

THE FAINT FUZZY

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
March 2007

UPCOMING MEETING:

We will have a **potluck dinner** and **officer elections** along with our monthly meeting this Saturday March 17th at 6 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. **Please don't forget to bring the food you signed up for at the last meeting.** As always visitors are welcome to come & join us for both dinner and the meeting! If the sky is clear, we will view after the meeting.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Eighteen people attended the last meeting including 2 visitors, John and Catherine Broadbent from Paducah.

Viewing: It was really *clear* – mag 6.4 skies! Several people were even able to view the Flame and Horsehead nebulas. The skies just didn't last long enough – we broke down the 9 scopes we had set up when clouds rolled in around 10 pm.

Officer Elections: See the Upcoming Events section below.

Membership Dues: Club membership fees are due at the March 17th meeting. They are \$25 for an individual or family membership plus \$5 for each additional family member who also wants to obtain an Astronomical League membership. If you have any questions contact David Paessler

Astronomy Day: This event is coming up April 21st. Heather Sherbourne and Jim & Sandy Phfistner volunteered to coordinate the event again this year. *[Heather has regretfully notified us that she will not be able to help coordinate Astronomy Day due to time-consuming preparations for her family's upcoming move to Georgia. She's really disappointed about it (& so are we, but of course we understand). We're sure that Jim & Sandy will appreciate anyone who's willing to help them with preparations.]* Carol Baltimore has volunteered to coordinate publicity and Jim & Sandy, David, and Ken & Sue Billings said they would promote the event in their local areas. We brainstormed several ideas, including improving the planet walk, locating a welcome table and solar scope at the visitors center, using a laptop to display club photos, and having a kids table. David Paessler volunteered to bring a laptop and assemble a slide show. We also discussed the Astronomical League's recommendation to host two Astronomy Day events this year – in the spring and the fall. We decided to continue with just one event in the spring due to the time commitment for the star party in the fall.

Website: There was a lot of discussion about the new server. Moving the website to the new host will save the club \$125 annually as well as significantly improve service. If you haven't been to the site recently, check it out! David has finished moving the club photos to the new gallery, Bob Vickers has posted a book review of "The Modern Moon" and Dale Baltimore has updated the archives with the 2006 newsletters. Thanks to David Paessler & John McCubbin for their hard work getting the website moved over!

Goodies: Thanks to Jim & Sandy Phfistner for bringing chocolate covered cherries!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FYBO IV Winter Star Party: FYBO IV was *snowed* out this year!

Officer Elections: These club members have accepted nominations thus far: President – Dale Baltimore, Vice President – Jim Phfistner, Treasurer/AL Coordinator – David Paessler, Secretary – Bob & Melissa Vickers, Star Party Coordinator/Assistant SPC – Bill Kassebaum & David Paessler. The floor will be open for nominations until just before the elections start at the meeting on Saturday.

Astronomy Day: Astronomy Day will be here before we know it! It is scheduled for April 21st at Golden Pond. LBL staff will conduct free planetarium shows. Club members will introduce the public to amateur astronomy via solar viewing, death-defying demonstrations, and astronomy-related activities and literature. Come and help if you can – we always have a great time! See the [Astronomy Day Events Schedule](#) for more information.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL):

Reflector Magazine: The March issue of Reflector is out. There are some good articles on Comet McNaught and sketching the moon. Also note that AL observing guides are still available for sale via mail order. Website sales are currently unavailable but should up soon.

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

David is out-of-town this week, so the treasurer's report is not available.

PUBLIC VIEWING:

Princeton & Caldwell County: The Princeton library and Caldwell County Elementary School have both contacted Ross Workman about doing sidewalk programs this spring. No dates have been set yet.

Paducah: David is working with the McCracken County Public Library to schedule a public viewing session soon.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

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.

Library: The club has several books and magazines available for reference or check out. Take a look and see what we have at the next club meeting.

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:

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This will be our last newsletter as we are not running for secretary this year. We have both enjoyed serving the club in this role for the last 4 years. We have appreciated (& often needed!) the frequent encouragement from club members. We wish the best to the next club secretary!

Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore