

UPCOMING MEETING:

The next meeting will be Saturday September 11th at 7:00 pm at Golden Pond Observatory. If the sky is clear, club members will view after the meeting. As always visitors are welcome to attend!

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

About 17 people attended the August 14th meeting including a visitor - Jimmy Samples from Freemont, KY.

Star Party:

We discussed several star party details. See the separate star party section for specifics. Can you believe that our next meeting is the last one before the star party?

Telescopes to the People:

The McCracken County Public Library in Paducah has asked the club to provide another public viewing session in October in conjunction with the open house for the new library addition.

New Tables:

Warren has the opportunity to get some 6 to 8 foot tables for the club at no cost. Club members suggested that he take at least a couple of them.

Viewing:

We had about 8 scopes set up for public viewing for the Summer Nights program.

The sky was clear so after the public left, several members stayed and viewed deep sky objects – through their own scopes and/or through David's 16-inch Dob. Later when the skies turned gray and seeing conditions got bad, we sat around the scopes talking.

15TH ANNUAL TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY:

The star party is just around the corner – October 9-16 at Pennyrile State Forest. We discussed most of these details at the last meeting.

Registration:

We had 9 registrations as of 8/14 – one from as far away as Texas. Ross has also had several inquiries from the Indianapolis area and from Wisconsin. Non club members: please pre-register for the star party. We need to know in advance how much food to order for the catered meal on Saturday. Those who have pre-registered will get to eat first!

T-shirts:

If you still need to order a T-shirt, contact David by Sunday afternoon 9/12. He will place our order with the printer on Monday 9/13.

Facilities:

Ross will check on the logging status and call Frankfort about adding gravel to the parking lot. He also plans to shift the observing field south toward the corn field some. We will need volunteers again this year to get the building ready Saturday morning October 9th. Several people have already agreed to help, but Ross can probably use more. Contact Ross if you can help.

Door Prizes:

Another door prize has come in – \$20 vouchers from Scope City. See www.wkaa.net for a complete list of door prizes.

Miscellaneous:

If the weather is bad on Saturday 10/16, we will move the talks to the morning like we did last year. We will only burn charcoal in the stove in the building in order to avoid smoke like we had last year.

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to new members Jimmy Samples from Fremont, KY and Mac and Barb Hogle from Oak Ridge, TN!

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) AWARDS:

Tim Camden has completed his Double Star Certificate and we are awaiting its delivery. Mike Cohen has completed his Planetary Certificate and his Master Observer Certificate. These will be presented at the star party as Mike will not be able to attend the September

meeting. Way to go Tim and Mike! Congratulations go to Mike in particular for completing the Master Observer Certificate – that’s a great accomplishment!

The WKAA website lists club members who have earned observing club certificates and provides links to the Astronomical League website. Contact David Paessler if you have any questions.

EVENTS AND 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. Contact Vince Medlock in order to make arrangements.

Astrofest –

This star party is hosted by the Chicago Astronomical Society and will be held September 16-18. See the Astrofest website for more information.

Summer Nights:

The Summer Nights program at Golden Pond is complete for another year. When the sky was clear we had large crowds and both club members and the public had a good time viewing.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance (9/8/04): \$2488.45

Star Party: We have received almost \$1000 in receipts and have had no expenses yet.