



# The Faint Fuzzy

*The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers*

*October 2007*

## **From the Editors:**

This is a special early edition of *The Faint Fuzzy*. We want to make sure you have the information you need for the upcoming Twin Lakes Star Party. We hope to see you there!

Please send us your impressions and stories of the Star Party to be included in future *Faint Fuzzy* issues.

—Bob & Melissa

**UPCOMING MEETING:**  
There will be no regular meeting in October due to the Twin Lakes Star Party. Next meeting: Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, Chili supper at 6:00pm; meeting at 7:00pm.

## **LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: September 8, 2007**

Eleven people attended the meeting. Club President Dale Baltimore brought the meeting to order. Updates on the conditions of club members Jim Phfistner and Laura Dietrich were given. Laura continues to improve from her recent hospitalization and Jim seems to be doing well as his treatment continues.

## **Treasurer's Report**

David Paessler announced that we have had 16 Star Party registrations. He says we are in good financial shape for the Star Party. See below for more Star Party details.

## **Club Polo Shirts Now Available!**

David brought the new maroon club polo shirts to the meeting. Everyone thought they looked great. If you have not picked up your club shirt, you can do so at the Star Party. (These are not to be confused with the official TLSP t-shirts that will also be available at the Star Party.) There are two extra XL and two extra L shirts for sale. Orders for club shirts can be made at any time, so if you are interested, contact one of the officers.

## **New Library Books**

Carol Baltimore reported that she will be ordering some new Astronomical League observing booklets including *Galaxy Groups and Clusters*, *Planetary Nebulae*, and *Globular Clusters*. We already have *Messier Objects*, *Observe the Hershel Objects*, and *Observe Hershel II*. If you would like to add a certificate in your name to our Wall of Honor at the observatory, these books will guide you through the various observing lists.

## **Club Digital Projector**

Dale asked club members for their input on possibly purchasing a digital projector for the club. We use one for PowerPoint presentations at the Star Party and it could also be used for club meeting "rainy night" talks and slide shows as well. The club voted unanimously in favor of this idea and Dale will look into pricing and options and report back to the club.

**Chili Supper November 10th**

WKAA's Annual Chili Supper will be held at 6:00 pm on November 10th before the regular meeting at 7:00pm. Carol Baltimore is coordinating this potluck meal. Please let her know what you will be bringing.

**A Second Astronomy Day?**

The Astronomical League is encouraging its member groups (including WKAA) to observe a second Astronomy Day in September to see which day works better for clubs. We have decided to keep the April date and not to observe this fall date because it occurs during a time when the club already has existing commitments (Summer Nights and the Star Party).

**TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY: October 6-14, 2007**

David Paessler gave an update on the Star Party. Plans are progressing. He passed around signup sheets for volunteer onsite helpers and speakers. He has posted a list of the [current speakers and topics](#) on the WKAA website. Jackie Mathis offered to bring his sound system and lapel mike for speakers to use. Former Club President Warren Wepking donated a screen before he moved that can be used for presentations and movies.

[Note: In last month's *Faint Fuzzy*, we included a link to the TLSP website page listing the sponsors' door prize donations. That was LAST year's list. Bill Kassebaum is still hard at work making this year's list just as exciting!]

There is still plenty of time to preregister, but if you would like to order a TLSP t-shirt or be guaranteed a meal on Saturday the 13th, you need to let David Paessler know as soon as possible. **The deadline is Sunday, September 23rd.**

Plan on bringing items like board games, cards, and any crafts you might be working on to use in the warm room during the day. If you have an electric heater you could bring, it would help provide a warm place to socialize if the weather turns cold as it has in years past.

Remember to check the [TLSP web pages](#) for further updates and information.

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**PUBLIC OUTREACH****John Dobson Coming to Kentucky!**

John Dobson, inventor of the Dobsonian telescope, will be visiting west Kentucky. Jenny Howard, naturalist at Lake Barkley State Park, has asked for club support on Monday, October 1st. She would like some of us to set up our scopes to help with public viewing after John's slide show presentation. She has offered a free dinner at the lodge restaurant to any club members who help. They start serving dinner at 5:00 pm, the slide show starts at 6:00 pm, and viewing will start about 7:30 or 8:00.

In addition, John will also be participating in a special evening planetarium show at Golden Pond on Tuesday, October 2. The information that we have so far is that the show will be around 8:00 pm. Don Partain, Golden Pond Planetarium Director, would like some help with viewing at the observatory following the show.

Please e-mail Dale Baltimore if you can help out.

**Astronaut Jan Davis to Speak at Challenger Learning Center in Paducah!**

Mellisa Duncan, Director for the Paducah Challenger Learning Center, has contacted the Club to announce that the Center is having astronaut Jan Davis visit on the evening of October 18th. Jan will begin by speaking at the WKCTC campus theater, and then move to the center for an open house. Mellisa has asked if club members could set up telescopes on the lawn—weather permitting, of course. The time would be approximately 7:30 pm after the presentation at 6:30. For more information on this event, see the Challenger Learning Center website. <http://www.clcpaducah.org/forms/Astronaut2007.pdf>

If you can help out, please contact Dale Baltimore. There may be as many as 400 attendees!

**Hopkinsville Boy Scouts Invading Golden Pond!**

Sixteen to eighteen Boy Scouts from Hopkinsville are coming after the November 10th club meeting to work on their Astronomy Merit Badge. They are hoping for clear skies so they can do some viewing, with the help of our club members. If you would like to know what is involved in earning this badge, see the Boy Scout website:

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mb022.asp>

Please plan on staying after the meeting and helping out.

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**ASTRONOMEDIA****Astronomical League's Newly Revised Website**

The Astronomical League has recently redone their website. Check it out!

<http://www.astroleague.org/>

**Astronomy in the *New Yorker!***

Check out the article by David Owen in the August 20th issue of the *New Yorker* Magazine, "The Dark Side: Making War on Light Pollution." The full text of the article is available at:

[http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/08/20/070820fa\\_fact\\_owen](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/08/20/070820fa_fact_owen)

**The Great World Wide Star Count**

As noted on the AL home page, a "citizen science event" will be going on from October 1st through 15th—an opportunity for sky watchers world wide to provide light pollution data by counting the stars visible from their locations in one of two constellations. Northern Hemisphere participants will be counting the stars in Cygnus the Swan. This could be a fun Star Party activity, and a way to help raise the awareness of light pollution in various locations around the world. For more information, including an activity guide, go to:

<http://www.starcoun.org/>

A similar count occurred in March sponsored by Globe at Night, and counted stars in Orion. If you would like to see the results of that count in which 8491 observations were made in 60 countries around the world, go to: <http://www.globe.gov/GaN/> If you missed that count, you can participate in this one.

**"Seeing in the Dark"**

PBS will be airing a new special called "Seeing in the Dark," based on the recent book by Timothy Ferris, on Wednesday, September 19th (Check your local listings for specific day and time.) Judging from his book and the information on the PBS website, this should be a really good special. <http://www.pbs.org/seeinginthedark/>

*If you see an interesting website, article in the news, or upcoming tv show you think club members would like to know about, please send it to us at [vickers@\[aeneas.net](mailto:vickers@[aeneas.net)*

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## **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.

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## **CLUB OFFICERS**

**President:** Dale Baltimore—Paducah, KY; 270-554-6603; w.daleb[[@](mailto:w.daleb@comcast.net)]comcast.net

**Vice President:** Jim Phfistner—Hardin, KY; 270-354-6860

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