

THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
June 2006*

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our next meeting will be Saturday June 24th at Golden Pond Observatory at 7:00 pm. The Summer Nights program is also in progress, 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:

Eighteen people attended the last meeting including new members Donald & Suzanne Watkins and Jim Stiveson. All officers were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: If you haven't paid your club dues, your subscription to Reflector will stop soon. (The June issue has just arrived.)

Star Party: Ross Workman has arranged for the Country Cupboard to cater the star party again this year. He asked if we wanted pork chops with the meal for an extra \$1 per person (~\$100 total). The members present enthusiastically supported this! The new facility is in operation now and so far there are no new lights. Ross plans to schedule informal talks during the week this year in addition to the talks on Saturday. Please consider giving a talk and let Ross know.

KY Sheriff's Ranch: David Paessler reported that he had not yet been contacted to provide weekly viewings again this summer. He said that he won't be able to support it every week like he did last year. *[Since the meeting, both David and Jim Hall talked to the contact at the Sheriff's Ranch. Jim sent an e-mail to nearby club members, but not enough people were able to support this program during the week in addition to Summer Nights on Saturdays.]*

Event Publicity: Jim reported via e-mail that the Paducah Sun newspaper didn't include a notice about Astronomy Day. At the meeting Ross explained that the planetarium sends out news releases about LBL sponsored events like Astronomy Day and Summer Nights. He encouraged club members to contact their local newspapers directly if WKAA and planetarium events aren't being published.

Summer Nights - Club Support: Ross asked all club members to sign up for 2 Summer Nights sessions in addition to those on club meeting nights. He reminded us that, as a club, we have a responsibility to educate the public and that this is a condition of the club's continued use of the observatory. *[See the attachment for more information on the club's history and commitment to educate the public.]* Heather has agreed to coordinate this effort and will be asking people to commit to specific dates in advance. She noted that there were a couple of sessions last summer when no club members showed up. See [below](#) for more information on Summer Nights.

"How to Use Your Telescope" Sessions: Three sessions have been scheduled to teach the public how to use their own telescopes. They are scheduled for June 10th, July 8th, and August 5th in conjunction with Summer Nights. Ross has asked Don Partain to publicize these events. Jim and Ross also suggested having these sessions before and after Christmas. *[No one brought a scope to the first session; hopefully some people will bring them to the next two sessions.]*

Club 20th Anniversary: Ross noted that this year is WKAA's 20th anniversary as an official club. (Alan Dudenhofer was one of the original 6 or 7 charter members!) Several people suggested that we celebrate the occasion. We may do it in September - details will be worked out later.

Thanks: Thanks to Melissa Vickers for bringing delicious cookies!

Viewing: The sky was clear!! After helping the public view during the first Summer Nights session, several club members stayed and viewed until after midnight!

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 David and Savanna Hayes from Paris, TN.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (6/20/06): \$2834.54

Expenses: Astronomical League dues are pending and are \$175 for 33 members.

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Summer Nights: The Summer Nights program is in full swing! Each Saturday we have been able to show Saturn, Jupiter, some double stars and star clusters to about 20 people on average. 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.

Dawson Springs, KY: Ross and John Holland hosted a public viewing session in Dawson Springs on May 5th. There was a good size crowd.

Library: The library currently has 23 books and magazines available for checkout.

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