

April 2003

THE FAINT FUZZY

The Official Newsletter of the Western Kentucky Amateur Astronomers

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be this Saturday April 5 at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. The public is welcome.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The last meeting was held on March 8. Before the meeting we had our annual potluck dinner, which was a hit, just as in years past with plenty of food and drink for all. Following dinner, the meeting was called to order by Warren Wepking. Approximately 18 people attended the meeting including all of the officers.

- Officer Elections: The floor was opened for last-minute nominations, none of which were submitted. The officer election was then held by written ballot since there was more than one candidate running for Secretary. The results are: President - Warren Wepking; Vice-President - Alan Dudenhofer; Treasurer/ALCor - David Paessler; Star Party Chairman - Ross Workman; Secretary - Dale & Carol Baltimore.
 - Twin Lakes Star Party: We voted to move the star party to Pennyryle Forest State Park. The main reasons for moving are: more room on the observing field, better horizons, darker skies, and fewer lighting problems. For more details contact Ross at 270-797-8959. This year we will consider bids from other sources for our star party T-shirts. If you would like to submit an idea or sketch of a graphic design, please feel free. All designs will be reviewed and considered.
 - Golden Pond Planetarium: Don Partain announced that by this time next year the planetarium will have undergone a complete modern remodeling. They are going all-digital, which will expand their multimedia presentation capabilities tremendously, and they're repainting as well as replacing all the seats. Also Don has Kroger gift cards for sale. Each time these cards are recharged, 5% of that amount goes to the planetarium. The cost is \$5, which is the initial value of the card. The *Summer Nights* program will start on Memorial Day. Don agreed to donate 30 more tickets for club members to give out this year.
 - Other business: David Paessler and a few others are assisting with an astronomy session for students at Graves County High School (KY) on March 13. More WKAA business cards with the yearly meeting schedule will be available at the next meeting.
 - Observing: After the meeting, a few members set up their scopes and got some overdue observing in amongst the scattered clouds.
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NEW MEMBERS:

We would like to welcome three new members: Gary Smithmier from Camden, TN; Jay McNeil from Paducah, KY; and Bradley Rankin also from Paducah.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Membership Dues: Annual membership dues of \$15 are due for those who haven't yet paid for 2003. Unless other arrangements are made with David Paessler, members not renewing by April 5 will be removed from the database and will forfeit all benefits.
- Messier Marathon: A few of us showed up last Saturday for the Messier Marathon (which had been rescheduled from March 1), but the once again the skies were too cloudy to view. Maybe we will have better luck next time!

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CERTIFICATES:

We have another certificate to award at this meeting. Vince Medlock has submitted and earned a Messier Certificate for viewing over 70 Messier objects. Also Ross Workman has submitted the Double Star list and his certificate is still pending. And Jeff Burton appears to be just days away from completing another couple of certificates. Are there any more out there that David is not aware of?

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Membership Status: We have 33 members current and paid up for 2003. We still have 19 who have not renewed from 2002.
 - Current Funds (3/31/03):

Bank balance:	\$1595.94
Cash of hand:	38.00
Warm room fund:	60.00
Grand total:	\$1693.94
 - Expenses: We paid our Web site hosting fee of \$199 last month and the bill for our Astronomical League dues should be coming any day.
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Happy Viewing,
Dale & Carol Baltimore