

THE FAINT FUZZY

*The Official Newsletter of the Western Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
October 2003*

TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY (TLSP):

Don't forget that the star party is next week!!! The 14th annual Twin Lakes Star Party will be held October 20-25 at Pennyryle State Park. See the WKAA website (<http://www.wkaa.net/>) for star party information and registration forms. We hope to see you there!

Door prize list: StarDate Magazine: 1 year subscription plus 75 copies; Software Bisque: TheSky Level II v.5 for Windows; Hardin Optical: Deep Space Hunter 8" dob; Orion: SteadyPix SLR Camera Mount; Orion: Star Target Planisphere; Celestron: Nexstar 80 GT Computerized Telescope; Lumicon: two \$25 gift certificates; Astrozap: two \$50 gift certificates; 11T6 Nagler (grand prize).

UPCOMING MEETING:

There will be no regular meeting in October due to the star party. The next regular meeting will be Saturday November 22 at 7 p.m. at Golden Pond Observatory. There will be a board meeting at 5 p.m. and a chili supper at 6 p.m.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

About 27 people attended the last meeting on September 27. Attendees included new members James Earl from Hopkinsville, KY (who joined last month) and Bob Vickers from Huntingdon, TN and 8 visitors from the Hilltoppers Astronomy Club of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Twin Lakes Star Party (TLSP) Talks: Mitch Luman, David Paessler, and Ross Workman plan to give informal talks. If you would like to give an informal talk, please contact Ross. The registration fee will be waived for those giving talks.

TLSP Registration: As of September 27, 53 people had registered for the star party and 14 lodge rooms had been reserved. Total star party revenue is \$1149 (as of 9/27/03). \$640 of this is registration fees and \$509 is T-shirt orders. Ross and David will handle on-site star party registrations.

TLSP Facilities: Ross reports that TLSP preparations are on or ahead of schedule. We will be doing some final building clean up on Saturday October 18 starting about 10:00 am. Please come and help if you can.

AL Awards: Ross presented David with a certificate for completing his Herschel II observing list. With 400 objects in the Herschel II and the other AL observing awards that he has earned, David has observed and documented well over 1000 objects!

Thanks! Thanks to Bill Kassenbaum for donating a TV to the club and to James Parker for donating a VCR.

Viewing After the Meeting: Several members set up their scopes before the meeting in anticipation of the clear skies that had been forecast. As the meeting started, clouds rolled in and stayed, along with some intermittent sprinkles and showers, until about 10:30, well after everyone had taken down their scopes. A few of us viewed nice skies through binoculars for a little while.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

David Paessler - Hershel II

Laura Dietrich - Lunar, still pending

See <http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/obsclub.html> for more information on the Astronomical League Observing Clubs/Awards. Contact David if you have any questions.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

TLSP Cleaning "Party": On Saturday October 18 starting at 10:00 a.m. we will be doing some final cleaning of the building at the observing site. Please come help if you can! Contact Ross if you want more information.

Viewings for the Public: As was mentioned in the last newsletter, Ross and other club members hosted a Mars viewing in Dawson Springs on September 9th. About 200 to 250 people attended! This event was so popular that Ross has been asked to host another viewing after the Christmas parade on December 12. And a women's group in town has offered to provide refreshments! Ross and a few other members set up about 6 scopes for a Mars & Moon viewing at George C. Coon Public Library in Princeton on October 6. About 100 to 150 people came and viewed!

Sky and Telescope subscription discount: Club members who subscribe through the club receive a \$10 discount. They also receive a 10% discount on products purchased from Sky Publishing.

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to our newest member Bob Vickers from Huntingdon, Tennessee! We are also glad that Dan Hatfield has renewed his club membership and hopes to attend some future meetings.

TREASURER'S

REPORT:

Current Funds (10/15/03):

Bank balance:	\$1250.38
Cash on hand:	133.00
Checks for deposit:	0.00
Grand total:	\$1383.38

Expenses:

There have been several star party-related expenses. TLSP T-shirts have been received and paid for.

CLUB OFFICERS LIST:

President, Warren Wepking - Cadiz, KY 270-924-5574 wwwepking@aol.com

Vice President, Alan Dudenhofer - Paris, TN 731-642-5304

Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator, David Paessler - Kevil, KY 270-488-3784 dpaessler@comcast.net

Secretary, Dale & Carol Baltimore -Paducah, KY 270-554-6603 w.daleb@comcast.net

Star Party Chairman, Ross Workman - Dawson Springs, KY 270-797-8959 planetman@vci.net

Website, John McCubbin - Hopkinsville, KY john@ccdz.net and John Holland - Hopkinsville, KY yjohn@wkaa.net

Happy Viewing,

Dale & Carol Baltimore