

THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
March 2004*

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be Saturday March 13. This meeting includes our annual potluck dinner and officer elections. As always visitors are welcome to attend!

Potluck Dinner: Dinner starts at 6:00 pm in **the Administration Building across the street from the gravel parking lot we drive through to get to the observatory.** This building has a kitchen and tables! Please bring any of the following: ice, soft drinks, vegetables, salads, casseroles, desserts, etc. Ross Workman is preparing the meat.

Meeting/Officer Elections: The meeting starts at 7:00 pm at Golden Pond Observatory and will include officer elections. Please send nominations to John Holland.

Planetarium Tour: The planetarium upgrades are complete! Following the meeting Don Partain will give us a tour.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

26 people attended our last meeting on February 21. We had 4 visitors: Mike Cohen, Jerry Dronberger, and Jim and Sandy Phfister. They all joined the club!

Events: Several people discussed upcoming events: Astronomy Day, Mid-South Stargaze, Texas Star Party, and NIAGfest. See the Events and Opportunities section for details.

Website: If anyone would like to include an article on the 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.

McNeil's Nebula: Jay McNeil described some of the details of his discovery of McNeil's Nebula. It was fascinating! For more information, check out his [article](#) on the WKAA website.

Meeting Space: The club has grown so much that meetings in the observatory have been pretty cramped. As a result there was some discussion of either meeting in the planetarium during the winter months or adding an addition to the observatory.

Viewing: The skies were clear for a few hours and we were able to get in some good viewing. Several people were able to see McNeil's nebula through David's 16" Dob.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

Bob Vickers has submitted his Double Star log. It has been approved and the certificate request has been submitted pending arrival.

David Paessler has submitted his Urban Club log and it is waiting approval and certificate arrival.

David Paessler has submitted his Master Observer requirements and it is waiting approval and certificate arrival.

The WKAA website lists club members who have earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. [Contact David Paessler](#) if you have any questions.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

A Night with the Planets: The club will be providing a talk and public viewing session "A Night with the Planets" at the McCracken County Public Library in Paducah on Thursday March 18. Please [contact David Paessler](#) if you can help.

Messier Marathon: The Messier Marathon will be held on March 20 at Golden Pond Observatory. It will start about 5:30 pm but you are welcome to come earlier if you like. An excellent book to help with this is *The Year-round Messier Marathon Field Guide* by Harvard Pennington.

Astronomy Day: Astronomy Day will be held Saturday April 24 at the Golden Pond Planetarium. There will be free planetarium shows and club members will set up telescopes, distribute astronomy literature, and meet and greet the public.

Mid-South Star Gaze: If you are interested in attending another star party, this one is very nice and not too far away. It will be held April 14-17 in French Camp, Mississippi. John Holland, David

Paessler, Ross Workman, and Jay McNeil have all been before and were very impressed with both the facilities and the hospitality. It is located at an observatory that has over a dozen telescopes, including a 32-inch. See the Mid-South Stargaze [website](#) for more information.

NIAGfest: This is an astronomy convention held in Northern Indiana April 23-24. See the [Niagfest website](#) for more information.

Texas 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.

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to new members Mike Cohen, Jerry Dronberger, and Jim and Sandy Phfister! The club currently has 48 members.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current Funds (3/7/04):

Bank balance:	\$2161.20
Cash on hand:	41.00
Checks for deposit:	0.00
Grand total:	\$2202.20

Membership Dues: Club membership dues are due at the March 13 meeting. They are \$15 plus \$5 for each additional family member who wants to obtain an Astronomical League membership. Seventeen members have already paid!

Wishing you successful stargazing,

Dale & Carol Baltimore