

# THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers  
December 2005*

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## **UPCOMING MEETING:**

Our next meeting will be Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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## **LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Chili Supper:** We had our annual chili supper just before the last meeting. A good size crowd, including several visitors, enjoyed plenty of great food and conversation. Thanks to everyone who brought food – it was delicious! And thanks to Heather Sherbourne for a great job of coordinating the meal!

**Secretary's Report:** Dale Baltimore reviewed the highlights of the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** David Paessler reported that we made a decent profit this year on the star party.

**Star Party:** Ross Workman thanked everyone for their help this year. He also suggested that we elect a co-chairperson for the star party. This person would handle issues at the observing field when Ross couldn't be on-site. Having this position would also allow other club members to learn how to run the star party. This will be discussed further at a future meeting. Ross also reported that the Forest Service is considering installing lighting around the building at the Pennyrile observing site due to some recent thefts. Tim, the forest ranger who has worked closely with us, is trying to keep the site dark for us. He is recommending that an area be fenced in for storing equipment. Ross will keep us updated on this issue as well as on construction of the new building.

**Public Viewing Sessions:** Bob Vickers reported that both sidewalk astronomy sessions at Natchez Trace State Park and at the Renaissance Center in Dickson, TN went well. See the Public Events section below for more details on the event at the Renaissance Center. (The event at Natchez Trace was in last month's issue.)

Melissa Vickers suggested that the club purchase a slide show or other type presentation for showing at sidewalk astronomy sessions. Bill Kassebaum volunteered to put together a Powerpoint presentation. He will provide a progress update at the next meeting.

Ross noted that he will be doing a small sidewalk program at Pennyrile for park visitors on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to come.

**Donations:** Warren Wepking donated an astrolobe and a movie projection screen to the club. Thanks Warren!

**2006 Calendar:** Ross volunteered to draft next year's meeting and events calendar including the FYBO star party in January or February and the Messier Marathon in March.

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## **MEMBER NOTES:**

We have a new club member – Harold Meyers from Martin, TN. Welcome, Harold!

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

Jeff Burton has received his Globular Cluster award. We are still waiting on Bob Vickers Lunar award. The [WKAA website](#) lists club members who have already earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. [Contact David](#) if you have any questions.

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**Balance (11/29/05):** \$2164.54

David still needs to collect \$60 for Star Party T-shirts. There is ONE large black TLSP T-shirt still available. See David if you are interested in buying it.

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**PUBLIC EVENTS:**

**Renaissance Center; Dickson, TN:** They did a special showing of "The Mars Show" in the planetarium. Five of us set up in the parking lot and showed double stars, star clusters, Neptune, Uranus and, of course, Mars to people after the show. They had other music/laser shows afterwards so we stayed until the last one was over and showed Mars to the people leaving the planetarium. There were probably 50-60 people total. A couple of guys from the Barnard-Seyfert club in Nashville came and set up tables with freebie information and some Mars rover models and Moon, Mars, Earth globes. People must have been interested because all of the "Getting Started in Astronomy" handouts were gone by the end of the evening, as were most of the extra Sky & Telescope issues left over from the Star Party. Thanks go to John Davis, a WKAA member living in Dover, TN for helping Melissa and me. – *Bob Vickers*

**Princeton, KY:** The Princeton event on November 10<sup>th</sup> went well. I did a brief 15 minute program prior to the observing session. Jim Hall and I sat up our scopes - many thanks to Jim for coming out to help. We had about 70 students and parents to join us. Everyone seemed to have a really good time looking at the moon, Mars, the Ring Nebula, and Polaris. It was a really good event. – *Ross Workman*

**Pennyrile State Park** - The Pennyrile program on November 19<sup>th</sup> only had eight participants this time, which is typical for this kind of event. Nevertheless, we still had a really good time observing. – *Ross Workman*

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**OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Club Website:** Check out the astronomy forum, photo gallery, and other useful info at [www.wkaa.net](http://www.wkaa.net). Perusing the website and conversing with fellow observers is a great way to spend those cloudy evenings

**Club Library:** We currently have 19 books and magazines in the library. If you would like to check something out, just remove the card from the book, complete the information, and leave the card in the "Checked Out Items" box. Also please consider donating or loaning books that you don't use frequently to the library.

**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](#) in order to make arrangements.

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

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Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore