

THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
February 2006*

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our next meeting will be Saturday February **18th** 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:

Twelve people attended the last meeting on January 28th. We welcomed two visitors, Richard Paine from Owensboro and Linda Whitfield from Evansville, IN.

Secretary's Report: Dale Baltimore reviewed the highlights of the newsletter. He and Carol plan to start tracking outstanding action items and periodically provide updates at future meetings.

Treasurer's Report: David Paessler reported that we sold the last star party T-shirt. A guy from Louisville saw it listed on the wkaa.net forum and snapped it up.

Officer Elections: Elections will be held at the March meeting. Are you well organized? Do you have new ideas? Then consider nominating yourself for an office. The positions are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Star Party Coordinator, and Assistant Star Party Coordinator. Please submit nominations to Ross Workman.

Website: Vince Medlock reported that e-mail addresses on the club website are being targeted with spam. John Holland and John McCubbin are in the process of removing e-mail addresses from archived newsletters and articles. In other areas of the website they have placed brackets around the @ symbol to prevent "web-spiders" from automatically collecting addresses. Spammers have also started targeting the "biglist" of website subscribers. John H. and John M. are in the process of determining how to prevent or minimize this as well.

Magazines – Is anyone looking for a new *challenge*? Bill Kassenbaum brought one to our attention. Tom Clark, the publisher of Amateur Astronomy, is retiring and is looking for someone to take over the magazine.

Astronomy Day: Astronomy Day is coming up on May 6. Thanks to Heather Sherbourne for agreeing to coordinate it and to Jim and Sandy Phistner for volunteering to help her!

Telescope: Warren brought a 60 mm refractor that he would like to sell to the club.

Viewing: Once again we didn't get to view. It was pouring rain!

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

Member Certificates: We hung Bob Vickers Lunar Certificate on the wall at the last meeting and will present his "real" certificate at the next meeting he can attend. Hopefully his is the first of many for the club in 2006!

New Observing Clubs: Have you earned all of the observing club certificates? Or are you bored or frustrated with the ones you are working on? The Astronomical League has created three new observing clubs: Lunar II, Planetary Nebula, and Open Cluster. See www.astroleague.org for more information. Contact David if you have any questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (2/11/06): \$2184.54

Dues: 2006 membership dues are \$25 and are due at the March meeting.

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FYBO III Winter Star Party: We will hold our informal winter star party at the Pennyryle Forrest observing field February 25 – 26. There will not be an organized schedule. The only talks will be those we initiate while trying to stay warm! This is simply an observing party. We will have access to the building to use as a warm room, sleeping quarters (bring your own cot and bedding), and we will have the restroom. Contact Ross for more information.

Potluck Dinner: We will have a potluck dinner before the meeting & elections on March 25th. Be thinking about what you want to bring.

Messier Marathon: Once again we will attempt to hold a Messier Marathon on March 25th following the meeting. *If the sky is clear* come prepared to stay all night and view as many Messier objects as possible. In order to maximize your viewing, you will need to prepare in advance. A lot of information is provided in the links at www.seds.org. Also an excellent book on the subject is *The Year-round Messier Marathon Field Guide* by Harvard Pennington.

New Library Book: Thanks to Warren for donating a book to the library: *The Summer Stargazer – Astronomy for Absolute Beginners* by Robert Claiborne. We currently have 22 books and magazines available for checkout.

Club Website: Check out the astronomy forum, photo gallery, and other useful info at www.wkaa.net. Mike Cohen posted a book review recently - *Reading the Rocks: The Autobiography of the Earth*.

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.

CLUB OFFICERS LIST:

[See WKAA Contact Information.](#)

Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore