

THE FAINT FUZZY

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
December 2006

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our next meeting will be Saturday December 16th 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:

Chili Supper: Thirteen people attended our annual chili supper just before the last meeting. We had plenty of good food including 3 pots of chili, some great pico de gallo and 2 homemade cakes. It was worth the drive – even with the cloudy skies. Thanks to everyone who brought food – it was delicious!

Twin Lakes Star Party: David Paessler reported that we should make a small profit on the star party after everyone pays for preordered T-shirts. He said that T-shirt sales have been subsidizing the star party and recommended that we increase TLSP registration fees by \$5. The club voted to approve the increase. Our costs increased this year – porta-potty costs doubled and the extra cleanout cost tripled. Ross Workman has spoken with the teacher whose students used the facilities and the school system has agreed to pay part of the cost for the extra cleanout. On the positive side, star party participants donated \$60-\$80 for the warm room food & supplies. *[David now reports the star party has made a profit of \$212.41 – not a windfall, but **much** better than last year when we would have been in the red without several donations.]*

Dale Baltimore reported that Bill Kassebaum has sent thank you letters to each of the door prize contributors. He also included a certificate and a photo of the winner of each item.

Ross said that he is stepping down as Star Party Coordinator and that David will take over the position, if elected in March. Bill plans to continue as Assistant Star Party Coordinator if elected. The next star party will be held October 6 - 14, 2007. Mark your calendars!

Website: David has looked into alternate hosting for our website. Currently we are paying \$199/year and there have been some problems. Godaddy.com charges \$70 per year for 100 gigabytes/month, 1 terabyte of downloads, and 1000 e-mail accounts. The club voted unanimously to change website hosting services when our service expires in February or March.

Discounts: Highpoint Scientific has provided WKAA club members with discount cards. David distributed these along with a brochure explaining how to use them.

Public Viewing: The Princeton library and Caldwell County Elementary School have both contacted Ross about doing sidewalk programs this spring. No dates have been set yet.

Miscellaneous: Ross noted that we have not scheduled a Messier Marathon next year. If the weather is clear we may have an impromptu marathon.

Viewing: It was cloudy so we didn't get to view. We didn't lack for entertainment however – David showed star party photos and funny video clips on his laptop.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

There are no pending awards or submissions at this time. See www.astroleague.org for more information about observing clubs/awards. Also see wkaa.net for a list of club members who have completed awards. Contact David if you have any questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (11/12/06): \$2918.52

TLSP Income: \$212.41

All preordered star party T-shirts have been paid for and all extra shirts have been sold.

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Club Website: The 2007 Activities Schedule has been posted. See www.wkaa.net for details.

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.

Library: The club has several books and magazines available for reference or check out. Come and peruse the titles at the observatory.

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.

CLUB OFFICERS LIST:

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Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore