

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday July 17th at 7:00 pm at Golden Pond Observatory. As always visitors are welcome to attend!

Last Meeting Highlights

About 20 people attended our last meeting on June 19th. We discussed the star party as well as some other upcoming events. See the Star Party and Events & Opportunities sections below for details. Texas Star Party: Jay McNeil reported that two nights were stunning – some of his best observing nights ever! They also had the worst thunderstorm he has ever seen. He showed some photos that he entered in the TSP photo contest and he donated one to the club. See www.wkaa.net for images from the Texas Star Party. Website: John McCubbin reported that the website has had over 11,000 hits since December! If you want to put photos on the website, John can set up a gallery. A star party registration form is also available on the website. Viewing: Several club members set up their scopes and showed some of the Summer Nights participants Jupiter, some double stars, and a few deep sky objects.

15TH ANNUAL TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY:

The star party is coming soon! It will be held October 9-16 at Pennyrile State Forest. Facilities: Mike Ladd, who worked with Ross last year, has left Pennyrile, so Ross contacted the person over Pennyrile in Frankfort, Eric Gracey. Eric was aware of the star party's success and has agreed to let us use the facility and field as needed for the event. There are still loggers there; they should be finished by early August. Ross will contact Eric again about fixing the parking lot. Ross will need volunteers again this year to get the building ready on the morning of October 9th. Lodge: Ross has reserved a block of rooms October 9-14. These will be available to us until August 20th. We can't reserve a block for the 15th and 16th due to the Fall Photo Contest. As of the last WKAA meeting there were 16 rooms available and more should open up after the photo contest's block expires on August 8th. If there aren't rooms available now for that weekend, be sure and call the lodge on August 9th. Star party participants get a 10% discount for making early reservations. Food: The Country Cupboard from Madisonville will cater lunch on October 16th. The snacks & continental breakfasts were a big hit last year, so we will provide those again this year with the possible addition of food donations from star party participants. Speakers: Rolando Chavez and Jay McNeil will be our guest speakers. Rolando will discuss basic imaging with a ToUcam. Jay will discuss the discovery of McNeil's nebula. Door Prizes: Charles and Audrey Funk volunteered to solicit door prizes from vendors. They are doing a great job! See www.wkaa.net for a list of the door prizes they have already received. Registrations & T-shirts: We still need a T-shirt design; Ross recommends that we use M-51. We will use registration packets containing Pennyrile brochures, red light pens, and ordered T-shirts.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

There have been no new submissions and there are no pending certificates. AICor work is getting pretty slow, which is not surprising considering the lousy observing weather this year! 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:

Summer Nights: The Summer Nights program is now in full swing! Every Saturday night through September 4th the public has the opportunity to attend a show at Golden Pond Planetarium and then view through scopes set up by 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, see www.wkaa.net for more information.

Telescopes to the People: Dawson Springs, July 23. Ross may set up his telescope for a public viewing session at the annual town barbeque. Contact Ross for more information.

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.

Night Sky Magazine: This is a new magazine published by Sky & Telescope for beginners. It is an excellent resource for those new to viewing. See David for a certificate for a free issue if you want to check it out.

Astrofest: This star party is hosted by the Chicago Astronomical Society and will be held September 16-18. See the Astrofest website for more information.

Planetarium Seating: New seats for the planetarium are being purchased via donations. A \$350 donation will purchase one chair with a plaque engraved with the name of the individual, business, or organization providing the donation. See Don Partain if you are interested.

New Members:

Welcome to new members Greg, Yvonne, and Matthew Adler from Paducah!

Star Party Registrants: 3

Treasurer's Report

Current Funds as of 7/14/04

Bank Balance \$1904.45