wedge. The Meade scope still needs to be aligned, and other work is needed to get it up and running as a dependable scope. Hopefully this work will be done during the May 30th open house. Thanks to all who came out to help with the clean up chores.

Walt's 18" scope was picked up and returned to the club. It is currently kept in the small storage building and is ready to use. This will add to the clubs collection of telescopes available to the membership, so if you do not have your own scope, come on out to FPO. Learn how to run a club scope and enjoy the summer evenings looking at the night sky.

I need speaker/presenters for July through October, so if you would like to give a program at one of the club meetings or have an idea for a topic that you would be interested in, please let me know. We have had some new people show up at the meetings the past several months so I think some programs on the basics of astronomy might be in order.

Well, I am sitting here on this the Holiday weekend rambling on, so for now I hope you all have a great summer and come on out to FPO during the open houses and enjoy being with other club members.

Clear Skies,

Brad Hutton, President NEKAAL