



The Faint Fuzzy

The Official Newsletter of the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers *September 2007*

From the President:

Last Saturday (Labor Day weekend) concluded the Summer Nights program for this year. We had a full house (about 90) and a clear night. I would like to thank all the club members who supported Summer Nights. We had several Saturdays where more than the minimum number of club members showed up to help out. I would like to give a special thanks to Harold Meyers for doing a great job coordinating the volunteers as well as attending many of the Summer Nights sessions himself. I received good feedback from several members of the public—they really appreciated the club letting them view through our scopes. As usual there were quite a few people who had never looked through a telescope and were amazed to be able to see the moon's craters, Saturn, Jupiter and its moons, as well as a few deep sky objects. Again, thanks for all your support!

—Dale Baltimore

From the Editors:

We'd like to echo Dale's sentiments. We had a really good summer thanks to the club members' willingness to help out. We'd also like to take the opportunity to thank our officers for all their hard work so far this year. Dale Baltimore and Jim Phfistner have been instrumental in promoting and supporting club outreach. David Paessler, along with Bill Kassebaum, has been hard at work planning and organizing for the upcoming Twin Lakes Star Party. We can now turn our full attention to this event. Have you signed up to help yet?

—Bob & Melissa

UPCOMING MEETING:
Saturday, September 8th, 7pm, at Golden Pond Observatory. This will be the LAST meeting before the Star Party so please plan on being there! Visitors are welcome, and if skies are clear we will set up scopes to observe.

LAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: August 7, 2007

Seventeen people attended the meeting, including four guests and one new member. Club President Dale Baltimore brought the meeting to order. Club members Jim Phfistner and Laura Dietrich were absent due to recent hospitalizations. The club extended best wishes for their speedy recovery.

Treasurer's Report

David Paessler announced that we have had two more Star Party registrations. (Update: As of 9/4, there have been 14 preregistrations.) See below for more Star Party details.

Club Polo Shirts Will Be At the Meeting--Bring Your Money!

Please bring payment for your shirt to the September 8th meeting.

Shirt prices, including tax are as follows:

Shirt with club embroidery only: \$22.50 + tax = \$23.00

Size 2x: \$24.00 + tax = \$25.00

Size 3x: \$25.50 + tax = \$27.00

Shirt with club embroidery and first name: \$26.00 + tax = \$27.00

Size 2x: \$27.50 + tax = \$29.00

Size 3x: \$29.00 + tax = \$30.00

Orders can be made at any time, so if you are interested in a shirt, contact one of the officers.

Announcements

Dale has been contacted by Matt Rannals, the Director of Community Development for RedOrbit.com, an online community network for those with an interest in science, space, health, and technology. Matt has invited any interested club members to join their "knowledge network."

Stan Sprei had spoken with a microscope dealer about how to clean optics. The dealer had a "homegrown formula" called "Right Stuff" that leaves no residue. Stan brought a sample bottle for club members to try. See Stan if you are interested in more information.

PUBLIC OUTREACH**Summer Nights**

As mentioned above, Summer Nights for 2007 are officially over. The public—and LBL staff—appreciate the club's continued commitment.

Sheriff's Ranch

The Sheriff's Ranch program is over for this year as well. Despite a number of these nights being cancelled because of poor weather, club members who set up on the clear nights enjoyed this opportunity to bring the stars to some youngsters who might not experience them otherwise. Thanks to David Paessler for organizing the volunteers for this program.

TWIN LAKES STAR PARTY: October 6-14, 2007

The WKAA website has a wealth of information about the Star Party. Please check this site frequently for updates: <http://www.wkaa.net/article.php?articleid=56&cat=SE&ret=index.php>

Registration forms are available on the website. The cost is \$35 for an individual; \$45 for family. Club members are entitled to free registration for the Star Party, but are not eligible for door prizes. Preregistration guarantees a catered meal on Saturday the 13th. Club members should let David Paessler know if they plan to attend.

Bill Kassebaum continues to solicit donations for this year's door prizes. The growing list now includes eyepieces, filters, binoculars, software, gift certificates and an assortment of other goodies. For a complete list and links to these generous sponsors, see: <http://wkaa.net/article.php?articleid=81&ret=articlelist.php&cat=IN>

This year, we will have a vender from Chicago, Chris Brownsell from 20/20 Telescopes. He plans to set up for 3 days.

There will be various talks scheduled throughout the week. In addition to Dr. Marvin Russell from West KY University (as announced in the last issue), we hope to have other talks by club members and attendees. If you'd like to give a short presentation on some aspect of astronomy and observing, please contact David Paessler or Bill Kassebaum. The schedule for the talks will be posted online and at the warm room building on the Pennyrile observing field.

Carol Baltimore and David are planning to set up areas in the warm room for optional daytime activities such as board games, craft areas, movies, etc. Carol has also planned an outing for Thursday lunch and a visit to [Adsmore](#), a living history house museum in nearby Princeton.

Volunteers are still needed to help out on site. Contact David or Bill if you are willing to help.

TLSP T-Shirts!

This year's t-shirt features NGC 1300, a cool barred spiral galaxy in the constellation Eridanus. For a closeup view, see: http://www.wkaa.net/images/tshirt_07.jpg

T-shirts are \$20.

David needs member t-shirt orders by 9/14, preferably by the meeting this Saturday. Shirts can be paid for when they are ordered or when they are picked up.



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

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

Treasurer/Astronomical League Coordinator: David Paessler—Kevil, KY; 270-488-3784; dcpaessler[[@](mailto:dcpaessler@yahoo.com)]yahoo.com

Secretary: Bob & Melissa Vickers—Huntingdon, TN; 731-986-3082; Vickers[[@](mailto:Vickers@aeneas.net)]aeneas.net

Star Party Coordinator: David Paessler—Kevil, KY; 270-488-3784; dcpaessler[[@](mailto:dcpaessler@yahoo.com)]yahoo.com

Assistant Star Party Coordinator: Bill Kassebaum; Paducah, KY/Key West, FL; ngc1952[[@](mailto:ngc1952@bellsouth.net)]bellsouth.net

Website: John McCubbin—Hopkinsville, KY; mccubbin.astronomy[[@](mailto:mccubbin.astronomy@gmail.com)]gmail.com and John Holland—Hopkinsville, KY; yojohn_ng[[@](mailto:yojohn_ng@charter.net)]charter.net
