

A Word from the President

Well I am back for a second term as president. I hope everyone had a great holiday. The new year, as far as astronomy goes, has not been good so far. It has been cloudy, snowy and cold. If you received a telescope for Christmas, most likely you have not been able to use it yet. Enough of that-lets all think positively that the skies will improve.

The 2010 schedule has been published on the club's web site <http://www.nekaal.org>. I hope that all members will take part in the club's activities. Member participation is what makes a club great. The board will be studying how to improve the use of FPO. We now have 3 telescopes at FPO that are great assets that need to be used and promoted. Any ideas are welcomed.

Remember that 2010 yearly dues are due. You can send your dues to Nancy Cole or give them to a board member. The club has had some major expenses this past year, repair of the SBIG camera and replacement of the front door on the main building, any donations would be appreciated. These donations may be tax deductible. We are still looking for eyepieces, Barlows, filters, etc for the 14 and 18 inch telescopes. If you have any old equipment you would like to donate please contact a board member.

The January 28th club meeting program will be presented by Brian Thomas of Washburn University, "Death From Above! Astrophysics and Life on Earth". You might want to come early as this program might be a full house. Gary Hug will be the speaker at the February meeting, "The How's and Whys of Building a Telescope".

Our first open house at FPO will be in February. Come on out to enjoy the winter skies and the company of other astronomers. If you get cold, there is always the main building to retreat to. The word for this year is "PARTICIPATION". If you have any ideas on how to improve the club experience please let me know.

Well that's it for now. See you at the meeting.

Clear Skies (I hope, I hope, I hope.....)

Brad Hutton,

President NEKAAL