

THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
April 2006*

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our next meeting will be April 29th at Golden Pond Observatory at 7:00 pm. As always visitors are welcome to attend!

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

About 24 people attended the potluck dinner and meeting, including one visitor, Ken Shumate. Thanks to everyone who brought food for the dinner – it was great!

Elections: All 2006 officer nominees ran unopposed and were accepted by acclamation. The election results are: President – Ross Workman; Vice President – Bill Kassebaum; Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator – David Paessler; Secretary – Dale & Carol Baltimore; Star Party Coordinator – Ross Workman; and Assistant Star Party Coordinator– Bill Kassebaum.

Pennyrile Observing Site: Ross reported that the new building is under roof and about 75% sided. Ross's contact said they would try to put a switch inside the new building for its exterior lights. We will still be able to use the existing Forestry Building and observing field for the star party and other events. We may be able to use the meeting room in the new building for talks during the star party. The Forest service is going to tear down the building at the top of the hill. They have no plans to black-top the existing parking lot.

Treasurer's Report: David stated that we currently have 21 paid members for 2006. See David if you would like a membership list with contact information.

Astronomy Day: Astronomy Day is Saturday May 6th. Heather Sherbourne reported that she has obtained literature to hand out. She plans to have information tables and possibly a kids' table. She also recommended that we create a brochure about the club to distribute. David volunteered to put one together. Ross plans to give a talk on getting started in astronomy. If anyone else would like to give a talk, contact Heather at hsherbourne@bellsouth.net. Heather noted that John Workman will need some volunteers to help with a solar system walk that he has set up. Heather also stated that Jim and Sandy Phistner are helping her with Astronomy Day preparation. Several club members will of course need to be there on by 10:00 am Saturday to man tables, set up solar scopes, etc. See [below](#) for more information.

New Club Event: Heather suggested that we consider having a session for new telescope users/owners. They would bring their telescopes and we would show them how to use them. The club members thought this was a good idea, but no date has been set.

Public Viewing: Ross said that Judy Boaz from the Princeton Library has contacted him about doing another sidewalk astronomy session. Ross plans to hold a viewing session during Dawson Springs "First Friday" event on May 5th. Since it is the night before Astronomy Day, he plans to set up just his own scope and not ask other members to bring their equipment. (Although we are sure he wouldn't mind having some help if anyone has time.)

Light Pollution: John Holland asked for comments on a letter concerning light pollution that he plans to send to businesses near his house. Several club members provided comment and suggested that John look at the [International Dark Sky Association website](#) for ideas.

Miscellaneous: John H. distributed new WKAA business cards. He also reported that the recent changes in the website have reduced the spam.

Messier Marathon: Once *again* we were clouded out.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

David awarded Bob Vickers his Lunar Club certificate at the last meeting. This is the club's first certificate in 2006. There are no pending awards or submissions at this time. See www.astroleague.org for more information about observing clubs/awards. Contact David if you have any questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (4/24/06): \$2649.54

Membership Dues: 2006 membership dues are \$25 and are now past due. You can pay at the April meeting by check; please leave it with Dale Baltimore. I will be attending the Mid South Star Gaze with Bob Vickers at French Camp, MS and will miss this meeting. Or you can mail your payment to me direct at David Paessler; 9840 Enlow Dr; Kevil, KY 42053. I will be in attendance for Astronomy Day and can take your dues then if you have not paid. Currently we have 24 paid up members. - *David*

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Astronomy Day: Astronomy Day will be held May 6th 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. Also LBL is providing supper for volunteers this year as well. Come and help if you can. We always have a great time! See the [Astronomy Day Events Schedule](http://www.wkaa.net) at www.wkaa.net or contact Heather Sherbourne at hsherbourne@bellsouth.net for more information.

Summer Nights: The start of the Summer Nights program is just a month away! It is set to begin on May 27th and run through August. The program consists of an 8 p.m. planetarium show each Saturday night followed by viewing through the observatory and WKAA members' telescopes (weather permitting). Crowds range from as few as 30 to over 100. It is an enjoyable time and the public is always appreciative.

Illinois Dark Skies: The Fifth Annual Illinois Dark Skies Star Party will be held September 21st - 24th, 2006 at the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area (JEPC), 25 miles northwest of Springfield, Illinois. See www.sas-sky.org for more information.

Library: The library has two new books: *The Star Guide – Learn How to Read the Night Sky Star by Star* by Robin Kerrod and *In Quest of the Universe* by Karl F. Kuhn and Theo Koupelis.

Club Website: Check out the astronomy forum, photo gallery, and other useful info at www.wkaa.net.

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. Both scopes are currently checked out.

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 \$9 on *Astronomy*. Turn in your renewals to David Paessler in order to receive the discount.

CLUB OFFICERS LIST:

[See WKAA Contact Information.](#)

Clear skies,
Dale & Carol Baltimore