

THE FAINT FUZZY

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
April 2005

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be Saturday April 9th at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. As always visitors are welcome to attend! If the sky is clear, we will view after the meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Nineteen people attended last month's meeting and potluck dinner, including one visitor, Donnie Smith. Thanks to everyone who brought food – it was delicious!

Elections:

Ross administered the officer elections. The races for President, Vice President, Treasurer/ALCor, and Star Party Chairman were uncontested and the nominees were accepted by acclamation. There were two nominees for Secretary: Laura Dietrich and Dale & Carol Baltimore. These were voted on by all members in attendance. The results were: President – Vince Medlock; Vice-President – Jim Hall; Treasurer/ALCor – David Paessler; Secretary – Dale & Carol Baltimore; and Star Party Chairman – Ross Workman. Thanks to all the nominees and all the members who voted!

Financial Report:

David passed around a club financial report for 2004. He recommended that this become an annual responsibility for the treasurer. Any club member is welcome to review a copy by contacting David.

Sidewalk Astronomy:

The library in Princeton has contacted Ross about offering a public viewing session; nothing has been scheduled yet. Charles Funk has contacted the Benton County library but has not received a response yet. David plans to schedule a public viewing session at the Paducah library – probably in May. Vince scheduled both daytime and evening viewing sessions at Murray Elementary for March 14th and March 18th, respectively. (The March 18th session was canceled due to a family emergency.)

New Purchases:

Ross motioned that we buy a new microwave to replace the *1985 model* that we use at the observatory. Dale seconded it and the motion carried unanimously. Ross also made a motion to buy a cabinet in which to store our library books. Laura seconded it and it also carried unanimously. (Both the microwave and the cabinet have now been purchased and are at the observatory.)

Learning Opportunities:

Dale suggested that we start having talks again on cloudy nights. Bob Vickers recommended using the website for people to list topics they would like to discuss. The astronomy forum would be a good mechanism for this. Ross would like some instruction on grinding your own mirror.

Miscellaneous:

John Holland distributed new club business cards with schedules. John has also found a one-page solar system handout that may be useful for Astronomy Day and Summer Nights.

MEMBER NOTES:

New Members:

The club has 3 new members! We welcome Bill Brockman of Lancaster, KY; John Davis of Big Rock, TN; and Donnie Smith of Belton, KY.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

Check out David and Vince's recent posts in the [observing forum on wkaa.net](#). While they didn't work on any specific projects, they did have a great evening of observing last Sunday at Golden Pond. The [WKAA website](#) lists club members who have already earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. [Contact David Paessler](#) if you have any questions.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Sidewalk Astronomy:

Warren Wepking has scheduled a public sidewalk astronomy session on Thursday April 14th at the Trigg County Elementary School parking lot. In case of rain, it will be held on April 21st. [Contact Warren](#) if you will be able to bring your scope and help.

Astronomy Day:

Astronomy Day will be held April 16th at Golden Pond Planetarium. There will be free planetarium shows and club members will set up telescopes, give a presentation on getting started in astronomy, distribute astronomy literature, and meet and greet the public. For more information see the [Astronomy Day article](#) on wkaa.net. [Contact Jim Hall](#) if you can help. Come out and bring your scope if you can – it's a lot of fun!

Antioch, Tennessee Group:

Following a planetarium show last Wednesday at Golden Pond, several club members helped about 70 seventh graders from a church in Antioch, TN view Saturn, Jupiter, M-42 and a few other objects.

Messier Marathon:

The Messier Marathon was canceled again this year due to bad weather. We'll try again next year....

Club Website:

Check out recent posts on the astronomy forum and several new website links at www.wkaa.net.

Club Library:

The club library at the observatory is off to a great start! So far we have about a dozen books. Please consider donating books that you don't use frequently to the library (you can always check them out if you need them). If you would like to check something out, [contact Vince Medlock](#).

Loaner Scopes:

The club has two Dobsonians (6" and 8") available for club members to borrow. Anyone who has been a club member for 6 months, completes a training/safety session, and signs a written agreement may borrow one of the scopes. [Contact Vince Medlock](#) in order to make arrangements.

Magazine Discounts:

Club members who subscribe to *Sky and Telescope* or *Astronomy* magazines through the club receive a discount! Annually you can save \$10 on *Sky and Tel* and \$13 on *Astronomy*. Turn in your renewals to David Paessler in order to receive the discount.

CLUB OFFICERS LIST:

President, Vince Medlock – Murray, KY

Vice President, Jim Hall – Paducah, KY

Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator, David Paessler – Kevil, KY 270-488-3784

Secretary, Dale & Carol Baltimore – Paducah, KY 270-554-6603

Star Party Chairman, Ross Workman – Dawson Springs, KY 270-797-8959

Website, John McCubbin - Hopkinsville, KY and John Holland - Hopkinsville, KY

Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore