



The Faint Fuzzy

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The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers *November 2008*

From the Editors:

The 2008 TLSP has come and gone and was a great success! We were glad to see the good turnout despite high gas prices. We heard lots of positive comments from attendees, many of whom have become regulars--and good friends. Thanks to all who planned, attended, and helped out, sharing the night sky and cameraderie! —Bob & Melissa

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be our annual covered dish Chili Supper on November 1. Dinner starts at 6:00pm, and the meeting starts at 7:00pm. Visitors are welcome (as always). (see below for more details)

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Due to the Twin Lakes Star Party, there was no regular WKAA meeting in October.

TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY RECAP

Clear skies (mostly), a great bunch of attendees, good food, great door prizes--all in all, a wonderful Twin Lakes Star Party! Thanks especially to David Paessler and Bill Kassebaum, Star Party Coordinators, for their efforts.

David wrote:

"I would like to thank all the volunteers that made our 2008 TLSP a success. Thanks to Carol and Dale Baltimore who kept the snack bar working. Thanks to Art Pallone for the talk on Saturday. Thanks to Bill Kassebaum for all the good door prizes. I am sure there are more, thanks!

Thanks to all the participants that keep us on their short list. Without you coming to our event, it wouldn't be much of one! Thanks to the Pennyrile Forest staff for letting us use their facilities!

The dumpster was a big hit among volunteers as it was a lot easier dealing with trash with it parked out front and thanks to the good weather, this was one of the few star parties that a 'warm room' wasn't a necessity."

Testimonials from Two of Our Fans:

Jeff Burton, a TLSP familiar face, shared his thoughts:

"It sure was great to get the chance to see everyone again, albeit for a brief time for some. I enjoyed myself immensely and logged lots of stuff. Sleep deprivation never felt so good. For those of you who are interested, I have made a graph of the limiting magnitude for the three nights I logged my observations. The limiting magnitude is that as determined by my SQM-L meter. You can view the graph at the following URL.

<http://x.astrogeek.org/images/misc/TLSP2008LimitMag.gif> "

Scott Smith, newsletter editor for the Cumberland Astronomical Society (in Tennessee), and another regular TLSP attendee, summed up his thoughts on the week:

"WOW, another great TLSP!!! Thank you and WKAA for all your hard work and hospitality to make this one the star party I most look forward to every year! I hate to wish my life away but I'm anxious for TLSP2009 to get here."

Thanks to Scott for the writeup in the CAS newsletter about the TLSP. From that article:

"On a scale of 1-10, the weekend was about a 12.5! The skies were superbly dark and clear, the temperature and the pleasant aroma of autumn was present, the observing field was full of folks with BIG glass, and the hospitality by the folks of WKAA is about as good as it gets. The traditional Saturday meal on the lawn under shade trees, followed-up by excellent door prize giveaways, is always a joy to experience."

TLSP Pictures!

After a wonderful catered meal on Saturday, everyone gathered for a group shot. [photo by Ross Workman] For more great shots of some of the people and scopes at the party, check out the [Photo Gallery](#) on the WKAA website.



2008 TLSP Star Party by the Numbers!

- 70+ people on the field, including 28 single registrations, 13 family registrations, and an assortment of WKAA members
- 2 new WKAA members, David and Janet Merrelli, from Ohio
- 10 states represented (numbers approximate):
KY: 21 IN: 15 TN: 9 OH: 5 IL: 4 MO: 2 AL: 1 IA: 1 SC: 1 TX: 1
- 14 astronomy clubs represented
- 9777 total one-way miles traveled by non-club members, with an average of 276 miles
- \$100,000,000 estimated gas expense...☹
- 49 t-shirts sold--(there are still a few left--contact David Paessler)
- 34+ telescopes on field ranging from 8" to 25"
- 1 traveling observatory
- 11 sponsors donating terrific door prizes
- 1 wonderful catered meal from Country Cupboard in Madisonville, KY
- 7 clear nights + one scheduled cloudy night to give everyone a chance to rest
- 180 pounds of the un-official, most-photographed regular "attendee" mascot, [Barrabas](#)

OBSERVING REPORTS

Harold Meyers reported: "Don Partain had a program going with Tennessee Wildlife to do an astronomy show at the Britten Ford Trail Head [Tennessee] on September 13th and asked me if I would help out. When Don and I got there it didn't look promising, but after a brief discussion we decided to stick it out and see what happened. We decided to set up after some of the people arrived for the show. After Don got set up, he told stories of mythology while I finished setting up. We had thin clouds and the Moon and Jupiter were the only objects we were able to show early in the evening. After everyone took a look at the Moon and Jupiter Don told some stories of his days of being a river boat captain (the part he plays at the Home Place). Later in the evening a hole opened in the clouds and I was able to find the Ring Nebula. That was a crowd pleaser. All in all it was a good night, I wish it had been clear, but we had 42 people and everyone seemed to have a good time including Don and me."

Bill Brockman shared another of his images, this time the Lagoon Nebula (M8):



OTHER NEWS

Faint Fuzzy Archives on the WKAA Website

John Holland has posted most of the [back issues of the Faint Fuzzy](#), going all the way back to September of 1996 when it was little more than an actual letter sent by postal mail. Some of the early issues are missing. If you happen to have any of these, please send John a copy and he'll add them to the website. Thank you, John, for your work on this!

Loss of One of Our Own

John Holland reported that Jim Ingle of Hopkinsville, KY, who was a member of WKAA, died Sunday, September 21, of a brain tumor. Although he hasn't been active in the club for a few years, Jim was a heck of a nice guy and will be missed very much. Condolences to his family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cumberland Astronomical Society (CAS)'s Tennessee Fall Star Gaze

by Scott Smith, CAS

Just a reminder that the Cumberland Astronomical Society will be "hosting" an informal star party at Fall Creek Falls State Park on the weekend of October 31-November 2, 2008. The park is in east central Tennessee, approximately 25 miles east of McMinnville.

This will not be a star party in the usual sense, as there will not be speakers or other planned activities. This will be a relaxing weekend of observing and "hanging out" with fellow amateur astronomers.

We will have access to a conference room at the Inn for swap tables, image sharing, ATM (amateur telescope making) projects, sharing club information, etc. During observing hours, CAS will have a warming tent set up on the observing field with complimentary hot chocolate, coffee, and water.

Those attending are responsible for their own food and lodging. Fall Creek Falls has campsites, cabins, and rooms at the Inn available. If you are observing all night you may nap and snack in your vehicle, but no camping on the observation field. There are cabins situated directly across from the observing field that accommodate 6-8 people, for those interested in staying as a group. These cabins and the Inn are within walking distance from the observing field. Be sure to make your reservations soon if you plan to attend.

For more information on Fall Creek Falls State Park, rooms, campsites, and cabin reservations

Fall Creek Falls State Park

2009 Village Camp Road |
Pikeville, TN 37367-9803 | Office: 423-881-5298

Inn & Cabin Reservations: 1-800-250-8610

Inn & Cabin Local: 423-881-5241

Camping: 1-800-250-8611

For more details, visit the [CAS website](#).

Journey to Palomar

We would also like to remind our readers about the upcoming PBS program "Journey to Palomar" airing November 10. This program will tell the story of George Ellery Hale, who designed and built the 200" telescope on Palomar mountain in California. Check your local listings for date and time.

Annual WKAA Potluck Chili Supper!

Join us for the annual Chili Supper Saturday night! Email Harold Meyers at hambone10100[[@](mailto:hambone10100@yahoo.com)]yahoo.com and let him know what you plan to bring. Dinner starts at 6:00pm, followed by our regular club meeting at 7:00. Come hungry, leave full, star gaze in between!

CLUB RESOURCES

Loaner Scopes/Imager

The club has two Dobsonians (6", 8") and a Meade Deep Sky Imager available for club members to borrow. Anyone who has been a club member for six months, completes a training/safety session, and signs a written agreement may borrow one of the scopes or the imager.

Library

The club has several books and magazines available to members for reference or checkout. Take a look and see what we have at the next club meeting.

Magazine Discounts

Club members who subscribe to *Sky & Telescope* or *Astronomy* magazines through the club receive a discount! Annually you can save \$10 on *Sky & Telescope* and \$9 on *Astronomy*. Contact David Paessler for more information.

CLUB OFFICERS

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