

THE FAINT FUZZY

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

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be Saturday March 5 at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. We will elect club officers at the meeting. Our annual potluck dinner will start at 6:00 pm. As always visitors are welcome to attend both the dinner and the meeting! If the sky is clear, we will view after the meeting.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS:

These nominations have thus far been received and accepted:

President – Vince Medlock

Vice President – Jim Hall

Secretary – Dale & Carol Baltimore; Laura Dietrich

Treasurer/AICor – David Paessler

Star Party Chairman – Ross Workman

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for an office, please contact [John Holland](#). Nominations will be open until immediately before the vote at the March 5th meeting. Also Jim Hall has accepted the non-elected position of Astronomy Day Coordinator. Thanks Jim!

OFFICER FYBO II WINTER STAR PARTY HIGHLIGHTS:

The FYBO II was a partial success this year. Friday night was the best of the two nights, and nine people, including Mike Armstrong from Dayton, Ohio, showed up to observe and visit. The night started out quite good, especially considering the type of weather we've been having over the last several months. We were able to observe the usual objects: Messier's, NGC's, and some of the IC objects; but some of us went after some of the not-so-common objects, such as the Sharpless nebulae and Abell planetaries. The observing ended around 11:00pm when a thick ground fog developed, and the dew on our scopes turned to ice. But all in all, Friday night was a successful observing run for all. The conditions for Saturday weren't as favorable. High clouds developed early in the day, so any plans for observing were scrubbed. However, two members, John and YoJohn, took advantage of a brief clearing and met at Pennyryle to do some naked eye and binocular observing. But from what we understand, it was short-lived and the rest of the evening was spent eating a bowl of cobbler and ice cream at Backyard Burgers. - Ross

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Messier Marathon:

Don't forget the Messier Marathon on Saturday March 12 at Golden Pond. The aim of a Messier marathon is to observe as many of the 110 Messier objects as possible during a single night. Come join us – we will have a lot of fun (if the weather permits)! *The Year-round Messier Marathon Field Guide* by Harvard Pennington is an excellent book on the subject.

New Club Library:

We have just started a club library and are getting a start on some decent books. If you have some that you are finished reading and would like to donate, be sure and bring them to the March meeting. Vince Medlock is organizing the library, so see him to make donations or answer questions about checking out materials.

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. Both scopes are currently available for checkout. Contact [Vince Medlock](#) in order to make arrangements.

Sidewalk Astronomy:

Warren Wepking has scheduled a public sidewalk astronomy session on Thursday April 14th at the Trigg County Elementary School parking lot. In case of rain, it will be held on April 21st. Contact [Warren](#) if you will be able to bring your scope and help.

Club Website:

Don't forget about the new astronomy forum on www.wkaa.net. If you have any questions or topics you want to discuss, be sure to post them. It has been a little slow the last couple of weeks – let's jump in there and get some more good discussions going!

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.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

Have you made progress on any observing projects? Let folks know about it in the [observing forum on wkaa.net](#). The WKAA website also lists club members who have already earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. Contact [David Paessler](#) if you have any questions. (Folks may not earn any more awards until AL starts some cloud formation observing lists!)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (2/26/05): \$1707.94

Membership Dues: Dues for 2005 are now due and payable at the March meeting or by mailing to David Paessler at 9840 Enlow Dr, Kevil, KY 42053 (phone 270-488-3784).

CLUB OFFICERS LIST:

President, Warren Wepking - Cadiz, KY 270-924-5574

Vice President, Vince Medlock – Murray, KY

Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator, David Paessler - Kevil, KY 270-488-3784
Secretary, Dale & Carol Baltimore -Paducah, KY 270-554-6603
Star Party Chairman, Ross Workman - Dawson Springs, KY 270-797-8959
Website, John McCubbin - Hopkinsville, KY and John Holland - Hopkinsville, KY

Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore