

Newsflash

On January 23 club member Jay McNeil discovered a new nebula resulting from a newborn star! These occurrences are very rare - fewer than a dozen have ever been recorded. He found it in M-78 from CCD images taken using a 3-inch refractor from his backyard! Jay has been interviewed by CNN, MSNBC, and BBC Online ([Link Here](#)) . His discovery is also in [Sky & Telescope](#). Also see [the WKAA article](#) for more details.

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday February 21 at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. Visitors are welcome to attend! Following the meeting there will be a Learning Opportunity for anyone who is interested. Bob Vickers will demonstrate sketching deep sky objects.

Last Meeting Highlights

About 15 people attended our last meeting on January 17. We had 3 visitors - Gary, Amanda, and Margie Burton from Paducah.

Thanks to Bob Vickers for donating a very nice, mounted panorama taken by the Mars rover Spirit.

Membership Dues: Club membership dues are due at the March 13 meeting. They are \$15 plus \$5 for each additional family member who wants to obtain an Astronomical League membership.

Telescopes to the People: Thanks to Ross Workman for unknowingly creating the new title to this section of the newsletter! David Paessler said that he is working on setting up another public viewing session in Paducah. Ross suggested that some of our members arrange public viewing sessions in their local areas. He recommended working with the local public library since it will likely be able to handle publicity. This arrangement worked very well in Paducah and Princeton last year. Carol Baltimore volunteered to make a new club poster to use for public viewings.

Officer Elections: Elections will be held for club officers at the March 13 meeting. Please start thinking about nominees. Send any nominations to John Holland.

Learning Opportunities at Meetings: Following the meeting Ross and David taught an excellent, hands-on class on collimation. First they used Ross's 10-inch Dob to demonstrate the process, letting all interested "students" participate in each step. Then David demonstrated collimation of a Schmidt-Cassegrain using a simple device he constructed from a design found on the internet.

Viewing: We didn't get to view at all - it was raining

Astronomical League Awards

These AL observing club certificates were be awarded at the last meeting:

- Bob Vickers - Caldwell (His sketches are excellent!)

There are no AL awards to present at the February meeting.

Follow this link for information on the [Astronomical League Observing Clubs/Awards](#). Contact David if you have any questions.

See [WKAA Website Awards Page](#) for club members who have earned observing club certificates and for links to the Astronomical League website. This is a new as of this month.

Events and Opportunities

Viewings for the Public

- **Telescopes to the People:** David has arranged a public viewing session - "A Night with the Planets" - at the McCracken County Public Library in Paducah on Thursday March 18. Please contact David Paessler if you can help.
- **Winter Star Party:** Our winter star party was held January 23-24 at Pennyrile State Park. Four people braved the cold and wind Friday night. With frequent warm-up breaks around the stove, they were able to view until about 1:30 a.m. Saturday night was a wash however. David Paessler said that about all you could do would be to wash the optics in the rain.

Sky and Telescope Subscription Discount: Club members who subscribe through the club receive a \$10 discount. They also receive a 10% discount on products purchased from Sky Publishing.

New Members

No new members have joined since the last meeting. The club currently has 45 members.

Treasurer's Report

Current Funds as of 2/9/04

Bank Balance	2204.61
Cash on hand	43.00
Checks for deposit	0.00

Grand total	2247.61
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