

THE FAINT FUZZY

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
July 2006

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our next meeting will be Saturday July 22nd at Golden Pond Observatory at 7:00 pm. The Summer Nights program is in full swing, so be ready to stay after the meeting and help the public view if you can. As always visitors are welcome to join us!

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Fifteen people attended the last meeting including new members Art Pallone and Mike Dumas. Bill Kassebaum ran the meeting in Ross Workman's stead and David Paessler took notes for Dale & Carol Baltimore. Ross, Dale, and Carol could not be at the meeting.

Outreach Award: Bob Vickers proposed that the club try for a new \$2500 public outreach award recently announced by *Astronomy Magazine*. He and Melissa volunteered to write the required essays and complete the entry forms. If we win the money, we plan to use it to rebuild Louis Chappell's old telescope if his daughter Ashley is willing to donate it to the club. *[At this point Ashley has not committed to donating her father's scope. The club's entry was submitted with an alternate plan for using the money – buying a couple of Dobs for the KY Sheriff's Ranch, buying a planetcam to make viewing accessible to the wheelchair-dependent and upgrading the "planet walk" at Golden Pond.]*

Summer Nights: Heather Sherbourne passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the July Summer Nights sessions.

Star Party: John Holland has updated the registration page on our website. Bill K. will handle T-shirt design and prize solicitations. Ross will send a mass mailing to past participants.

[Here is an update on some of the items Bill is working on: Door prize solicitation letter – He has drafted the letter and sent it to the officers. He is currently collecting email and/or snail mail addresses for potential vendors. He plans to send the letter by the end of July. Tee shirt design – He is still researching theme and concepts. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated. Think outside the box. Anything will be considered. He plans to present proposals to the club at the August meeting. Bill also provided other updates and suggestions that will be discussed further at the meeting.]

Viewing: Club members helped about 45 people view for the Summer Nights program and then stayed later to view on their own. The sky was pretty clear but there was heavy dew

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

There are no pending awards or submissions at this time. See www.astroleague.org for more information about observing clubs/awards. Also see wkaa.net for a list of club members who have completed awards. Contact David if you have any questions.

NEW MEMBERS:

Two new members have joined the club! Let's welcome Art Pallone from Murray and Mike Dumas from Benton.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (7/18/06): \$2664.54

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Summer Nights: The Summer Nights program is in full swing! Each Saturday we have shown the public Saturn, Jupiter, some double stars, star clusters, galaxies, and planetary nebula. There has been *great* club support for these sessions so far. Thanks to everyone who has come and helped! The program consists of an 8 p.m. planetarium show each Saturday night followed by viewing through the observatory and WKAA members' telescopes (weather permitting). It is an enjoyable time and the public is always appreciative. The program continues through Labor Day.

“How to Use Your Telescope” Sessions: There is a final session scheduled on August 5th to teach the public how to use their own telescopes. This will be held at Golden Pond in conjunction with Summer Nights. *[No one brought a scope to the first two sessions.]*

Library: Do you have any astronomy books that you aren't using? Consider donating or loaning them to the club library so that other club members can benefit from them.

Club Website: Check out the articles, photo gallery, and other useful info at www.wkaa.net.

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.

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 \$9 on *Astronomy*. Turn in your renewals to David Paessler in order to receive the discount.

CLUB OFFICERS LIST:

[See WKAA Contact Information.](#)

Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore