

THE FAINT FUZZY

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
March 2006

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our annual potluck dinner will be Saturday March 25th at **5 pm** at Golden Pond Observatory. It will be followed by the monthly meeting and officer elections at **6 pm**. **Please note the change in start times.** The nominations that have been received so far are: Vice President – Bill Kassebaum, Ross Workman; Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator – David Paessler; Secretary – Dale & Carol Baltimore; Star Party Coordinator – Ross Workman; and Assistant Star Party Coordinator– Bill Kassebaum. Contact Ross if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for an office. Nominations will be accepted until the elections are held. Immediately after the meeting we will start the Messier Marathon if the sky is clear (see [below](#) for more details). As always visitors are welcome to attend any or all these events!

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting scheduled for February 18th was canceled due to snow so we won't be bringing you any highlights!

FYBO III WINTER STAR PARTY:

Thanks to David Paessler for providing this writeup:

The FYBO 3 party was great. Friday night was a cloud out after just a short period of light clouds. Saturday's satellite loop showed rapid clearing from the west early in the day. Watching the progress throughout the day left me thinking that it would clear up at Pennyriple sometime between 7 PM and 9 PM. With that hope, I set out for Pennyriple. Ross Workman, Mike Armstrong (Dayton, OH), and I set up around 7 PM on the parking lot and shut off the light at the building.

As we were setting up, the clouds slowly tapered off and by 8 PM it was a wonderful sky. It was also getting quite cold and windy (we don't call it the FYBO party for nothing). Ross brought his new 12.5" dob, I had my 12.5" and Mike set up his 17.5" scope. My main goal was to evaluate these new eyes (cataract surgery) and see how well they performed. I was shocked to see M42 brighter and with more detail than even the 16" usually showed me. As the night progressed, it was plain the new eyes were a vast improvement over the 51 year old models I was using before! Between runs to the office to warm up and observing, we wore out the sky till about 1 AM. By then my toes were totally cold soaked, Ross's hands were frozen, and Mike was just cold all over. We packed it up with the satisfaction of at least 5 hours under good dark skies and some good observing. We were surprised that no one else showed up for the event as Saturday night turned out to be quite a good night. The electric heaters in the office were quite a bit better at keeping the office warm than the old stove was in the big room. Maybe next year we will have better weather and more will attend. – *David*

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. Contact David if you have any questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (3/22/06): \$2359.54

***** 2006 membership fees (\$25) are due at the March meeting. *****

NEW MEMBERS:

The club has two new members: Mike Lynch from Frankfort, KY and Mike Armstrong from Dayton, OH.

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Messier Marathon: Once again it is time to try for a Messier Marathon. We will hold it after the meeting on March 25th. Hopefully this year we will have clear skies. If the sky *is* clear, come prepared to stay all night and view as many Messier objects as possible. (But don't bring tents - camping is not allowed at Golden Pond.) In order to maximize your viewing, you will need to prepare in advance. Check out Jim Hall's recent [post](#) on the forum about a Messier marathon planner. A lot of information is also provided in the links at www.seds.org as well as is in the book *The Year-round Messier Marathon Field Guide* by Harvard Pennington.

For Sale: Meade Electronic Digital Model DS90, 3 astronomy books, and software. Contact Martha Williams of Mayfield at (270) 705-8810. The price is negotiable.

Library: We currently have 22 books and magazines available for checkout.

Club Website: Check out the astronomy forum, 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. 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 \$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