

THE FAINT FUZZY

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

UPCOMING MEETING:

If the weather is clear, our next meeting will be Saturday February 5th at 7:00 pm at *Pennyrile State Forest* during our FYBO II winter star party. As always visitors are welcome. Click here for [directions to the Pennyrile observing site](#). If the weather is **not clear**, we may have a meeting at Golden Pond. We will use e-mail and the forum to confirm whether or not we will have a meeting. Check your e-mail and the [Astronomy Forum](#) on www.wkaa.net to find out.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Star Party: We will hold our second annual FYBO II (“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.

Officer Elections: Elections will be held for club officers at the March 5th meeting. Are you well organized? Do you have new ideas? Please consider nominating yourself or another club member for an office. Send all nominations to [John Holland](#).

Potluck Dinner: We will also have our annual potluck dinner at the March 5th meeting. Carol Baltimore has volunteered to coordinate this in order to help balance our menu. We will send out more information before the March meeting.

Membership Dues: Club membership dues are due at the March 5th meeting. They are \$25 for an individual or family membership plus \$5 for each additional family member who also wants to obtain an Astronomical League membership. If you have any questions contact [David Paessler](#).

WKAA Website: John McCubbin brought several laptop computers and gave a great tutorial session on using and editing the website! If you haven’t looked at it recently, [check it out](#). Since this training session, club members have *really* been using it. There is a new Astronomy Discussion Forum which already has a lot of postings. Take a few minutes to register and join in a discussion! Also check out the new Club Weather and Solar Conditions pages. Take a look at the photos that Bill Kassenbaum has posted in the Photo/Image Gallery – “An Easy to Build Solar Filter” and “More TLSP Photos.” And check out the new articles - Jay McNeil has posted “Galaxies – Inside and Out” and David Paessler has posted “Herschel 400 Club Submission Rules.”

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

The weather has been terrible for the last few months. Has anyone made progress on any observing projects? If so, let everyone know about it in the [observing forum on wkaa.net](#). The [WKAA website](#) also lists club members who have already earned observing club

certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. Contact [David Paessler](#) if you have any questions.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

“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. See www.wkaa.net for more information. **Note that the star party may be cancelled if the weather is bad. If the weather is questionable, contact [Ross Workman](#) to find out if the star party is still on.**

Messier Marathon: The Messier Marathon is scheduled for March 12th at Golden Pond Observatory. (Note the location change.) The aim of a Messier marathon is to observe as many of the Messier objects as possible during a single night. *The Year-round Messier Marathon Field Guide* by Harvard Pennington is an excellent book on the subject.

Sidewalk Astronomy: Warren Wepking has scheduled a public sidewalk astronomy session on Thursday April 14th at the Trigg County Elementary School parking lot. In case of rain, it will be held on April 21st. Contact [Warren](#) if you will be able to bring your scope and help.

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.

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 \$13 on Astronomy. Turn in your renewals to David Paessler in order to receive the discount.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (1/31/05): \$1664.94

May we have clear skies soon,

Dale & Carol Baltimore