

THE FAINT FUZZY

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers
September 2006

UPCOMING MEETING:

Come to the Golden Pond picnic pavilion at **6:00 pm** on Saturday September 23rd to celebrate the club's 20th anniversary! We will have burgers, hot dogs, plus fixin's *and* cake. Thanks to Jim and Sandy Phfistner, *no one needs to bring anything* – they volunteered to bring it all!

Our regular club meeting will follow at 7:00 pm at the observatory. As always visitors are welcome to join us for both the picnic and the meeting. **This is the last meeting before the star party** – can you believe that it is almost here already? There will not be a regular meeting in October.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Fifteen people attended the last meeting, including new member Janice Elliott and her brother.

Star Party: The 17th annual Twin Lakes Star Party is October 14 – 21. See the separate section below for details.

Planetarium: Don Partain reported that fund raising is complete for the new planetarium seats and that the seats will be installed in December. WKAA was the first to donate a chair!

Astronomical League: David Paessler awarded Bob Vickers his Herschel 400 certificate. Bob went above and beyond the requirements – he *sketched* all 400 objects. It took him about 2 years to complete. Congratulations, Bob!

Observatory Scope: There was some discussion on the difficulty that several club members have had with operating the dome telescope.

Public Outreach Award: *Bob Vickers reported this late breaking news – WKAA did not win the award ... but... we did come in 2nd runner up!! We were 3rd out of 32 entries, which is nothing to sneeze at!* See [Astronomy Magazine Public Outreach Award](#) for more details.

TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY:

T-Shirt Design: In order to provide more variety, Bill Kassebaum has taken the T-shirt design in a different direction than in recent years. The shirts will be light blue with a drawing of an observing field filled with various telescopes. David reports that 22 T-shirts have been ordered so far.

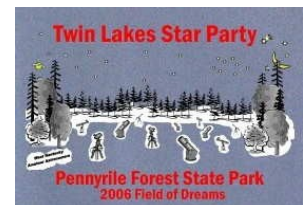
*** **David needs your T-shirt orders by this Saturday's meeting, 9/23/06. You can e-mail them to dcpaessler@wkaa.net.**

Door Prizes: Bill has received a great response from vendors! Twelve companies have provided 16 products so far, including a Meade Deep Sky Imager with filters. See [Star Party Sponsors](#) for a complete list.

Facility & Field: Ross Workman said that the new building at the Pennyryle site is in operation and all but one of the lights are on switches. New water lines have been installed in the old forestry building and there is new gravel in the parking lot. Tim, the forest ranger at Pennyryle, has been keeping the field mowed so it should be in good shape. Also the park is planning an interpretive program on a new nature trail during the week of the star party.

Registrations: David reports that he has received 23 registrations as of 9/18/06, including one from Alaska! At the meeting, Ross reported that about a dozen people are planning on coming from Nashville. Jim and Sandy Phfistner plan to contact the St. Louis club and invite them to the star party.

Miscellaneous: We will have a meal on Saturday like we have the last couple of years. **Try to let David know by the meeting this Saturday 9/23/06 if you plan to eat the meal so we can get an accurate headcount.**



ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (AL) 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:

Balance (9/18/06): \$3339.54

[The rest of David's report is imbedded in the Star Party section above.]

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Summer Nights: Another Summer Nights season was completed on Labor Day weekend. Thanks to everyone who helped out!

Library: Do you have any astronomy books that you aren't using? Consider donating or loaning them to the club library so that other club members can benefit from them.

Club Website: Check out the articles, photo gallery, and other useful info at www.wkaa.net.

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.

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:

[See WKAA Contact Information.](#)

Clear skies,

Dale & Carol Baltimore