

THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the Western Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
August 2003*

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be this Saturday August 23 at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. Visitors are welcome to attend the regular meeting! The next board meeting will be Saturday August 23 at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The last meeting was held July 26. About 19 people attended the meeting including new members Charles and Audry Funk.

Twin Lakes Star Party (TLSP) T-Shirt Design: David Paessler reported that he had discussed his new T-shirt design with Hultman's in Paducah. They said that it would be easier to put a globular cluster on a T-shirt. The stars will be white in a gray background. Following the discussion the club voted to use Warren's original T-shirt design of M-13 inside the club logo. The T-shirt vendor has not yet been determined.

TLSP Vendor Donations: Vince Medlock reported that Software Bisque has agreed to donate TheSky Version 5 Level II software as a door prize while Edmund Scientific has declined to provide a donation.

TLSP Informal Talks: Ross Workman reported that one person has already volunteered to give a 30-40 minute informal talk. Remember that the star party registration fee will be waived for anyone who agrees to give an informal talk.

TSLP to be in *Sky & Telescope*: The TLSP will be featured in the "Amateur Events" section of *Sky & Telescope* magazine's October issue! Check out your copy for a photo from a previous star party.

Astronomical League Awards: David has sent Tim Camden (who has moved to Illinois) the "Fuginot binoculars." Tim is the final recipient of our former traveling trophy. David also provided copies of the Lunar Club and Messier observing logs for anyone who is interested in getting started.

Light Pollution Cover: The club has received permission to put a light pollution cover on the hunter check station near Golden Pond Observatory. The club voted to have David purchase one for about \$40. It will be left at the observatory until a lift truck becomes available to install it.

Miscellaneous: John Holland reported that Keith Chike has agreed to donate a used VCR to the club the next time he is down from Indiana. Carol Baltimore reported that she has completed a club informational poster with the exception of adequate waterproofing.

TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY:

The 14th annual Twin Lakes Star Party will be held October 20-25 at Pennyriple State Park. See the WKAA website (<http://www.wkaa.net/>) for star party information and registration forms.

Door prize list (so far): TheSky Version 5 Level II software, 11T6 Nagler (grand prize)

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE AWARDS:

No observing lists were submitted last month, so there are no AL awards to present at the upcoming meeting. See <http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/obsclub.html> for more information on the Astronomical League Observing Clubs/Awards. Contact David Paessler if you have questions.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

WKAA Mars Viewing at McCracken County Public Library: 8:00 to 10:00 pm, August 26th and 27th Tuesday and Wednesday nights at McCracken County Public Library, 555 Washington St., Paducah, KY. David Paessler has arranged with Marie Liang, Library Director, for a "Mars Night"

observing session in the library parking lot for the public to get a chance to see Mars at its closest approach. We will set up in the parking lot immediately north of the building to view Mars as it rises. Calculations show Mars will be 11 degrees high by 9 PM so he has scheduled setup of scopes at 8 PM and public viewing to start as soon as we can get Mars above the horizon somewhere around 8:30 to 8:45 PM. It will be advertised as lasting till 10 PM. The library will handle publicity for this event. **David has "big-listed" this event to the membership and has had NO confirmed support yet. Please, any members in the Paducah area drop David a note and let him know if you can help one or both nights for this public event.** He scheduled two nights to double our chances of a good viewing night. He doesn't know if we will have 10 or 100 or 1000 public to show up for this and dreads the prospects of facing a large crowd with only 2 scopes set up and manned.

Summer Nights: There are only two Summer Nights sessions left this year - August 23 and August 30! The Summer Nights program provides the public an opportunity to attend a show at Golden Pond Planetarium and then view through scopes set up by club members. Club members, don't forget to come out and set up your scope for these final sessions! This is a great way to introduce people to astronomy. The public seems to appreciate it and it is a lot of fun for club members. If you are not familiar with the program, check out the club website <http://www.wkaa.net> for more information.

Sky and Telescope subscription discount: Club members who subscribe through the club receive a \$10 discount. They also receive a 10% discount on products purchased from Sky Publishing.

NEW MEMBERS: There are no new members this month. The club currently has 40 members.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current Funds (8/15/03):

Bank balance:	\$1,453.49
Cash on hand:	\$56.00
Checks for deposit:*	\$38.00
Grand total:	\$1,547.49

(* Star party income)

Expenses:

Light shield for Hunter Check Station-LBL	\$40.00
TLSP door grand prize - 11T6 Nagler	\$290.00
Red dot pointer for WKAA Meade 2080 scope	\$25.95

Star Party Revenue: (included in "Current Funds" figures)

TLSP registration fees	\$200.00
TLSP T-shirt sales	\$108.00

Happy Viewing,

Dale & Carol Baltimore