

## **UPCOMING MEETING:**

The next meeting will be Saturday January 8 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:**

Ten people attended the December meeting.

**Astronomy Magazine:** David Paessler collected funds from those interested in subscribing to Astronomy magazine. There are now enough people interested for club members to receive a discount of \$13 off the regular subscription rate. Contact David if you want to subscribe.

**WKAA Library:** Several people have donated books to the club recently. As a result David suggested that we start a library with a checkout system so that they are easily available to all club members. The Vice-President would assume librarian duties. Ross Workman made a motion to adopt David's suggestion, Dale Baltimore seconded the motion and the club passed it. If you have any books you would like to donate, contact Vince Medlock.

**Dues Increase:** David recommended increasing club dues from \$15 to \$25 per year. The increase is needed to support club costs in case of accidents (e.g. breaking a guest's scope), to maintain club scopes (e.g. recoating mirrors) and to support the star party revenue timeline. We currently have an average of \$500 tied up for 1-2 months before the star party. The increase is easily justified by member's enhanced benefits: free star party admission (\$30), free GP Planetarium admission (\$3/visit), free Astronomical League dues (\$5), Sky and Telescope magazine discount (\$10), Astronomy magazine discount (\$13), access to club library and scopes, and club website. Alan Dudenhofer noted that dues haven't changed in a long time. Bill Albritton made a motion to increase annual dues to \$25. David added an addendum that anyone who has already paid their 2005 dues at the current \$15 rate will not be charged the increase. Ross seconded the motion and addendum and suggested that \$25 may not be enough, that perhaps we should continue to increase dues in a stair step fashion until we reach a set goal. The club unanimously passed the motion to increase dues to \$25/year starting with the upcoming 2005 dues along with the addendum described above. The club agreed to reconsider stair step increases at the December 2005 meeting.

**Sidewalk Astronomy Programs:** Ross discussed holding sidewalk astronomy/public viewing sessions during this year. The ones that the club has hosted in Paducah, Murray, Dawson Springs, Princeton, and Hopkinsville have generated large and interested crowds. Ross suggested that club members schedule sessions in some additional locations this year. He recommended asking local public libraries to co-host the sessions since they already have publicity mechanisms in place. Every library we have worked with so far

has been very cooperative. Warren Wepking is making arrangements to host a session in Cadiz in the spring.

**Viewing:** The sky was cloudy so we were not able to view.

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

There are no pending submissions or certificates although several members are working on several different ones. Maybe the weather will clear and we can get something accomplished. The WKAA website lists club members who have earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. Contact David Paessler if you have any questions.

### **EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

**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. Both scopes were back in and available for check-out as of the December meeting.

**“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. If the weather is questionable, send an email to Ross Workman or David Paessler. See [www.wkaa.net](http://www.wkaa.net) for more information.

**GET WELL SOON!** David had back surgery Tuesday. He is home from the hospital and is doing well. His recovery may take awhile - he said that he hopes to make the March club meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Balance (1/1/05): \$1722.94