

## **A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I hope everyone has been having a good summer; it is hard to believe that it is almost half over. Except for all the clouds, this summer has been great for astronomy; the nights have been cool and not many bugs. If you have not been out yet this summer you should venture on out as the Milky Way is up with a lot of objects to observe. Jupiter is making a great showing right now.

We managed to even have an open house for a change as the clouds held off till almost midnight this last board meeting. We had several visitors and lots of fun viewing.

This last club weekend we had a good turnout of members. Bryant Hertel was taking wide field images of the Milky Way with his DSLR, Brian Martin was working with the 18", and Russell Valentine and his younger brother were working the 14". Brian has the 18" up and tracking, he has done a good job figuring out the scope and how to operate it. We had some great views of Jupiter, The Pinwheel Galaxy and several nebulae. The 18" is going to be a great scope once we, or should I say Brian, get it all figured out.

You will want to make sure to come to the October meeting as Brian Thomas of Washburn University will make a presentation on a project that has been awarded a grant from NASA, "Death From Above! Astrophysics and life on Earth"

November's meeting will be at FPO. This club meeting will again be a "get to know your observatory" event with food and snacks. We will also dedicate the 18" telescope that was donated to the club by Walt Cole's wife, Nancy Cole.

On a sad note: As most of you know, we lost another star from the NEKAAL universe. Dale Lee passed. His inquisitive mind and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

I will again get on my soap box: NEKAAL is what its members make of it. Come on out to the open houses or club weekends. You do not need any equipment as there is more than enough to share. The skies at FPO are great!

Clear Skies

Brad Hutton, President NEKAAL