

## **UPCOMING MEETING:**

The next meeting will be Saturday December 11 at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. As always visitors are welcome to attend! If the sky is clear, we will view after the meeting.

## **LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

More than 25 people attended last month's chili supper and meeting including several visitors and our newest member Stan Sprei.

**Chili Supper:** As usual no one left hungry! We all enjoyed chili and fixing's and lots of delicious desserts before the meeting. Thanks to everyone who brought food.

**Star Party:** David reported that we made a profit of \$14.49 with \$161 in donations, including \$50 from a couple who were first-time attendees. This is a significant reduction from last year's star party profit. It primarily resulted from increased expenses for snacks, the meal, port-a-potties, etc. In spite of the rainy weather there were only 3 fewer registrants than last year – which was great! David also noted that 72 people ate the catered lunch on Saturday. Following the Saturday events Ross asked the star party participants how they felt about a registration fee increase and they actually recommended that we raise the fee. As a result we are planning to raise star party registration fees by \$10 next year. The next star party will be October 1 – 9, 2005. Ross reported that some people have already made reservations at the lodge for next year.

Ross sent thank you notes to the vendors who donated door prizes and so far three of them have responded that they would support us next year as well. Ross also stated that Renpro Starquest and Recreation, the vendor from Louisville who set up at the star party, felt that it was worth the effort to come and is planning to come back.

John Holland suggested distributing or posting a schedule of events so that everyone knows when things are happening. Bob Vickers suggested adding more talks during the week. Dale Baltimore complemented Ross on the condition of the field. Ross said the new park ranger plans to keep the field cut on a regular basis. Jim Phistner complemented Ross and David on all the work they do for the star party. Ross also said that he received several positive notes from attendees after the star party. Ross thanked all of the club members who helped and said that with everyone's help the star party has become much more enjoyable for him.

**2005 Schedule:** The club activities schedule for 2005 is complete and attached. It is also available at [www.wkaa.net](http://www.wkaa.net).

**Winter Star Party:** We will hold our second annual “freeze your butt off” winter star party February 4th and 5th at Pennyrile State Forest. See the Events and Opportunities section below for more information.

**Donation to Club:** Eileen Ingala from Salem, KY has donated a Meade Autostar to the club.

**Loaner scopes:** Both loaner scopes have been returned and are available for check-out. See the Events and Opportunities section below for more details.

**Viewing:** The sky was cloudy so most of us didn’t try to view. However a clear section briefly opened up and David was able to show a visitor from Madisonville a star that had been bought and named in honor of his deceased mother. Several of the rest of us enjoyed ourselves after the meeting talking and eating more dessert!

### **ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:**

There are no pending submissions or certificates although several members are working on them. 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:**

**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.

**“FYBO II” Winter Star Party:** February 4-5, 2005 at Pennyrile State Forest. This is a very informal star party. There will not be an organized schedule. We will have access to the building to use as a warm room and sleeping quarters (bring your own cot and bedding), and we will have the restroom. The lodge will be open during this time for rooms and food, but the showers at the campground will be closed. There is no entry fee, but a donation of a bag of charcoal for the stove and/or a gallon or two of water would be appreciated. If the weather is questionable, send an email to Ross Workman or David Paessler. See [www.wkaa.net](http://www.wkaa.net) for more information.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Balance (12/6/04): \$1664.94 Star party business has been completed and with donations we cleared \$14.49. We have 45 paid up members on the role.