

WKAA Newsletter April 2002

West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers

To All Club Members:

The next club meeting will be on Saturday April 13 at the G.P. Observatory at 7:00 PM. And as always, the general public is welcome at all meetings.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Renewal MEMBERSHIP DUES were due last month. If you haven't paid, please do so to continue your membership (\$15 single or family) Make checks payable to WKAA, and mail to our Treasurer, David Paessler 9840 Enlow Drive Kevil, KY. 42053 (David will not be present at April's meeting.)

LAST MEETING

The March club meeting/potluck was held on the 16th, and after enjoying a wonderful potluck dinner, the first order of business was to have our officer election. Alan called the meeting to order, and Ross initiated the election by announcing all nominations. There were no additions at this time, and since there was only one person nominated per position, we simply used the show-of-hands voting method. The results were as follows: Warren Wepking Pres., Alan Dudenhofer V. Pres, David Paessler Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator, John Holland Secretary, Ross Workman Star Party Chairman.

Upon assuming the position of President, Warren called the remainder of the meeting to order. The main topics discussed included: -The majority of the pine trees on the east side of the observing field have been cleared. -An individual has purchased the wind generator/tower at the south side of the field, and is in the process of getting it removed. -As Treasurer/ALCor, David is working on several issues, one being the **Sky & Telescope magazine discounts** for paid club members. (See details at the end of this letter) -At the beginning of each meeting, minutes from the prior meeting will be read. -Jim Ingle has converted older club documents and newsletters into electronic form and burned them onto CDs for further editing and to use in compiling a club history. -Ross got permission from skymaps.com for any club member to download and print their monthly map / info-sheet and distribute in trade for a link to their website from ours. We will add our own club info and use these for handouts at Astronomy Day, Summer Nights, and any other public events. Ross mentioned that we should check into the possibility of getting a printing company to donate some printing. -Summer Nights program is a "go" again this year during June, July and August. - Warren has brought several new folding chairs for the clubhouse that were donated by the Trigg Co. VFW. A Thank You card has been sent and if you happen to bump into one these veterans, please let them know how much we appreciate it. -We are starting to update the website for the new year and we need some input in the form of photos/images to add. John McCubbin mentioned that this year's tee logo will be a refractor, since the last two years were a Dob and SCT. John does an extraordinary job on these shirts each year. -Ross is starting to get serious about selecting a speaker for the Star Party. He mentioned that we will probably look at catered meals this year also. -The officers will be having a *Board Meeting* preceding the normal meeting, starting May 11, and likewise every 3 months unless otherwise needed or noted. Officers will be notified of the exact meeting time in the next newsletter.

NOTES

Each Sunday night at 9:00 PM, on our Internet Yahoo Newsgroup, (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/West_KY_Amateur_Astronomers/) we will be chatting live using voice-chat as well as typed messages, about astronomy, club issues and telescope related topics, etc. Last Sunday, there were about 7 club members and 3 visitors that joined in for a pretty good evening of talks and Q&A. One visitor from Paducah plans on being at Astronomy Day, and another was from Campbellsville and new to Astronomy.

ASTRONOMY DAY APRIL 20, 2002

A tentative schedule has been posted for the activities and events for this day. Remember, this day is entirely devoted to the public. Plan on being there if you can. It would be great to have at least a couple of solar scopes setup behind the Gift Shop. Bring any equipment you want for display also. If the weather isn't cooperative, we'll setup displays in the Visitor Center. Plan on answering all types of questions from young and old alike. This is a great opportunity for you to share your knowledge, experiences, and love of the sky with others. Laura has contacted area newspapers about A.D. and some might send reporters out to cover this event as well as our Star Party.

ACTIVITIES LIST: Planetarium Shows, Telescope Exhibits, Observatory Tours, and Solar Observing through the Daystar H-Alpha filter.

Educational displays including John Workman's "**planet walk**" --a scaled model of the solar system about 300 feet long.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

10:00 Activities Begin / First Planetarium Show
11:00 Planetarium Show
12:00 "Getting Started in Astronomy" - Planetarium
1:00 Planetarium Show
2:00 Planetarium Show
3:00 Planetarium Show
4:00 Activities End at the Visitor's Center

TREASURY REPORT

Treasury balance as of 4/1/02 will be \$1303.78. Expenses this past month have been AL dues of \$136 and misc expenses of \$13 from Elections meeting dinner. 2002 dues have been collected from 19 members to date.

NOTES ON MAGAZINE DISCOUNTS

We are in the process of registering with Sky and Telescope as an Astronomy Club. With this registration, we get a reduced subscription rate either as a new subscriber or as a yearly renewal. Members who subscribe to S&T through their club also qualify for a discount on any of the 200+ fine astronomy books and products offered for sale in the Sky Publishing Catalog and online store. The only requirement is that you are a current dues paid member for the current year. We need at least five subscriptions and payment to send in with the registration paperwork. Later, we can send them in one at a time if necessary. I plan to renew my subscription when we send the paperwork in even though my subscription does not expire until the December issue. This will extend my subscription to 12-2003 and make me eligible for the 10% discount at the Sky Publishing store for charts, books, or other. I will not be at the April meeting due to attendance at the Mid South Star Gaze, but I will be at the Observatory all day for Astronomy Day April 20 and can get you signed up for this good deal and collect your subscription money. The subscription rate drops from \$39.95 a year to \$29.95 a year for program participants. Further details will be forthcoming at Astronomy Day.

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As officers, we are excited about this year and the possibilities for the club, and we look forward to directing it in a way that all will enjoy and benefit from.

Happy Skies,
John Holland
Secretary