

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday June 19th at 7:00 pm at Golden Pond Observatory. As always visitors are welcome to attend!

Last Meeting Highlights

Newsletters for Non-Members - Warren received a request to have the newsletter mailed to someone who is not a member of the club. After some discussion we decided not to mail newsletters to non-members due to the cost and effort involved. Newsletters are archived on this website and can be accessed by anyone either from their own computers or at a public library. Also anyone can sign up at [the wkaa contact information page](#) to receive current newsletters via e-mail.

Orphaned Equipment: Ross still has a battery, a charger, and a jumpstart device left by attendees of past star parties. If these aren't claimed at the next star party, we will auction them off at a future club meeting.

Student Research: Warren has received a request from a teacher at Graves County High School to have some of her students present their astronomy research to the club. We decided to invite them to give their presentations at a club meeting, but Warren has been unable to get in touch with them so far.

Light Shield: The light shield we purchased a few months ago has now been installed at the hunter check station. This will help reduce light pollution at the south end of the observing field.

Loaner Scopes: The club now has two Dobsonians (6" and 8") that are ready for club members to borrow! Thanks to Amanda Workman for donating the 8"! We also purchased a telrad, planispheres, and deep sky maps for use with the loaner scopes. 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.

Astronomical League Awards: One award was presented. See below for details.

Star Party: Ross reported that star party preparations are in good shape. He still needs someone to solicit door prizes from vendors. If you are willing to help with this, contact Ross . He would like to have someone lined up by the June 19th meeting.

Murray State - NSF Grant: Vince reported that MSU has decided not to pursue this grant right now: however they may apply in January. The grant would be to purchase a 0.5 to 2.5 meter telescope and associated equipment for student research. They are interested in using the Golden Pond Observatory to house the equipment. Vince told them

that the National Forest Service owns the observatory. (The National Science Foundation doesn't generally fund other federal agencies, so it is unlikely MSU will be able to use the observatory under this grant.)

Viewing: It was cloudy so we weren't able to view.

Astronomical League Awards

May Meeting: Vince Medlock received his Honorary Messier certificate and pin for observing 110 Messier objects

The WKAA website lists club members who have earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website.

Contact David 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. 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 [summer nights article](#) for more information.

Telescopes to the People:

Hopkinsville, June 24: John McCubbin and John Holland will be setting up their scopes for public viewing at the Hopkinsville Museum. Contact [John McCubbin](#) if you can help.

Dawson Springs, July 23: Ross may set up his telescope for a public viewing session at the annual town barbeque. Contact [Ross Workman](#) for more information.

Venus Transit: The Venus transit was pretty spectacular! If you didn't get to see it, check out [the WKAA Gallery](#) for photos taken by club members.

15th Annual Twin Lakes Star Party: This is a really nice star party held in west Texas May 16-23. About 800 people attend each year and the skies are so dark that you can see 7th magnitude stars with your naked eye. Jay McNeil goes every year and has offered to caravan with anyone who is interested in going. See the [Texas Star Party website](#) for more information.

Venus Transit: There will be a Venus transit June 8. The last occurrence was in 1882.

15th Annual Twin Lakes Star Party: October 9 - 16 at Pennyrile State Forrest.

Website: If anyone would like to include an article on the WKAA website, contact [John McCubbin](#). Articles don't have to cover advanced or technical topics - they could be about something as simple as a beginner's first experiences observing.

b>Sky and Telescope subscription discount: Club members who subscribe through the club receive a \$10 discount. They also receive a 10% discount on products purchased from Sky Publishing. Turn in your renewals to David in order to receive the discount.

New Members

Welcome to new members Cheslee and Ashlee Morris of Puryear, TN! The club currently has 40 members.

Treasurer's Report

Current Funds as of 6/16/04

Bank Balance \$2104.45