

THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
July 2005*

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be Saturday July 2nd at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. As always visitors are welcome to attend! After the meeting, if the sky is clear, we will help Summer Nights participants view through our scopes (see the "Public Events" section for details).

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Fourteen people attended last month's meeting, including long-time member Jim Boren.

Secretary's Report: Dale Baltimore reviewed highlights from the last newsletter and gave an update on Warren Wepking. A virus – not a stroke – caused his recent health problems. He is likely to regain much of the use of his shoulder.

Treasurer's Report: David Paessler reported that we have 15 fewer members than last year and that he has sent e-mail reminders to members who haven't paid their 2005 dues yet. Reminders will be mailed to those without e-mail with this newsletter. Both the secretary's and treasurer's reports were accepted.

Star Party: Ross Workman reported that the star party information on the website needs to be updated with the current dates, registration fees, and T-shirt prices. John Holland volunteered to make necessary changes to the .pdf files. [*The website has now been updated.*] Ross needs someone to solicit door prizes from vendors. If you are willing to help out with this, [contact Ross](#).

Sidewalk Astronomy: Several past and upcoming public events were discussed. See the "Public Events" section below for details.

Clean-Up Day: Thanks to David, Ross, Vince, Dale and Carol for cleaning up the observatory! It looks much better!

New VP & Summer Nights Coordinator: Vince appointed Bill Kassenbaum as vice-president to fill out the remainder of this term. Heather Sherbourne volunteered to coordinate club members for the Summer Nights program. Thanks Bill and Heather!

New Purchases: Ross made a motion to buy a wall mount for the television and a couple of fans to help cool the observatory. The motion was seconded and passed with limits set at \$50 for both fans.

Membership List: David made a motion that we provide club members with a membership list including contact information to make it easier for members to get in touch with each other. Information that members have specifically asked to remain private will not be included on this list. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Viewing: The sky was pretty clear so 6 or 7 people set up their scopes. These folks and several other members helped the Summer Nights participants view and then stayed around viewing and visiting for a while after the public left.

MEMBER NOTES:

New Members: The club has another new member – John Caldwell from Clarksville, Tennessee. Welcome to the club John!

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

Again this month there have been no new AL submissions. Let's hope the skies improve. Let us know how you are progressing in the astronomy forum on [wkaa.net](#). The [WKAA website](#) lists club members who have already earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. [Contact David](#) if you have any questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (6/25/05): \$1681.54

Purchases: Two fans have been bought for the observatory – just in time for hot weather.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

Paducah: On June 15th Jim Hall, Bill Kassenbaum, John Workman, David Paessler and Dale and Carol Baltimore showed 75 to 100 people the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus at the McCracken County Public Library in Paducah. This event was again a success! There were a lot of excited kids and adults both!

KY Sheriffs' Ranch, Gilbertsville: We have had two good Thursday night viewings at the Sheriff's ranch. The first Thursday David, Jim, and Dale hosted 75 boys ages 8 to 11. We viewed the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus. This past Thursday, David and Jim showed 60 girls Jupiter, Venus, Saturn and the Ring Nebula. It has been a rewarding experience as the kids really enjoy the views in the telescopes. This coming Thursday the 30th, we have been warned to expect 100 boys! Any help would be appreciated as the last thing boys are good at in this age range is patience waiting in long lines! It would be nice to have 4 scopes for this coming event. Sessions will continue each Thursday night through the end of July. See the [WKAA Forum](#) for more information and [contact David](#) if you can help.

Summer Nights Program: The Summer Nights sessions have had good attendance from both the public and club members. Only one session has been rained out so far. The program runs every Saturday night from May 28th through September 3rd. It consists of an 8 p.m. planetarium show followed by viewing (weather permitting) through the observatory scope and/or club member scopes. Crowds range from as few as 30 to over 100. If you can, please come out and help with the public and enjoy some viewing yourself. For more information see [wkaa.net](#).

Kelly Green Men Festival: The club will give a presentation promoting amateur astronomy (not UFOs!) and then hold a viewing session on August 19th in Hopkinsville. [Contact John McCubbin](#) if you can help.

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

For Sale: 6" Criterion Dynascope. See the [WKAA Forum](#) for more information.

Club Website: Check out the astronomy forum, photo gallery, and other useful info at [www.wkaa.net](#). Perusing the website and conversing with fellow observers is a great way to spend those cloudy evenings.

Club Library: The library bookcase has been labeled as to which items are available for check-out and which for observatory-use only. If you would like to check something out, just remove the card from the book, complete the information, and leave the card on the shelf (for now – we'll have a box for the cards soon). Also please consider donating or loaning books that you don't use frequently to the library (you can always check them out if you need them).

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. Both scopes are currently available. [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 \$13 on *Astronomy*. Turn in your renewals to David Paessler in order to receive the discount

Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore