

The Faint Fuzzy

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
April 2007

From the Editors: This is our first *Faint Fuzzy* and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank **Dale and Carol Baltimore** for their 4 years of service as co-secretaries of WKAA and *Faint Fuzzy* editors. We're looking forward to building on their excellent work and adding our own flair over time.

Over the coming months we would like to add some regular features to the newsletter and would like your help. What would you like to see in a club newsletter? Would you like to write a short article? Or perhaps you know of an interesting website that other club members would find useful. Send your ideas and submissions to us at: [Vickers@\[jaeneas.net](mailto:Vickers@[jaeneas.net).

UPCOMING MEETING: Saturday, April 14th, 7pm, at Golden Pond Observatory. Visitors are welcome, and if skies are clear we will observe after the meeting.

We would also like to recognize the service and leadership of the retiring officers:

Ross Workman has served in various capacities over the years, most recently as President and Star Party Chairman. Thank you, Ross, for all you have done for the club. The continued success of the club and Star Party are largely due to your tireless efforts and energy.

Bill Kassebaum is stepping down as Vice President, but will remain on as the Assistant Star Party Coordinator. Bill has demonstrated his persuasiveness and dedication to the club through his solicitation of some great door prize donations for the Star Parties. Thank you, Bill!

—Bob & Melissa

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Seventeen people attended the March meeting for both the potluck dinner and the elections. The night was cloudy, so nobody even bothered to unpack a telescope.

Election Results! Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the upcoming year:

- i **Dale Baltimore**—President
- i **Jim Phfistner**—Vice President
- i **David Paessler**—Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator (thank you, David, for continuing in this capacity!), and Star Party Coordinator
- i **Bob and Melissa Vickers**—Co-Secretaries, and *Faint Fuzzy* editors

While we are thanking hard workers, we'd like to include **John McCubbin** and **John Holland** as WKAA's website gurus. **David Paessler** has been working hard on this transfer as well. If you haven't already checked out the new website since the changeover to a different host, be sure and take a look.

Thanks to these people for stepping up to the plate and offering their time and energy to the club!

Potluck Dinner: If you left the meeting hungry, it was your own fault. The club outdid itself in a spread of culinary delights! Harold Meyers' BBQ turkey was a site to behold—and it tasted mighty fine, too! The dessert table was a decadent display of calories, and most of us managed to sample multiple choices there—despite already full tummies from the assortment of main and side dishes.

Club Memberships Now Due: If you have not paid your dues for 2007, bring them to the next meeting. Club membership is \$25 for an individual or family, which allows one member to earn Observing Club certificates through the Astronomical League. Additional family members who also want to earn certificates can pay an additional \$5. Contact David Paessler if you have questions.

Astonomy Day, April 21: Jim and Sandy Phfistner are now coordinating the Astronomy Day activities. (Heather Sherbourne has moved to Georgia.) Carol Baltimore is coordinating publicity. The Club meeting on the 14th will be the last opportunity to finalize plans, so bring your ideas. We need volunteers both inside and outside the Planetarium building, talking with visitors and helping with various demonstrations. Club members should plan on arriving any time after 9:00am. See below for more information.

WKAA's New Home on the Web: The move to the new website host, "GoDaddy," has been completed and seems to be working well. We anticipate improved service for less money through this host. Check it out! <http://www.wkaa.net> (same url as before). There are a few changes to the way pictures are posted. If you need to add pictures, contact one of the website officers.

Polo [Shirts] Anyone? The group discussed the possibility of having personalized club polo shirts made with embroidered club name. Ken Billings volunteered to have some samples made (by someone he knows) and will bring them to the April meeting.

WKAA Logo? Bob Vickers raised the question whether an official WKAA logo exists that could be used on the website, *The Faint Fuzzy*, on signs or banners, or perhaps on the polo shirts. There is not one being used currently. Bob will research this further and report back to the club.

How About a New Banner, Too: In order to present a more official "presence" at star parties, Summer Nights programs or other public events, Bill Kassebaum is working on a banner design and Bob Vickers will have it made.

Treasurer's Report: David reported the current balance of the WKAA treasury is \$2928.08 in the bank, with a \$150 pending deposit. Nine dues were collected at the meeting for a total of \$3303.08.

Observing: The skies were cloudy, so Bill Kassebaum showed a clip from *Made in America* featuring a segment on the telescope manufacturer, Astrophysics. He also showed pictures from the Florida Winter Star Party.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Astronomy Day 2007 (April 21, 10:00am – 4:00pm): As in previous years, WKAA will be providing astronomical fun, entertainment, and education at Golden Pond Planetarium. Planned activities include:

- i *Free Planetarium Shows:* Jim and Sandy Phfistner will be coordinating club activities with the LBL Planetarium.

- i *Planet walk*: This year the Planet walk will begin at the Planetarium building, and stretch for 100 yards into the observing field. Plans include a spot for Pluto, but we'll label it appropriately as a dwarf planet.
- i *Information Table*: We plan to have a table inside the building that will have handouts for the public and can help direct people to the observatory and outdoor activities. Volunteers are needed to work the table throughout the day.
- i *Solar observing*: Assuming the sun cooperates, John Holland will have his Astrovideo camera to connect to the observatory scope for solar observing. In addition, scopes will be set up outside.
- i *"Getting Started in Astronomy"* Jim Hall will be giving this talk this year.
- i *Slide Show*: David Paessler will be showing slides on his computer throughout the day.
- i *Evening Observing*: If the skies are clear, club members are encouraged to set up telescopes for public viewing.

Sidewalk Programs: None are currently scheduled.

CLUB RESOURCES:

Loaner Scopes: The club has two Dobsonians (6", 8") available for club members to borrow. Anyone who has been a club member for six months, completes a training/safety session, and signs a written agreement may borrow one of the scopes.

Library: The club has several books and magazines available for reference or checkout. Take a look and see what we have at the next club meeting.

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

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Dale Baltimore—Paducah, KY; 270-554-6603; w.daleb[[@](mailto:w.daleb@comcast.net)]comcast.net

Vice President: Jim Phfistner—Hardin, KY; 270-354-6860

Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator: David Paessler—Kevil, KY; 270-488-3784; dcpaessler[[@](mailto:dcpaessler@yahoo.com)]yahoo.com

Secretary: Bob & Melissa Vickers—Huntingdon, TN; 731-986-3082; Vickers[[@](mailto:vickers@aeneas.net)]aeneas.net

Star Party Coordinator: David Paessler—Kevil, KY; 270-488-3784; dcpaessler[[@](mailto:dcpaessler@yahoo.com)]yahoo.com

Assistant Star Party Coordinator: Bill Kassebaum; Paducah, KY/Key West, FL; ngc1952[[@](mailto:ngc1952@bellsouth.net)]bellsouth.net

Website: John McCubbin—Hopkinsville, KY; mccubbin.astronomy[[@](mailto:mccubbin.astronomy@gmail.com)]gmail.com and John Holland—Hopkinsville, KY; yojohn_ng[[@](mailto:yojohn_ng@charter.net)]charter.net