



# STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 18, Number 4

April 2009

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### Note!

Meeting Room Change!  
– see Meeting Agenda  
(p.9)

### and Don't Forget!

May 2 is – FAAC / DSC  
Astronomy Day (p.9)  
and  
Beginner's Night (at  
both Island Lake, and  
Lake Erie Metropark  
observing locations)!



## Superstar Hide and Seek

Dr. Tony Phillips

It sounds like an impossible task: Take a star a hundred times larger in diameter, millions of times more luminous than the Sun and hide it in our galaxy where the most powerful optical telescopes on Earth cannot find it.

But it is not impossible. In fact, there could be dozens to hundreds of such stars hiding in the Milky Way right now. Furiously burning their inner stores of hydrogen, these hidden superstars are like ticking bombs poised to 'go supernova' at any moment, possibly unleashing powerful gamma-ray bursts. No wonder astronomers are hunting for them.

Earlier this year, they found one.

"It's called the Peony nebula star," says Lidia Oskinova of Potsdam University in Germany. "It shines like 3.2 million suns and weighs in at about 90 solar masses.

*...continued on page 4*



## WSP 2009

President's Corner

Doug Bauer, FAAC President

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual was Winter Star Party (WSP) February 21- 28<sup>th</sup> this year, hosted by the Southern Cross Astronomical Society of Miami. The WSP was held at a Girl Scout camp on West Summerland Key, about 30 miles from Key West. The camp is on about a quarter mile of beach facing south.

They sell 650 tickets and have a sheriff deputy parked at the gate checking tickets. Everyone going in must have a ticket.

If you are interested in attending, you need to go to the Southern Cross Astronomical Society WSP website <http://www.scas.org/wsp.html> and request a registration form – they send the forms out in September and you need to be quick in returning them, as they sell out every year. The tickets were \$95 per person this year and they sent the tickets out each November (next WSP will be

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# STAR STUFF

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**FORD AMATEUR ASTRONOMY CLUB**  
P.O. Box 7527  
Dearborn MI 48121-7527

PRESIDENT:	Doug Bauer
VICE PRESIDENT:	Chuck Jones
SECRETARY:	Lori Poremsky / Kevin Medon
TREASURER:	Steve Flessa
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Dale Ochalek

## Club Information:

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC) meets on the fourth Thursday each month, except for the combined November/December meeting on the first Thursday of December – at Henry Ford Community College, Administrative Services and Conference Center in Dearborn. Refer to our website for a map and directions ([www.boonhill.net/faac](http://www.boonhill.net/faac)).

The FAAC observes at Spring Mill Pond within the Island Lake State Recreation Area near Brighton, Michigan. The club maintains an after-hours permit, and observes on Friday and Saturday nights, and nights before holidays, weather permitting. The FAAC also has use Richmond Airport, Unadilla, given prior permission, and Lake Erie MetroPark. See the FAAC Yahoo Group\* for more information.

Observing schedules and additional info are available on our website, or via the FAAC Yahoo Group.\* Or call the **FAAC Hotline**, for info, and leave a message, or ask questions: **248-207-2075**. Or send email inquiries to [fordastronomy@comcast.net](mailto:fordastronomy@comcast.net).

Membership in the FAAC is open to anyone with an interest in amateur astronomy. The FAAC is an affiliate of the Ford Employees Recreation Association (F.E.R.A.). Membership fees:

Annual – New Member:	\$30	(\$15 after July 1)
Annual – Renewal:	\$25	(\$30 after January 31)

Membership includes the *STAR STUFF* newsletter, discounts on magazines, discounts at selected area equipment retailers, and after-hours access to the Island Lake observing site.

## Astronomy or Sky & Telescope Magazine Discounts

Obtain the required form from the FAAC club treasurer for a \$10 discount. Send the completed form directly to the respective publisher with your subscription request and payment. Do not send any money directly to the FAAC for this.

## Star Stuff Newsletter Submissions

Your submissions to *STAR STUFF* are more than welcome! Send your story and/or images to the editor at [dake00k@yahoo.com](mailto:dake00k@yahoo.com). Email text or MS Word is fine. *STAR STUFF* will usually go to press the weekend prior to each general meeting. Submissions received prior to that weekend can be included in that issue.

\* FAAC Members are welcome to join our **FordAstronomyClub** Yahoo! Group. Messages, photos, files, online discussions, and more! URL: [groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub).

## President's Corner... (continued from page 1)

February 8-13, 2010). They have camping in the Girl Scout camp, some Chickee huts with two bunks in each, or places for campers and motor homes. The FAAC contingent was staying at a nearby motel, Parmer's Resort. Parmer's is nothing great, but I'm told it is much better than anything else close by; lodging is kind of expensive, \$130 and up per night.

Photos by Dennis Salliotte



*Dormant telescopes resting in the midday sun...*

This was my second Winter Star Party and I really enjoyed it, again. The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club was represented by Doug and DeeAnn Bauer, George and Pat Korody, Dennis Salliotte, and Gordon and Susan Hansen. This year they extended the Winter Star Party to nine days instead of the normal seven days. People arrive the night before and line up at 6:00 am the next morning waiting for the gates to open so that they can get their preferred spot on the beach.

This year, when we arrived at 6:00 am we were the 52<sup>nd</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup>, and 54<sup>th</sup> cars in the line. The gates don't open until noon, so it is a long wait. As we sat alongside the road in our beach chairs, we were able to see Saturn in the west, the Moon, Jupiter, Mercury, and Mars in the east. So we were off to a good start.

Once the gates opened, we found the same spot we had last year. We were in the middle of the beach, close to the port-a-potty and the food vendor. The food vendor, Micki & GC, offers a large variety of good food at very reasonable prices. Plus they are open 24 hours a day. So if you want a brownie and coffee at 2:30 am, you can get it. And you will want

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President's Corner... *(continued from page 2)*

brownies! These are the best brownies I have ever had and they only charge \$1.00 for them. Mickey told me that Hershey bought her recipe and has them in their cookbook.



*Setting up as dusk sets in ...*

The party has an area with several vendor tents to tempt the attendees. Some of the vendors included: TeleVue, Celestron, Meade, EarthWin, and several more. This gives you a real chance to see equipment, talk to the vendors, and in some cases, try the equipment before you buy it.

I have been looking for a power and filter switch for my Meade Lightbridge and saw one at one of the vendor's booths. As I was looking longingly at it, the representative asked if I had any questions. I said I had a DenkMeier power switch and 2" diagonal on my LX200 and I really liked it.

The representative smiled and pointed at his name tag, "Bill DenkMeier." "That's good to hear," he said, "I created those."

He has new company called EarthWin which has several types of power and filter switches. He told me he would stop by my telescope that night and bring one to me, show me how it worked, and let me try out for the night. He showed up at 9:00 pm with the switch in hand and let me use it all night. I was very disappointed, in that the power switch didn't seem to provide much difference in magnification between the three settings.

In the morning, I took it back to him and explained that I expected more differentiation between settings.

He looked at the power switch and said, "Oops, I gave you the wrong one. That was for a binoviewer. Here try this one tonight and let me know if it performs better." It did, and now own one.

There are many presentations through out each day on a number of astronomy related topics. This year they had Andrew Allen, an astronaut from the shuttle flights, Dr. Don Parker on Planet Imaging, and many others.

(Photo credit unknown)



*Dennis Salliotte is ready to observe...*

One of the highlights of the event is the Friday door prize give away. They had at least 50 very nice prizes, include three complete high-end telescopes, and of course the CCD camera that George Korody won.

The FAAC group generally went to dinner together each day and enjoyed the camaraderie the whole time. The wives joined us on the beach from about 7:00 pm until after the Brownie Run about 10:00 pm.

Of course the best part of the trip is being able to stay out all night in relatively dark sky with temperatures in the 60s, and no mosquitoes.

Doug Bauer

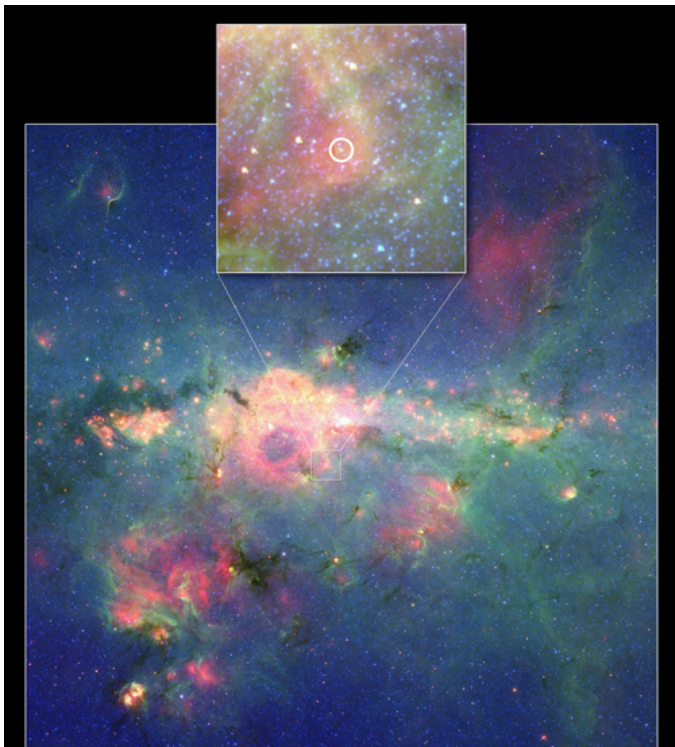
## Hide and Seek ... *(continued from page 1)*

The star lies behind a dense veil of dust near the center of the Milky Way galaxy. Starlight traveling through the dust is attenuated so much that the Peony star, at first glance, looks rather dim and ordinary. Oskinova's team set the record straight using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope. Clouds of dust can hide a star from visible-light telescopes, but Spitzer is an infrared telescope able to penetrate the dusty gloom.

"Using data from Spitzer, along with infrared observations from the ESO's New Technology Telescope in Chile, we calculated the Peony star's true luminosity," she explains. "In the Milky Way galaxy, it is second only to another known superstar, Eta Carina, which shines like 4.7 million suns."

Oskinova believes this is just the tip of the iceberg. Theoretical models of star formation suggest that one Peony-type star is born in our galaxy every 10,000 years. Given that the lifetime of such a star is about one million years, there should be 100 of them in the Milky Way at any given moment.

Could that be a hundred deadly gamma-ray bursts waiting to happen? Oskinova is not worried.



The "Peony Nebula" star is the second-brightest found in the Milky Way Galaxy, after Eta Carina. The Peony star blazes with the light of 3.2 million suns.

"There's no threat to Earth," she believes. "Gamma-ray bursts produce tightly focused jets of radiation and we would be extremely unlucky to be in the way of one. Furthermore, there don't appear to be any supermassive stars within a thousand light years of our planet."

Nevertheless, the hunt continues. Mapping and studying supermassive stars will help researchers understand the inner workings of extreme star formation and, moreover, identify stars on the brink of supernova. One day, astronomers monitoring a Peony-type star could witness with their own eyes one of the biggest explosions since the Big Bang itself.

Now that might be hard to hide.

Find out the latest news on discoveries using the Spitzer at [www.spitzer.caltech.edu](http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu). Kids (of all ages) can read about "Lucy's Planet Hunt" using the Spitzer Space Telescope at [spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/spitzer/lucy](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/spitzer/lucy).

*This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with NASA.*

## March Meeting Minutes

Kevin Medon and Lori Poremsky

Attendees: 33+

President Doug Bauer called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the HFCC Rosenau conference room with introductions, while pizza and pop were enjoyed.

Doug Bauer asked that members who do not yet have name badges sign up on the form provided by Doug Bauer.

Doug Bauer presented a couple of remaining recognition certificates for 2008 to those who were unable to attend the annual banquet.

Members shared observing experiences. John Schroer reported on some solar observing. Jon Blum followed with observations in Maui and indicated that the light differential on only slightly different at the top of Mt. Haleakala as compared to his condo. Gordon Hansen reported on the Winter Star Party in Florida. Milton French noted his sightings of Venus and the thinness of the crescent. George Korody used his famous new camera on the Horsehead and Flame Nebulae. Observations of Saturn and Ceres were also noted.

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## Minutes ... (from page 4)

Questions were asked about the SCAS Winter Star Party in Miami, Florida and how one obtains tickets to attend. It was noted that one must first register at their website at [www.scas.org](http://www.scas.org). Tickets are generally sold in the September/October timeframe. Although there are only about 750 tickets sold, all is not lost as those who are not able to attend often sell their tickets on Astromart. The Winter Star Party is set up along a ¼ mile stretch of beach. There are generally telescopes set up 3-4 deep. The Star Party is usually held Monday through Sunday, however, this year it was held Saturday to the following Sunday as it was the 25th anniversary. There are campsites on location. Many of the FAAC members stay at the Parmers Resort, a hotel just down the road. The tentative dates for the 2010 SCAS Winter Star Party are February 8-13.

Sandra Macika of FAAC provided the main presentation on the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London, England. Her presentation covered the 15th through the 19th century and covered the calculation of Longitude and the final decision to the location of the Prime Meridian. Any one interested in the Royal Observatory can view their website at [www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk).

Rather than a Tech Talk this evening, Doug Bauer requested suggestions for future talks. The following suggestions were offered:

Star Parties (Texas, Winter Star Party, Great Lakes Star Gaze,...), pictures/descriptions, events, locations, first hand accounts, observing constellations, what is observable in specific constellations, history and evolution of astrophysics, Earthcentric to modern day universe theory, HFCC planetarium shows, dark matter and dark energy, sky discoveries using different parts of the electromagnetic spectrum, set up discussion forum on specific topics (Outside of the FAAC General meeting).

Also, use of a hand built barn door camera on the Space station to allow them to track and photograph the earth as the ISS orbits, updates on Sky Quality Meter readings, "My History in Astronomy," describe one's evolution in the astronomy hobby (similar to what Tony Licata and George Korody have done), Messier Marathon, strategy for the night, Good books and websites, problems encountered, Tips & Techniques, Astronomy Neophyte Tutorial (cover the basics of observing for people new to the hobby), finding constellations and stars, star hopping, books and

websites, basic planetarium usage, collimation, equipment advantages and disadvantages, specific telescopes and their use, observation sketches (per Gary Strumolo), Hertzsprung Russell Diagrams and stellar evolution.

Also, how a comet's path is determined, meteorites (what kinds are there, what are the characteristics, where and how they are found, how to tell if you've found one), "Gravity and Trajectory for Dummies," how is the path of a satellite or space craft figured out, how about planets, moons and other orbiting stuff, Afocal Photography (John Schroer), filters used for visual observing (which are the most useful, and when, and what do they help you see).

Doug Bauer asked that if anyone is interested in researching and presenting one of the topics to please contact him.

### Club Business

Lori Poremsky gave the Secretary's report indicating letter to delinquent members would be mailed out the next day. A correction was noted for the February 26 meeting minutes. The Lake Erie Beginner's Night will be held at the Cove Point Picnic Area rather than the Marshlands Museum as previously noted. Several members seconded the motion. February Meeting Minutes were approved as corrected.

The Treasurer's report was given by Steve Flessa. Steve noted that the FAAC account held \$8200 at the moment. Steve indicated that the recent Swap meet ended up with a profit of \$500 to the FAAC. This profit was obtained from the 102 paying attendees. Tables and sponsorships covered the expenses.

Steve noted that the Second Annual Michiana Star Party will be held in South Bend, Indiana on May 29th through 31st. For additional information: [www.michiana-astro.org](http://www.michiana-astro.org).

Doug Bauer indicated that the club was still looking for an equipment manager. Bob Fitzgerald volunteered to take the position. All members who have equipment or have transferred that equipment to another member of the club should contact Bob Fitzgerald at [stellatus\\_a\\_um@mac.com](mailto:stellatus_a_um@mac.com). This will allow him to easily keep track of the equipment. As of today equipment was divided between Gordon Hansen (Video, Projection Screen), Bob MacFarland (Sound Equipment, at least one banner), and Doug Bauer (Telescope).

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## Minutes ... (from page 5)

### Project/Committees/Events

Lori Poremsky noted that an Outreach program for the Girl Scouts will be held at Camp Innisfree in Howell, Michigan tomorrow evening. Those interested in participating can find information on the Yahoo site in a file under Outreach Programs.

Doug Bauer noted that the Seven Ponds All Club Event will be held on Saturday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Doug Bauer noted that the Metropolitan Beach Outreach will be held on Saturday, April 4th. For more information contact Doug Bauer.

Doug Bauer noted that another Astronomy lecture at Cranbrook is scheduled for Friday, May 15th at 7:30 p.m. The topic: Exoplanet Exploration: Expanding Geography Outside Our Solar System. The featured speaker is Stephen J. Edberg, NASA/JPL.

Doug Bauer is seeking volunteers for a Ypsilanti Cub Scout Outreach that is scheduled to take place on the same night at the Cranbrook lecture, Friday, May 15th. Anyone interested should contact Doug Bauer for more information.

Diane Worth noted that she is taking orders for Club Wear. Anyone interested please contact Diane at dianewsky\_night@yahoo.com.

Gordon Hansen noted that the next SIG meeting will be held at the HFCC Rosenau conference room on Thursday, April 9th. The focus of the group is on Astrophotography and Techniques. Meeting time is 5:30 p.m.

Harold Thomason noted that he will set up for 100 Hours of Astronomy on Michigan Avenue in front of the Police station. Any and all are welcome to join.

Mike Best noted that the Spring Series at Vollbrecht Planetarium will start up again on April 17th. The Planetarium is located at Adler Elementary School, 11900 Filmore Street, in Southfield (48075). The schedule is as follows:

17-Apr FR Planetarium 1st Southfield 7:00 pm  
The Whole Shebang

24-Apr FR Planetarium 2nd Southfield 7:00 pm  
The Life of a Star

1 -May FR Planetarium 3rd Southfield 7:00 pm  
Inner Solar System and asteroids

8-May FR Planetarium 4th Southfield 7:00 pm  
Outer Solar System and comets

15-May FR Planetarium 5th Southfield 7:00 pm  
Milky Way & Galaxies

29-May FR Planetarium 6th Southfield 7:00 pm  
UFOs are Real

5-Jun FR Planetarium 7th Southfield 7:00 pm  
SETI search for ETs

12-Jun FR Planetarium 8th Southfield 7:00 pm  
Space Elevators

Frank Ancona reminded us that March 28th is World at Night. Cities and businesses around the world are shutting off their lights between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. local time. Berlin, Paris, London, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Las Vegas have agreed to participate.

John Schroer reported on events for the International Year of Astronomy 2009. The club is taking orders for the Galileo scopes. The plan is to combine the FAAC order with the Detroit Science Center and the Warren club in order to receive a reduced rate. Each scope is priced at \$15. For 100 or more, the price drops to \$12.50. It is a 50mm refractor kit. Contact John Schroer if interested in purchasing a Galileo scope.

John also noted a couple of events that are being planned for IYA. March 16-28 Globe at Night event. Count Stars in Orion from wherever you are and report to Detroit Science Center. This is an effort to see how artificial light impacts local environments. To learn more and to download the Activity Book, see the [www.globe.gov/GAN](http://www.globe.gov/GAN) website. John passed out the Globe at Night Observation Sheets for those interested in participating.

John Schroer noted that April 2-5 is 100 Hours of Astronomy. Share the love of astronomy with as many people as possible. John Schroer proposes setting up scopes in the neighborhood and inviting neighbors to view the skies. He will put something together to put in Star Stuff to advertise.

John Schroer also noted that for the International Year of Astronomy that Sherri Adams of the Miami Valley Astronomical Society created a customized trailer for IYA. John suggested that maybe the FAAC / DSC make their own customized trailer such as a Quick Time Movie format to promote the IYA.

If you haven't received your copy of the Astronomical League magazine, contact John Schroer. Those interested in participating in the

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## Minutes ... (from page 6)

FAAC Cable TV show, there will be meeting immediate after today's general meeting to discuss direction. Those interested in participating should contact Kevin Medon at [kcmedon@charter.net](mailto:kcmedon@charter.net) or Lori Poremsky at [lporemsky@charter.net](mailto:lporemsky@charter.net).

Doug Bauer noted that the Island Lake gate code will change as of April 1st. Contact club officers for the new code. Please be reminded that the code must be kept within the club and is not to be distributed to others. If it gets out, the club could lose the privilege of using the site.

### Open Discussion

Gordon Hansen has created a club survey on Survey Monkey. This will be used to tabulate information from club members. For those on the intranet, a link has been provided on the Yahoo site. For those not on the internet, hard copies of the survey will be provided at the next General Meeting to be held on April 23.

Doug Bauer noted that Wyandotte Catholic Consolidated Schools started an Astronomy Club. John Schroer help lead the first meeting which included electing a President. John prepared activities for the club to do. The name of the club is: "Hands of God."

It was noted that the next Beginner's night is May 2nd. Gordon Hansen indicated that there may be a problem with Lake Erie Metropark in regard to permission to use the property after hours. Hopefully this will be resolved by the first Beginner's night.

It was noted by Steve Uitti that the Warren Astronomical Society logged their meetings and Outreach events on a website called MeetUp.com. The site is the world's largest network of local groups. It's mission is to help people around the world meet up and get out and do things in your local area. To date the website has introduced several new members to the Warren club. Steve suggested that our meeting dates and Outreach programs be logged as well.

The meeting was called to a close by Doug Bauer at 7:55 pm.

### Recurring Events

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009) celebrating 400th year of the (Galileo's) telescope. American Astronomy Society and Astronomical League are celebrating "International Year of the Telescope." All year

long, expect speakers. Astronomy Day will be advertised greater, and we may get additional support for our AATB. DSC, Cranbrook, FAAC, and GLAC plan to bring more astronomy to the general public. Set up telescopes in your local community/neighborhood. Eric Rasmussen will be planning events at University of Michigan (Dearborn and Ann Arbor) and HFCC. U of M will have Saturday Morning Talks. John Schroer, the FAAC chairman, passed out several handouts at the board meeting to show national intentions. Plastic replicas of Galileo's telescope with real glass lenses will sell for \$10-\$11, and you will be able to see Saturn and Jupiter with it. John is pre-ordering 100 of these telescopes for November, and they can be mounted on a camera tripod (making it more stable than Galileo).

### The 2009 IYA Activities:

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next one May 14) at 5:30 pm in the normal HFCC's Admin building Rosenau conference room. Topic – TBD.

FAAC General Meetings are every fourth Thursday of each month, with the next one April 23 in the normal HFCC Rosenau conference room. Main Presentation – Steve Uitti - " Alien Universe" it stems from how counter intuitive the Universe works compared to the way we think it works. Some examples. There's no objective standard for time. Hawking's bet about information being lost in black holes. A bit about time dilation. It's fundamental physics, but probably without math. Tech Talk – TBD.

The FAAC Board meetings are usually the first Thursday of each month (next one May 7, 5 pm) at Senate Coney Island 3345 Greenfield Rd., Dearborn, (313) 441-1027.

Beginner's nights will resume in Spring 2009 on 1st quarter moon Saturdays (May 5 and 30, June 27, July 25, August 29, and October 24), with the intent to help people use their equipment (not public outreach). John Schroer is putting together the handouts for Beginner's Night at Island Lake State Park (Spring Mill Pond) and also Lake Erie Metropark (Cove Point Picnic Area). Bring your telescope/binoculars, or look through others. Events will be posted in the Park Bulletin board, Metropark Quarterly Newsletter, Ford World, and [astromichigan.org](http://astromichigan.org).

Planetarium, Lecture and Observatory Schedule, Spring 2009. Henry Ford Community College and

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## Minutes ... (from page 7)

the University of Michigan – Dearborn. All events are free and open to the public.

Planetarium, Lecture and Observatory Schedule, Spring 2009. Henry Ford Community College and The University of Michigan – Dearborn. All events are free and open to the public.

Planetarium, Lecture and Observatory Schedule, Spring 2009. Henry Ford Community College and The University of Michigan – Dearborn. All events are free and open to the public.

“Nothing Gold Can Stay” – A Spring Star Talk – 7:30-8:30 p.m., Planetarium – April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16.

Public Observing Session – Astronomy Day, May 2, 9:00-11:00 p.m. – Observatory

Lecture-The Galactic Center by Farhad Zadeh – May 15 – TBD – UM-D Lecture

Public Observing Session – From Spring to Summer – June 19 – 10:00 p.m. – Observatory

The Planetarium is located on the main campus of HFCC in the Science Building Room S-126. The Observatory is located on the main campus of UOM-Dearborn, Science Learning and Research Center, 3rd floor. UM-D lecture location has yet to be determined. Check website for further updates. HFCC Lecture will be held in room LA-14 of the Reuther Liberal Arts Building at HFCC.

FAAC Club Wares with embroidered five color club logo can be ordered through Diane Worth (prices are estimates heard by the secretary, and there may be additional cost for shipping): Ottoman “Official” Club Short Sleeve Shirt (black or white) \$37, Bill Blass Long Sleeve Dress Shirt (blue) \$42, Casual Club (blue) \$35, Hat \$19, patch \$9, Blanket nylon & fleece \$33, Duffle Bag (blue) \$20, Expandable Brief (blue) \$20, Chart Bag (black) \$16; Port Authority Hooded Sweatshirt (black) \$32 no longer avail, XL additional \$3; Hoodless Sweat Shirt not-embroidered (grey) \$20, and T-shirt not-embroidered (white, grey, blue) \$8. Diane Worth said she will bring filled orders to AATB. Contact Diane Worth at dianewsky\_night@yahoo.com.

The FAAC Library and DVD collection is in HFCC Science Building Room 109. The list of 100+ books and brief descriptions is available at the FAAC Yahoo site; books can be signed out for one month, with extensions allowable. President Doug Bauer and V.P. Gordon Hansen are backup key holders for returning and signing out books.

Seeking 2009 speakers for both FAAC 30-60 minute Main Presentations, and 15-20 minute Tech Talks. Contact Doug Bauer at dougbauer@comcast.net or call 313-828-7385.

## FAAC Events 2009

Kevin Medon and Lori Poremsky

### May

**2** – International Astronomy Day – Detroit Science Center FAAC telescopes displays and public viewing. Activity guides for the first 6 months – contact John Schroer at DSC or jschroer@sciencedetroit.org

**2** – Beginners’ Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie Metropark – contact John Schroer at DSC or jschroer@sciencedetroit.org

**15** – Cranbrook Astronomy Talk - Exoplanet Exploration: Expanding Geography Outside Our Solar System, Stephen J. Edberg

**15** – Ypsilanti Cub Scout Outreach. Volunteers needed. Contact Doug Bauer.

**29-31** – Second Annual Michiana Star Party will be held in South Bend, Indiana. Also, see: [www.michiana-astro.org](http://www.michiana-astro.org).

**30** – Astronomy Day – Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. Free event at Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Displays, Hands-on Activities, Solar Observing, The Starry Messenger, and book signings and talk by Dr. Phil Plait (Bad Astronomy and Death from the Skies). [www.astroday.kasonline.org](http://www.astroday.kasonline.org).

**30** – Beginners’ Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie Metropark

### June

**27** – Beginners’ Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie Metropark

### July

**25** – Beginners’ Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie Metropark

### August

**29** – Beginners’ Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie Metropark

**September TBD** – Astro-Imaging Workshop, Gladwin  
**17-20** – Great Lakes Star Gaze, Gladwin  
**25-26** – Astronomy on the Beach – Maple Beach in Kensington Park

**October 24** – Beginner's Night - Island Lake



## Meeting Agenda - April 23

5:30 pm – Location TBD (see FAAC Yahoo site)\*

**Opening/Introduction/Member Observing**

**Presentation:** "Alien Universe" by Steve Uitti (WAS)

**Tech Talk:** Messier Marathon, How to – Ken Anderson

**Club Business/Secretary/Treasurer/Equipment**

**Club Projects/Committees/Member Support**

- Astrophoto SIG – Tony Licata
- Dark Sky Committee– Frank Ancona
- International Year of Astronomy 2009
- Lincoln Park Observatory Restoration
- Cranbrook Lecture: Exoplanet Exploration: Expanding Geography Outside Our Solar System featuring Stephen J. Edberg, NASA/JPL – 7:30 pm Friday, May 15
- Ypsilanti Cub Scout Outreach – Friday, May 15

\* **New meeting room** (same building) **starting in May** – Berry Amphitheater Auditorium; also for SIG meetings.

**HFCC Admin. Services and Conf.Center** \* (for map see: [http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus\\_maps.pdf](http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus_maps.pdf))

## Treasurer's Report

Steve Flessa

Account	3/21/2009 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Checking	\$3,382.93
Savings	\$1,271.98
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$4,654.91</b>
<b>Cash Account</b>	
Cash	\$108.50
<b>TOTAL Cash Account</b>	<b>\$108.50</b>
<b>Investment Accounts</b>	
CD 1	\$1,073.46
CD 2	\$1,033.30
<b>TOTAL Investment Accounts</b>	<b>\$2,106.76</b>
<b>Asset Accounts</b>	
Equipment	\$1,037.46
Scholarship	\$422.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,459.51</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,329.68</b>
<b>Memo:</b>	
GLAAC	\$1,666.60

## Items for Sale

**Schmidt-Newtonian 10"** – F5.35, 1360 mm focal length with 2" focuser, 60 mm guide scope, Thousand Oaks Full aperture solar filter (Mylar). Cooling fan, extra set of "O" rings, Optron Corrector plate.

Crestliner mount (on wheels) available. Scope made by Nelson Lewis of Detroit Astronomical Society in 1962. Purchased 1981. Selling telescope for \$325. Mount for \$200. Contact Harold Thomason 313-584-7465

**Celestron 6-inch Schmidt-Cass** with XLT coatings. The package has a diagonal and a finder. There are no eyepieces. The telescope has been used 3/4 times. Asking \$400 or OBO. Contact Tom Blaszk, [key\\_string\\_guy@yahoo.com](mailto:key_string_guy@yahoo.com)

## Astro Imaging SIG

Gordon Hansen

All are invited to join us, share and discuss their images. We always have a good time, with lively discussion.

Next meeting is May 14. Topics invited. Note the new meeting room location – HFCC Admin. Services and Conference Center (same building), Berry Amphitheater Auditorium.

## Astronomy Day May 2 - DSC

John Schroer

FAAC volunteers needed – bring your scopes, filters, Daystars, etc. Bring astrophotos in either hard copy or as a digital file. We will have a laptop and video projector. Morning refreshments for FAAC volunteers. 8:30-9:30 am unload/setup.

All FAAC members wearing their FAAC ID Badge will receive a 10% discount on any purchase at the Science Center Café.

All FAAC volunteers will receive free admission to the New Detroit Science Center, and a free planetarium show (based on seat availability).

Contact John for more details/sign-up: [ka8grh@yahoo.com](mailto:ka8grh@yahoo.com) or [jschroer@sciencedetroit.org](mailto:jschroer@sciencedetroit.org). Or call (313) 577-8400 ext. 435.

Ford Amateur Astronomy Club  
Star Stuff Newsletter  
P.O. Box 7527  
Dearborn MI 48121-7527



**Saturday, May 2**

**10am - 6pm**

New Detroit Science Center  
*presents*

the International Year of Astronomy 2009

# Astronomy Day

with: Ford Amateur Astronomy Club  
Rider's Hobby      Great Red Spot

“400 Years of the Telescope” Presentation

Planetarium Shows      Solar and Planetary Observing Outside  
Door Prizes      Children's Coloring Activities

**5020 John R St., Detroit**

**(313) 577-8400**