



The Faint Fuzzy

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers

August 2007

From the Editors:

The Summer Nights program is winding down with only 4 more scheduled, and Star Party planning is gearing up! We'll need *your* active participation to make this another successful year. This is the club's showcase event every year and our opportunity to be recognized as a major player within the amateur astronomy community. WKAA is gaining in reputation for hosting a top-notch Star Party, and we are recognized for our hospitality and devotion to observing. See below for details.

—Bob & Melissa

**UPCOMING MEETING:
Saturday, August 11th, 7pm,
at Golden Pond
Observatory. Visitors are
welcome, and if skies are
clear we will set up scopes
for the regular Summer
Nights program.**

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: July 14, 2007

Nineteen people attended the meeting, including two guests. Club President Dale Baltimore, just returning from a vacation trip, brought the meeting to order and asked Vice President Jim Phfistner to preside.

Club Polo Shirts!

Jim and Sandy Phfistner updated us on the club shirts. Faye's Embroidery in Murray will be doing the shirts. Last month it was reported that an \$85 setup fee would be charged in addition to the per shirt price. Jim clarified that this fee would only be charged if we wanted a logo or a non-standard font for the lettering. The club voted to just have a simple design with the club name arranged in a football shape, with "West Kentucky" arcing across the top, "Amateur Astronomers" arcing across the bottom, and WKAA in the middle.

Sandy took orders for the shirts, and hoped to have them for the next meeting.

UPDATE! Sandy confirmed by phone that the shirts have been ordered and should be ready for pickup in time to bring them to the meeting Saturday. Faye gave us the "no pocket" price for pocketed shirts. *Please bring payment for your shirt to the meeting.*

Prices:

Shirt with club embroidery only: \$22.50 + tax

Shirt with club embroidery and first name: \$26.00 + tax

Shirts sized 2x: add \$1.50; 3x: add \$3.00

If you have NOT placed an order but would like to do so, contact Jim Phfistner either at the meeting or by phone: 270-354-6860.

Club Magazine Subscriptions

Club members discussed purchasing club subscriptions to *Amateur Astronomy Magazine* and/or *Astronomy Technology Today*, as brought up in previous meetings. The consensus (as determined by vote) was that there probably would not be enough use to justify the cost.

Sheriff's Ranch

The Sheriff's Ranch programs continue. Dale reported that a couple had been rained out, but that one of the boys' groups was the "best group he'd ever had."

Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance, as of 7/14/07, is \$3530.08.

McDonald Observatory Open Dates!

David Paessler reported that there are calendar openings for the McDonald Observatory 82" telescope in Texas. The following dates are open:

Aug 13-14; Sept 7-8; Oct 12-13; Dec 1-2

It costs \$2000 per night per party (any number of people). Guests stay at the "Astro Lodge" for \$80 a night per person, and this includes meals. (There are no other lodging options.) Guests may bring their personal telescopes to set up as well.

If you are interested, contact: Frank Cianciolo:

email: frankc[[@](mailto:frankc@astro.as.utexas.edu)]astro.as.utexas.edu; phone: 432-426-4152 or 432-426-3640

Logo

Bob Vickers brought two potential versions of a new club logo, designed by his co-worker, Bob Leader. Club members voted for the logo you see at the top of the newsletter. This logo can now be used for the website, banners, letterhead, etc. Thanks to Bob Leader for his efforts!

Announcements

- ★ The Illinois Dark Skies Star Party will be held on Sept 13-16, about 25 miles northwest of Springfield, IL. For more information and to register, go to: www.sas-sky.org
- ★ David Paessler is selling a telescope for a friend: It is a Meade LX-90. Contact him for details.

Observing

The skies were clear, so club members had 9 scopes ready for Summer Nights viewing. It was a good crowd!

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Summer Nights

Summer Nights continue! Thanks again to Harold Meyers for coordinating, and thanks again to all club members who come out to support this important outreach opportunity. The people who attend continue to express their appreciation to club members.

Remember to sign in with your total hours (including travel time). The more volunteer hours that the Land Between the Lakes Association can record, the more money they can get for programming. They appreciate our efforts, too!

There are still 4 more Summer Nights opportunities this year. Please let Harold know which nights you plan to attend! (phone: 731-587-6064; email: hambone10100[[@](mailto:hambone10100@yahoo.com)]yahoo.com)

TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY: October 6-14, 2007

Plans are underway! Bill Kassebaum is busily soliciting donations for this year's door prizes through both email and snail mail contacts. He has a reputation to uphold from last year's impressive array of goodies!

David Paessler reported that preparations are coming along, including lining up the always-delicious catered meal. Portapotties have been ordered as well.

Volunteers--that includes YOU--are still needed to help with the following:

- ★ Registration (on-site)
- ★ Trash (emptying trash cans, general site cleanup)
- ★ Breakfast (providing breakfast items, keeping area clean)
- ★ Portapotty Patrol (use your imagination)



Twin Lakes Star Party 2005

We are also looking for speakers for this year's event. Jackie Mathis confirmed that Dr. Marvin Russell, from West KY University, has agreed to speak. If you would be willing to give a short talk on some area of astronomy and/or observing you are particularly interested in, let David or Bill know.

We would like to have a schedule posted this year on the website of planned events, including some daytime area outings. If you have suggestions, please share!

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 to members 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 & Telescope* or *Astronomy* magazines through the club receive a discount! Annually you can save \$10 on *Sky & Telescope* and \$9 on *Astronomy*. Contact David Paessler for more information.

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

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