

THE FAINT FUZZY

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

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be Saturday June 4th at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. As always visitors are welcome to attend! If the sky is clear, we will view after the meeting.

At 3:00 pm we will meet to give the observatory a much-needed cleaning. Please come and help if you can.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Twenty-two people attended last month's meeting, including visitors John Caldwell from Clarksville, Ron and Linda Wetherall from Paducah and Jim Hall's dad.

Officer reports: Dale Baltimore reviewed highlights from the last newsletter and David Paessler gave a treasurer's report both of which were approved.

Committee reports: Ross Workman reported that there has been no change in star party status. Vince Medlock noted that both scopes were available for check-out.

Sidewalk Astronomy: Several past and upcoming public events were discussed. See the "Public Events" section below for details. There is a lot happening!

Mission Statement and Bylaws: John Holland provided Vince Medlock with a disk copy of the club mission statement and bylaws. Changes to these will be pursued after the officers have had a chance to review them.

Clean-Up Day: Vince mentioned that Carol Baltimore has suggested we get together and clean-up the observatory. We and our mouse co-inhabitants have generated a lot of dirt and debris over time and the observatory has become pretty dirty and disorganized. The club agreed to have a clean-up session at 3 p.m. before the June 4th club meeting.

Gift for Warren Wepking: The club purchased a "constellation neck tie" for Warren to show our appreciation for his dedication and many years of club service. Warren has had some health problems recently and may soon move to Virginia to be near his children. [Since Warren was absent, Carol mailed the tie to him. He called to say that he really appreciated it and hoped to attend some future meetings.]

Miscellaneous: Vince reported that Charles Funk has been contacted by a UT-Martin professor interested in starting an astronomy club at the university. He also mentioned that Joe Boyd from the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society in Nashville invited club members to a presentation on Thursday May 19th by the Director of the observatory at the University of Maryland. [No one was able to attend since it was a weekday event.]

Viewing: Viewing was pretty good. Several people set up their scopes and played for a few hours. Bill Kassenbaum helped the Wetheralls learn how to set up and use a new scope that they had just bought for their grandchildren.

OFFICER NEWS:

Jim Hall has resigned as vice-president for personal reasons and Bill Kassenbaum has volunteered to fill the remainder of his term. The officers have agreed to Bill's selection and Vince will appoint him as VP at the next club meeting.

MEMBER NOTES:

The club currently has 33 paid members. If you have not paid your dues for 2005, please send them to David.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

There have been no new AL submissions. Let's get going on those observing lists! Don't forget to 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 (5/30/05): \$1850.86

Pending Expenses: AL national dues by 7/1

PUBLIC EVENTS:

Dawson Springs: David, Ross, Jim Hall and John Holland helped about 60 people view at Dawson Springs during the town's First Friday festival on May 6th. The folks apparently had a good time – many of them viewed multiple times!

Girl Scout Camp: David and Jim Hall held an impromptu session on April 23 for a Girl Scout camp in Fairdealing. The girls seemed to really enjoy it!

Summer Nights May 28th: The 2005 Summer Nights program got off to a good start last Saturday with great club support by Jim Hall, Heather Sherbourne, David Paessler, Alan Dudenhoffer, Greg and Matthew Adler, and Jim and Sandy Phfistner! Following a planetarium show conducted by John Workman, club members showed about 40 to 50 public attendees Jupiter, Saturn, M13, M57, M104, M97, and other celestial wonders through the thin scattered clouds. It looked like it could clear up, so several waited until midnight before packing up for the ride home. Thanks to everyone who supported this event!

Summer Nights Program: The Summer Nights program runs every Saturday night through August. 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.

KY Sheriffs' Ranch – David has arranged viewing sessions for 60-100 kids at the Kentucky Sheriffs' Ranch in Gilbertsville each Thursday night in June and July. The camp caters to younger underprivileged kids who are still very impressionable and eager to learn. See the [WKAA Forum](#) for more information and [contact David](#) if you can help.

Paducah: A public viewing session is planned for Wednesday 6/15 at the McCracken County Library in Paducah. [Contact David](#) if you can help.

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 at www.wkaa.net. In addition to many other topics, you can read about Ross and Bill Brockman's current projects and let other folks know what you are working on in "General Discussion – Anyone Home??" Conversing with fellow observers is a great way to spend those cloudy evenings.

Club Library: The library has about a dozen books so far. If you would like to check something out, please see Carol after the meeting. 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. [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