

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be Saturday August 14th at 7:00 pm at Golden Pond Observatory. As always visitors are welcome to attend!

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

About 16 people attended the July 17th meeting including new members Greg and Matthew Adler and visitor Jonathan Rhodes.

In addition to what is listed below, we also discussed star party details. See the separate star party section for specifics.

Planetarium Seating

The club voted to purchase a new chair for the planetarium for \$350. The chair will have a name plate attached identifying WKAA as the donor.

Club Information Poster:

A waterproof club information poster has been completed. It was a real team effort with Carol Baltimore doing the layout, Jim Ingle printing it on large paper, and Bob Vickers having it mounted and sealed. The poster will be displayed at public viewing sessions.

Learning Opportunity:

Following the business meeting, Bob Vickers gave an excellent presentation on sketching deep sky objects. He used slides to show different types of sketches as well as to explain how he draws his own. Bob also provided a list of related websites that you may want to check out: <http://www.skyrover.net/ds> , <http://www.hometown.aol.com/billferris> , <http://www.geocities.com/eijikato2001> , <http://www.psiaz.com/polakis/drawings/drawings.html> , and <http://www.drawingthedeepsky.com>

Viewing:

We were able to view for several hours before the seeing conditions got bad. About 75 Summer Nights participants got to view through 8 member scopes and the observatory scope. Club members showed them several double stars, open and globular clusters, planetary nebulae, and galaxies. David Paessler brought his new homemade 10" truss Dob. It is very well made and provides excellent viewing – and it looks good too! He also discussed the construction process with several members.

15TH ANNUAL TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY:

The star party is just around the corner – October 9-16 at Pennyrile State Forest. Here are some updates since the last newsletter.

Registration:

Ross Workman sent out registration information around the first of July and has already had inquiries from some people who have never attended! Four singles/families have already registered. David Paessler suggested giving away red light pens as an incentive for people to pre-register.

T-shirt design:

We are going ahead with Ross's suggestion of using M-51 for the T-shirt design.

Badges:

John Holland is designing the star party badges again this year. If anyone has any design suggestions, please contact him.

Facilities:

Loggers haven't been using the field this year so it is in pretty good shape. Ross will start mowing in September. We will need volunteers again this year to get the building ready on the morning of October 9th. Contact Ross if you can help.

Speakers:

Tim Camden has volunteered to give a talk on solar observing and Pat Peak from Louisville has also expressed interest in giving a talk. These are in addition to Rolando Chavez's and Jay McNeil's presentations.

Door Prizes:

The filters from Orion have come in. See www.wkaa.net for a complete list of door prizes.

Lodge:

The lodge still has a few rooms available October 9-13 and October 15-16. However there is only one room left for October 14. So call now if you need a room (800-325-1711).

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

Tim Camden has submitted his Double Star logs and Mike Cohen has submitted his Master Observer requirements. Both are pending approval.

The WKAA website lists club members who have earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. Contact David Paessler if you have any questions.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Summer Nights:

The Summer Nights program for the public continues every Saturday night through September 4th. If you can, come out, set up your scope, and help introduce people to the wonders of the sky! If you are not familiar with the program, see www.wkaa.net for more information.

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.

Astrofest:

This star party is hosted by the Chicago Astronomical Society and will be held September 16-18. See the Astrofest website for more information.

Planetarium Seating:

New seats for the planetarium are being purchased via donations. A \$350 donation will purchase one chair with a plaque engraved with the name of the individual, business, or organization providing the donation. See Don Partain if you are interested.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (8/8/04): \$2169.45