

THE FAINT FUZZY July 2002

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers

UPCOMING MEETING

The next monthly club meeting will be this Saturday July 13 at the G.P. Observatory at 7:00 PM, and as always, the general public is welcome to attend.

LAST MEETING

The last meeting was held on June 8 and we had another great turnout. There were several visitors including the Bennetts, who I think were from Paducah, and Jim Rutenbeck from northern Illinois who came bearing gifts for the club. He brought his AP refractor, but also owns a homemade 8.5" refractor !!

Issues discussed at the meeting were:

- 1) The liability insurance we planned on getting for the club was canceled. Turns out, no astronomy clubs qualify as a "chapter".
- 2) Everyone who subscribed to Sky & Tel magazine should be receiving those by now. Make a note that when the time comes for renewal, bring a check for \$29.95 along with the renewal notice to David, otherwise the discount won't apply.
- 3) So far we have one Star Party speaker confirmed.
- 4) Ross will be needing help soliciting for door-prizes. If someone would volunteer, he won't have to resort to force. <grin>
- 5) Ross will also be contacting Brandon Springs Group Camp about catering a Saturday meal for the S.P.

After the meeting, the night sky seemed to take forever to arrive, and when it did, it was kinda' gray up until about midnight. Stars were visible, but the Milky Way wasn't. Around 40 people came out of the Summer Nights program and viewed a few bright objects with us. Frank, Ross and David were able to find Pluto after some extensive searching. And several of us stayed out until after 1 o'clock.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a welcome to our newest members; Scott & Deborah Simon of Clarksville, and re-joining member, Hugh Earle of Madisonville.

TREASURERS REPORT

David reports a balance of \$1343.98 in treasury funds. No other expenses are anticipated this month.

NOTES

- A) The painting party is complete inside the observatory/meeting room and looks terrific. We still need to re-organize furniture though. It's so bright now that we had to add a light dimmer in the meeting room for the red lights.
- B) The Planetarium's "Summer Nights" program has been attracting quite a few people. Ticket sales for the three Saturday nights following the meeting were about 70, 40, and about 60.
- C) The catered Saturday lunch for the Star Party is confirmed. It will include BBQ Chicken, Potatoes, Beans, Salad, Mac & Cheese, Desert & Drink, all for about \$8. They will deliver and pick-up, but members will have to serve. Saturday supper is also a possibility, but will be more expensive.
- D) Dave Byrd has donated the use of a Pentium 233 computer to the club. Some planetarium programs have been installed on it.
- E) Arnold has donated the cost of the new focuser drawtube for the big Dob.

CERTIFICATE NEWS

Jeff Burton received the Messier Certificate for observing 70 or more M-objects. He is still working on getting the Honorary Messier Certificate for observing all 110 objects. Several of us are just lacking a few objects to complete another half dozen certificates total. Tim Camden is working on four different ones: Lunar, Messier, binocular Messier, and Double Star. (We'll need several nails for our certificate wall soon)

CLUB OFFICERS LIST

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Happy Skies,
John Holland