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July 2003

# THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the Western Kentucky Amateur Astronomers*

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## UPCOMING MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be this Saturday July 26 at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. Visitors are welcome to attend!

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## LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The last meeting was held June 28. About 12 people attended the meeting including new member David Riley.

- Twin Lakes Star Party: Ross Workman discussed preparations for the star party. See below for details.
  - Astronomical League Convention (ALCON): Spencer Buckner reminded everyone of the AL convention in Nashville July 9-12.
  - Astronomical League Awards: See below for details on current certificates awarded. There are now 22 AL certificates displayed on the wall of the observatory meeting room. These certificates represent the work of **only** 6 club members. Other members are encouraged to start working on AL observing club certificates! The easiest to start with are probably the Lunar and the Binocular Messier. See <http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/obsclub.html> for more information on the Astronomical League Observing Clubs. This site lists the available clubs, the objects included in each, and the requirements for recording your observations. Contact David Paessler ([dpaessler@comcast.net](mailto:dpaessler@comcast.net), 270-488-3784) if you have questions.
  - TV and VCR for Club: John Holland suggested that the club buy a TV and VCR to use on cloudy meeting nights. The club members voted to spend as much as \$100 on the purchase of a used TV/VCR.
  - Sky and Telescope Subscriptions: Sky and Telescope regular subscription rates will be going up to \$42.95 per year. Club members who subscribe through the club will continue receive a \$10 discount.
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## TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY:

- The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Twin Lakes Star Party will be held October 20-25 at Pennyriple State Park.
- This year there will be an open house at John McCubbin's observatory (<http://ccdastrophotography.com/>).
- Several rooms and cottages at Pennyriple State Park have already been reserved. People need to make room/cottage reservations soon to be eligible for the 10% discount. We have a block of rooms available until the first of September.
- Vince Medlock has agreed to solicit vendors for door prizes.
- The star party registration fee will be waived for anyone who agrees to give an informal talk. Talks could be on something you have built or an observing program you are doing - they don't have to be very long or technical.
- The T-shirt design needs to be finalized by the July 26 meeting.
- We will need to prepare general maps to the star party site and to John's observatory. The folks at Pennyriple Park will prepare information packets on park activities for star party attendees.
- Part of the observing field has been bush hogged recently and it looks good. Ross plans to mow it regularly after the first of September and to have it sprayed for ticks before the star party. The woods in the area are currently being logged, but the loggers will be out of the area by the first of September.

- The building at the site should need only minor cleaning and has enough electrical service for a coffeemaker, microwave, and projector. Power will not be available for star party attendees' equipment.
  - Catered meals will not be provided, since the Pennyrile park lodge has a restaurant.
  - We have received 4 out-of-town registrations and 2 T-shirt sales so far.
  - See the WKAA website (<http://www.wkaa.net/>) for star party information and registration forms.
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#### **ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE AWARDS:**

##### •Certificates awarded at last meeting:

Vince Medlock - Lunar Club

Tim Camden - Binocular Messier

David Paessler - Herschel 400 Club

##### •Certificates to award at next meeting:

There are no awards for the next meeting.

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#### **EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Summer Nights: Every Saturday night through August 30 the public has the opportunity to attend a show at Golden Pond Planetarium and then view through scopes set up by club members. Club members, don't forget to come out, set up your scope, and answer questions! This is a *great* way to introduce people to astronomy. The public seems to appreciate it *and* it is a lot of fun for club members. If you are not familiar with the program, check out the club website <http://www.wkaa.net> for more information.
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#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

There are no new members this month. The club currently has 39 members.

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

##### •Current Funds (6/8/03):

Bank balance:	\$1539.44
Cash on hand:	20.00
Warm room fund:	60.00
Dues collected, not deposited	15.00
Grand total:	\$1634.44

##### •Expenses:

There were no expenses reported for this month.

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Happy Viewing,

Dale & Carol Baltimore