



# STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 17, Number 8

August 2008

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## Astronomy, Music Under the Stars

### President's Corner

Doug Bauer, FAAC President  
Photos by Dennis Salliotte

Several years ago the Detroit Symphony Orchestra was performing Gustav Holst's "The Planets" and several other space related pieces at the Meadowbrook Music Festival in Auburn Hills. In keeping with the astronomy theme they thought it would be interesting for the concert goers if there were some telescopes to look through at the back of the hill.



They invited our club to set up some telescopes for their audience to look through. We had 6 or so FAAC members show up and a large number of attendees enjoyed looking at various celestial objects. They had such good feedback from the concert attendees that they have asked us back each of the following years. Don Klaser has coordinated these outings every year since.

This year was no exception, we were invited to setup at the Saturday, August 2nd Evening Under the Stars Concert, John Schroer, Don Klaser, Ken and Violet Anderson, Sandra Macika, Bob MacFarland, Bob FitzGerald, Dennis Salliotte, Frank Ancona, and Doug Bauer all showed up with their Solar Scopes, Telescopes and Binoculars. This was the largest FAAC turnout for this event. It was very fun. The group met at TGI Friday's near Meadowbrook for some dinner before heading over to the Music Festival to setup our equipment.



We treated the attendees to views of the bland Sun through H-alpha and white light filters prior to the concert starting and suggested they stop back at the intermission and after the concert to view some nighttime objects.

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# STAR STUFF

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**STAR STUFF** is published eleven times each year by the

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

PRESIDENT:	Doug Bauer
VICE PRESIDENT:	Gordon Hansen
SECRETARY:	Ken Anderson
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)

The sky was very clear and moonless. Just on queue, as the concert was starting the intermission, we were able to locate Jupiter in the still blue, but darkening sky. Many people showed up at the intermission. We had long lines of people at the telescopes and binoculars. People of all nationalities and ages, and every one of them thoroughly enjoyed being able to see Jupiter and four of its moons.



After the concert, even more people stopped by to be treated to a much brighter Jupiter, Andromeda, the Great Cluster in Hercules, the Ring Nebula, and other deep sky objects. The wows, oohs, and ahs were in

abundance. We were there until midnight delighting people with the wonders of astronomy.

At the end of the evening, four of us stopped at a local Big Boy before heading home full of the energy that you get from introducing astronomy to so many receptive people.

## 2009 Observer's Handbooks

Doug Bauer

The FAAC will be placing a bulk order with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for copies of their 2009 Observer's Handbook. The price is \$18.45; members can save \$14.00 over the single issue price, based on an estimated bulk order of between 10-24 copies (more information on the pricing structure - 2008 edition - and the handbook itself can be found at their website at [www.rasc.ca](http://www.rasc.ca)).

In order to determine the final price, we will take a NON-BINDING show of hands count at the August 28 general meeting. Otherwise, if not in attendance, to indicate an interest for yourself or others, please contact Bob FitzGerald at [stellatus\\_a\\_um@hotmail.com](mailto:stellatus_a_um@hotmail.com), (preferably), or via the FAAC Hotline at (248) 207-2075.

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## Handbooks ... (from page 2)

Later you will be contacted via email to obtain your firm commitment. IF YOU ORDER IT, YOU WILL OWE THE CLUB FOR IT. The order will be placed with the RASC when they return from vacation on 2 September, shipped in bulk to the Club (you will be notified via Email that the order has been received), and be available for pick-up at the general meeting in (with hope) October, certainly by the combined November/December meeting, at which time payment must be made by cash, or check payable to FAAC.

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## Support Cranbrook Series

Doug Bauer

Cranbrook is piloting an Astronomy-related special- speaker series. They are reaching out to the local Astronomy Clubs for support of these talks and if the first one is successful they will follow up with more.

It is very important that we support these through our attendance. If Cranbrook has poor attendance at this presentation, they may not continue the program. The programs are open to all, but targeted at people with an interest in astronomy (like us).

You can register at the phone number below, or if you would like, you can pay me at the General Meeting and I will register you. Details as follows:

### Institute Lecture Series Presents...

"The Road to Stardom in the Milky Way" by Paul Goldsmith, PhD. Oct. 17, 2008 7:30 pm

Entrance: \$8 FAAC members / \$10 non-members

Pre-registration is required. Call 248.645.3210 to register.

**Description:** The Milky Way and other galaxies are readily recognized as containing billions of stars, and in fact, most of the matter we can readily identify is in the form of stars. But where do stars come from? From what are they made? And how does star formation take place? Paul Goldsmith, Chief Technologist for the Astronomy and Physics Directorate and Senior Research Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory will answer these questions and examine the evidence

that star formation is an ongoing process. Goldsmith will also discuss some of the future space missions that are going to give us a much better view of how new stars and planets have been formed throughout cosmic time.

Due to the popularity of Astronomy-related lectures, pre-registration is required.

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## June 26 Meeting Minutes

Ken Anderson

Attendees: 28+

Doug Bauer started the FAAC meeting at 5:30 pm in the HFCC Rosenau conference room with introductions, and then pizza and pop. Sandra Macika has volunteered to buy and bring the pop to future meetings using the clubs rolling cooler, and being reimbursed by the Treasurer. Steve Flessa and others observed from Richmond until 3 am, with four telescopes up to 17" diameter. Steve considered Richmond a good site, but not a permanent telescope site (the telescope committee is investigating a semi-permanent telescope). Gordon Hansen imaged the moon until sunrise. John Schroer did some imaging with Gordon's scope at the last beginner's night, and a few families also turned out. Doug Bauer did 100mm binocular observing from 11:30-2:30 am in clear Alpena. He looked at the Sagittarius globular star clusters and nebulas, and the Andromeda galaxy filled the view. He saw a one minute meteor, and another person in Harrisburg saw the same object. Later it was confirmed to be +2 magnitude space junk (1800-lb. tank from the space station).

Sandra Macika gave the personal "Lick Observatory" main presentation from her 10 years of volunteering there (1997-2006). Lick and Shane are both located on 4200-ft. Mt. Hamilton, near San Jose, California which has 300 clear nights a year, above the fog which blocks out the city lights. It has two live cameras. James Lick donated the money for the scope, after a suggestion from George Maderia. In 1847 he moved back to California with \$30,000 of Peruvian gold and bought land in San Francisco.

Later when he accumulated more wealth he donated \$700,000 to University of California for the telescope. The James Lick observatory has

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## Minutes ... (from page 3)

both 36" Refractor (lens) and 40" reflector (mirror) telescopes. The 40" reflector site previously held a 12" refractor that they replaced/upgraded. They built on the mountain top since San Jose had smoke and light pollution back in 1875. James Lick is buried directly underneath the mount, so he will literally roll in his grave if they ever decide to tear it down. There are 365 turns in the road to the top, allowing horses to carry stuff up the 7% grade. If the road were designed for cars/truck it would be steeper with less turns. First light for the observatory was January 3, 1888; when they discovered the focal length was off, so they had to cut some length out. To avoid climbing up a ladder the floor raises up and down (to the bottom of the dome) like a hydraulic elevator. The f19 telescope is 57' 10" long and has a 4' diameter and weighs 14.5 tons. The dome weight 95 tons. The first discovery with the telescope was January 7, 1888 was Keller and Enkegap finding a faint star in Orion's Trapezium. Lick observatory became world famous in 1892 when Barnard discovered the 5th moon of Jupiter (Galileo discovered the first four in 1610 almost 300 years earlier). The telescope has tracking but no "go-to", and uses 2" eyepieces. The finderscope is a 6" refractor.

Anna Nickel donated \$50,000 for the 40" reflector which was made from scraps. OSETI is used for both public observing and optical light search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. It also houses a working seismograph which is compared to the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake when the bridge collapsed.

The Shane 3 meter reflector started out as a 200" Palomar reflector for \$50,000. It was difficult getting to the top of the mountain with two flatbeds and a crane for lifting at each of the 365 turns. They built the mirror shop on top of the mountain, and it took 4 years. Although they claim to resurface the mirror every 5 years, the last time was 10 years ago. There are three focus positions: Primary/large at top, Cassegrain at the bottom, and Coudé in the basement. Although each mirror reduces 10% of light, the primary focus is rarely used today since this required an additional lifting box for the observer.

Elly runs the telescope for those conducting approved projects. The Shane telescope has been

used to find 260+ Extra Solar Planets. It has a spectrograph in Infrared (IR) and can measure Doppler shift of 1 m/sec. The Shane telescope uses adaptive optics (deformable mirror with actuators) and a bright star or laser guide star, to eliminate atmospheric distortion. This procedure was developed at Lick, and is now used elsewhere like Hawaii's Mauna Kea Keck telescope. On June 13, 2005, they discovered an earth-like (7x earth's size) planet around small red dwarf Gliese 875 (400-750 deg F). After 18 years of data analysis, on November 6, 2007 they announced the discovery of the 5th planet around 55 Cancri. This planet is 45x the size of earth, is in the habitable zone of 72.5 million miles, and has a 290 day orbit.

The 36" f5 reflector (1896) is better than the refractor (ledge with hole in the center). The Carnegie Double Astrograph 20 refractor has 17 glass plates at the bottom, and from 1948 to 1988 it showed how stars move in the Milky Way. The Katzman Automatic Imaging 30: Telescope (KAIT) is fully automated and compares galaxies history.

Volunteering and visiting at Lick, involves 36" and 40" public programs every Friday and Saturday night from June through September. There are 2 different programs. The "Summer Visitor's Program" (SVP) and "Music of the Spheres" (MOS). The SVP costs \$5 and there is no music. The MOS costs approximately \$50, with music included. Visitors take a number, since they only let ten people observe at a time. While they wait they have live music and lectures. To get a ticket and reservation go to <http://www.ucolick.org/linden.html>

Doug Bauer moderated the Tech Talk "Star Charts", where club members presented their favorite books, maps, or charts:

- \* Harold Thomason – Sky Atlas 2000
- \* Chuck Jones – Sky 4 (visual)
- \* Sandra Macika – Messier Marathon Guide, Orion 600 Deep Sky Map, HB Sky Atlas (4-5 levels of magnification), Night Sky books,
- \* George Korody – Sky Atlas 2000 (8th magnitude), HB Sky Atlas (10th magnitude)
- \* Ken Anderson – Brent Watson/Sky Spot Messier Object Finder Charts (laminated, Telrad), Sky & Tel Messier Card (laminated), Pennington's Messier Marathon, O'Meara's Messier Object book, Sky Atlas 2000 (color)

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## Minutes ... (from page 4)

- \* Gordon Hansen – Starry Night, The Sky, Digital Setting Circles
- \* Greg Ozimek – Stellarium Go-To
- \* Frank Ancona – Atlas of the Universe, Great Atlas of Stars (w & w/o overlay), Sky Atlas 2000, Backyard Astronomy
- \* Gary Strumolo – I-pod touch (\$200 6 Mb, 120,000 stars. Fits in pocket just hold it up), \$12 Fredd; "Sky Atlas Black with White dots hard to use".
- \* Steve Flessa – Orion Plastic Map (able to get wet), Sky Atlas 2000
- \* John Shroer – 3.5"x5" Astro Cards (Messier, Best of NGC) with light for deck, Palm Center Astromart \$50 details of objects
- \* Don Klaser – Orion Plastic Map, Celestron Sky Map w/ Planisphere
- \* Preston Crofts(?) – Planetarium software
- \* Bob MacFarland – Seasonal Sky Chart w/ planisphere, Planisphere, Messier Marathon, Pocket Sky Atlas
- \* Bob FitzGerald – Sky Atlas 2000, Internet SkyMaster.com, "Ensure chart magnitude matches your optics"
- \* Doug Bauer – Messier Marathon "laminated specific pages," Binocular Highlights, Planisphere

Doug Bauer next led the business portion. Ken Anderson gave the Secretary's Report, and the June 26 minutes posted on the website and in the newsletter had one correction, "Bob Clubb's grandson Christopher Merrill and another student from West Utica Elementary School received the Science Olympiad Reach for the Stars 2nd place at Macomb County for moon phases, deep sky objects, and planet project and display".

The May 22 minutes were also put on the club website. Both months minutes were accepted by the club. Steve Flessa gave the Treasurer's Report showing FAAC has \$6008 plus \$3015 GLAAC. The equipment fund has \$670. The scholarship fund has \$308. Recent expenses include \$320 for insurance and \$300 for GLAAC. John Shroer coordinated interest in the Astronomy League with FAAC paying \$10 for club membership, and eighteen people signing up to pay only \$7.50 each themselves (compared to \$35 each for individual non-affiliated rate). Thanks John!

Harold Thomason gave the Equipment Manager's Report accounting for everything. Our club also owns a 10x10 ft. canopy, video projector, screen,

sound system, bullhorn, sky quality meter, and DVD player, a coffee brewer, and an 8" dobsonian telescope with solar filter (restored by Harold himself). To sign out FAAC equipment, please refer to the "Process and Rules" found either on our Yahoo website or in July 2007 Star Stuff.

Ken Anderson, John Schroer, Greg Ozimek, Sandra Macika, Bob MacFarland, Steve Harvath, Eric Rasmussen, and Erik Webster are on the FAAC club telescope committee. Anyone else with experience with dob(s) 22" or greater, or having people skills getting donations or negotiating land use deals would be greatly appreciated. We are potentially seeking a large (22" to 36" diameter) semi-portable/non-permanent transportable (f3.5 to f4.5) short focal length dobsonian, which could be relocated for star parties, but be used mostly visually at the primary site TBD.

A short focal length would increase safety and reduce the requirements for a tall ladder, at the additional expense of requiring a Tele Vue Paracorr coma corrector. If we select a telescope with eyepiece height greater than 10 feet, the long term would be to get go to and tracking to speed up guest throughput of the same object (vs. having to constantly refind the object climbing up a ladder between guests). This committee would also seek land to house/store the telescope and the primary observing site. The goal would be trained club members would only need to bring eyepieces and key, to open up, and start observing.

Our Richmond fee is only \$300 to their club picnic, since we do not have anything permanent at their airfield. Ed Halash has discussed with Jim Barnes the possibility of locating our semi-permanent large dobsonian at Richmond (possibly near the antennas and weather equipment), and he recommends the FAAC Board to open up discussion with the SESMA Board. If this fall through the committee may seek an alternate primary observing site to house/store the telescope. The Club Telescope Committee has been meeting the third Thursday of each month (September 21, 5:30 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn, MI, with the next meeting focusing on selecting the ideal scope. Ken discussed the plan at the August 7 board meeting, and the board requested to have all cost for telescope, land use, storage before committing any funds; plus was not in favor of advertising for donations

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## Minutes ... (from page 5)

at September's AATB. At the August 28 FAAC general meeting, the club will vote on 1: Does FAAC want a club telescope? 2. Does FAAC agree on the 22"-36", f3.5-f4.5, Dobsonian reflector specifications, and the TBD "ideal scope"? (if not agreed to as a whole this will be broken down to each limit, etc.) 3. Sandra Macika will discuss ideas for raising funds and getting donations, such as Barnes and Nobles gift wrapping and seek volunteers (approved by elected board members after the board meeting).

Frank Ancona, the FAAC representative for the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Committee, says lights out will be in both October and March 28/29.

Tim Dey is evaluating the Lincoln Park School observatory with F8-9 9' (85-98") long 12.5" diameter mirror for restoration. They also have an 8" reflector telescope. Unfortunately due to not being adequately covered, everything had bird poop on it. Their last observing session was in 2001. Their dome still worked since maintenance consisted of an annual lube. They still have all their eyepieces.

The FAAC board approved Tim's evaluating their state of equipment (Gordon Hansen & Dennis Salliotte), and determine what it would take (time and dollar wise) to restore their equipment. 1964 German Equatorial 11" mirror needs to be recoated. Volunteers needed to pull mirror and evaluate. Perhaps a corporate sponsor could advertise name on the shed. A grant application was mailed out August 1st. OCP educational sales may evaluate a solar scope. Urban skies make it only good for bright objects.

The meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm after discussing the below business/club events.

In club events (in chronological order):

July 13th SESMA/FAAC Picnic at Richmond Airfield had Ed Halash, Sandra Macika, Milton French, Ben Kline, Jon Blum, John Johnson, and Pat and George Korody in attendance as well as many SESMA members. FAAC provided \$300 for main food and soft drinks. From 10:30-midnight Jupiter was visible along with the full moon in clear skies. A P51 WWII fighter airplane made a flyby. Glider soaring flights approximately \$60 for light weight (or \$80 for high performance glider).

They also had a band and fireworks (away from telescopes). The picnic was delayed one day due to inclement weather.

July 18th Ford Employee and Retiree Truck and Car Show 9AM-1 pm has allowed FAAC to set up solar telescopes at the PDC Atrium outdoor table area, near (but not on due to safety) the lawn where the cars are. Ken Anderson brought his Coronado Solarmax 40 and Greg Ozimek brought Bob FitzGerald's binoculars with solar filters. We were authorized to set up the club banner on the curved brick wall, but nobody brought it.

Beginner's Night are now at both Lake Erie MetroPark (Marshlands Museum) and Island Lake State Park (Spring Mill Pond). Last one is October 4. Bring your telescope/binoculars, or look through others. Events are posted in the Park Bulletin board, MetroPark Quarterly Newsletter, Ford World, and [astromichigan.org](http://astromichigan.org)

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next one September 11) at 5:30 pm. Until the end of the year meetings will be held in the Hackett Room (NOT the HFCC's Admin building Rosenau conference room)!. Topic TBD.

University of Michigan Dearborn Observatory public observing sessions on 3rd floor of Science Learning and Research Center (SLRC). The 313-583-6566 hotline will be updated 1 hour before event to inform if cancelled.

Next planned date is November 1, 2008, 9:30-11:30 pm. Earlier times of 8-10 pm are on September 5 and 23, October 21, 2008. Earliest times are 6-8 pm on December 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009. For additional information call 313-593-5277 during business hours or see [Astronomy.umd.umich.edu](http://Astronomy.umd.umich.edu).

FAAC meetings are every fourth Thursday of each month (next one August 28) normally at HFCC Rosenau conference room. Main Presentation will be "Ultra Sensitive Video" presentation plus WAS outreach program by Bob Bertha. The Tech Talk will be "FAAC Club Telescope Proposal and Vote" by Ken Anderson and Sandra Macika. The FAAC Board meeting is the first Thursday of each month (September 4, 5 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn, MI.

The FAAC Library and DVD collection is in HFCC Science Building Room 109. Gary Stahl needs a

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## Minutes ... (from page 6)

courtesy e-mail a day before the meeting. 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. There are still 20 or more books to be cataloged. President Doug Bauer and V.P. Gordon Hansen are backup key holders for returning books.

Meadowbrook DSO Concert Under the Stars with Astronomy Aug 2nd. Don Klaser coordinating. Doug Bauer, Ken & Violet Anderson, Bob MacFarland, Bob FitzGerald, Frank Ancona, Sandra Macika, Dennis Salliotte, and John Shroer attending with solar and night scopes plus binoculars. Solar astronomy before and night astronomy from intermission till post concert/closing. Able to see the Sun, Jupiter, M13, M57, Alberio, plus the Goodyear Blimp! We met at TGIF as a group to eat before setting up at 5 pm.

Proud Lake State Park is officially rescheduled for August 30 - Paul Offberger coordinating, Doug Bauer contact, Campfire Lunch 3-6 pm, Astronomy 101, Dark Sky Preservation, Telescope Observing 7-10 pm. Doug Bauer, Ken Anderson, Sandra Macika, and Dennis Salliotte attending, plus Art will be camping there that weekend too!

GLAAC Astronomy At The Beach (AATB) September 5-6, Kensington MetroPark. Kensington MetroPark is seeking recommendations for a new pavilion (next year), acknowledging that the AATB brings in more people than any other single event at the park. We need to generate a list of everything we plan to sell and have the list reviewed (due to the light bracelet issue last year with site vendor exclusive rights). Last year we had 70 telescopes and 7,300 attendees.

Next GLAAC planning meeting is a Sunday, date TBD at 1 pm at the Kensington Park Nature Center. Contact Bob MacFarland or Bob FitzGerald for details or future meetings. DSC will be bringing their portable planetarium again. Raffle will be available for all club members who present or set up telescopes to show the sky to the public. Amateur Radio Astronomy will be conducting real time radio and imaging. The event is also listed in [astromichigan.org](http://astromichigan.org)

Edison Boat Club, September 20 - Contact Gordon Hansen.

Great Lake Star Gaze (GLSG), September 25-26, Gladwin, Michigan, put on by the Sunset Astronomical Society with numerous presentations, prizes, and dark skies! \$45 est. for pre-registration.

FAAC Dark Sky Workshop will be September 29-October 5 at River Valley in Gladwin, Michigan (immediately following the GLSG so we can keep tent and equipment set up on the hill!). This site has porta-potty, coffee, and generator on hill. Regular restrooms and a shower at bottom of hill. 1-1.5 hour presentation each day by Tony Licata, Gordon Hanson, John Kirchhoff, or Clay Kessler. Advance registration (before Aug 28th) is \$15, otherwise \$20; plus \$5 for night on the hill

Cranbrook Astronomy Lectures will kick off October at 7:30 pm with Dr. Paul Goldsmith presenting "Molecular Clouds and Star Formation." Advance reservation are recommended (starting after Labor Day) to get the reduced \$8 astronomy club price.

The "Fall Sky" HFCC planetarium show will resume when the new school year begins, every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm from TBD (September?) to TBD (November?). FAAC's Dennis Salliotte, Bob Clubb, and Ken Anderson's will present the in the HFCC Science Building Planetarium (room S-126). Shows are free and first come first serve. Doors open around 7:15 pm and close promptly at 7:30 pm. Sometimes, Ken brings his binoculars to treat guest with post show highlights outside in the Science Building parking lot.

Bob Clubb has created a FAAC/HFCC Planetarium webpage. Dr. Jacobs and Mike Lapresto have created a Tour of the Solar System on the campus of HFCC. HFCC campus maps can be found at <http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/locations.asp>.

Eric Rasmussen may open the University of Michigan- Dearborn Observatory (3rd floor of UM-D's Science Learning Research Center) on some Tuesday's 8:30-10 pm (if it is clear) immediately after the HFCC planetarium shows on TBD. UM. Please call the UM-D observatory hotline at 313-583-6566 one hour before to confirm inclement weather hasn't cancelled this outdoor observing event.

The HFCC and UM-D facilities are a quarter mile apart, close enough to walk, but most will drive.

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## Minutes ... (from page 7)

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 the "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.

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 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 \$11, and you will be able to see Saturn and Jupiter with it. John is pre-ordering 100 of these telescopes.

Astronomy Expo/Swap is to be March 26, 2009, same time as Florida Key Winter Star Party.

Diane Worth delivered Club Wares from the last order, and took new orders.

FAAC Clubwares with embroidered five color club logo can be ordered up to August 15 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.

2009 Astronomy calendars are available for \$7 from Steve Flessa. Greg Ozimek recommends the club order 2009 Royal Canadian Handbooks at the bulk discount rate.

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

## Meeting Agenda - August 28

### 5:30 pm HFCC - Rosenau CR - Admin. Services and Conference Center \*

(For map see:

[http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus\\_maps.pdf](http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus_maps.pdf))

### Opening/Introduction/Member Observing

**Presentation:** Review of Sky Charts used by members – Bob Berta (WAS)

**Tech Talk:** Club Scope Proposal, Vote – Ken Anderson

### Club Business/Secretary/Treasurer/Equipment Reports

### Club Projects/Committees/Member Support

- Proud Lake Recreation Area Aug 30 7:00 pm – Doug Bauer
- Dr. Paul F. Goldsmith talk on Molecular Clouds & Star Formation presentation at Cranbrook (Oct 17th, 7:30 pm – Tickets \$8 Register after Labor Day) – Doug Bauer
- Astro-Imaging SIG – Tony Licata
- Dark Sky – Frank Ancona
- Lincoln Park Observatory Restoration – Tim Dey
- Open Discussion

\* **Note:** The FAAC general meeting will be held in the Hackett room on September 25, and December 4, 2008. The SIG meetings will use the Hackett room on September 11 and November 13, 2008, and February 12, 2009.

## FAAC Events 2008

Bob MacFarland

**September 5-6** – Astronomy on the Beach – GLAAC, Kensington Park  
**20** – Edison Boat Club  
**25-28** – Great Lakes Star Gaze, Gladwin  
**29-Oct. 4** – Astro-Imaging Workshop, Gladwin

**October 4** – Beginner's Night - Island Lake, Lake Erie MetroPark



## Treasurer's Report

Steve Flessa

Account	8/24/2008 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Checking	\$840.26
Savings	\$2,283.82
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$3,124.08</b>
<b>Cash Account</b>	
Cash	\$150.00
<b>TOTAL Cash Account</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Investment Accounts</b>	
CD 1	\$1,056.61
CD 2	\$1,022.86
<b>TOTAL Investment Accounts</b>	<b>\$2,079.47</b>
<b>Asset Accounts</b>	
Equipment	\$712.96
Scholarship	\$326.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,039.01</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,392.56</b>
<b>Memo:</b>	
GLAAC	\$6,008.31

## Astro Imaging SIG

Tony Licata

Gallery Submissions Requested!

If you have any interesting photos, astronomy related or not, please send them to [tglicata@aol.com](mailto:tglicata@aol.com) as JPG attachments.

The SIG gallery of images will be viewed during each SIG meeting. A reminder is posted on our Yahoo site periodically for submissions.

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

Next meeting is September 11, HFCC Hackett CR. Topics invited.

Mark your calendars! The Dark Sky Workshop 2008 is scheduled for Monday Sep 29th through Oct. 5th, at River Valley RV Camp, in Gladwin, MI.

A sign up sheet will be forthcoming. See the information on page 11.

## 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

**Coulter 10" Dobsonian** telescope. \$400.  
Contact Bob Stonik, 313-361-4954

**VIXEN R130sf Newtonian 130mm** telescope on a Vixen Porta Mount, \$350. Includes an eyepiece and a Red Dot Finder. The scope diameter is 130mm (5"), the focal length is about 1050 mm. Porta Mount itself lists for \$399.

There is no case or bag for the legs. Just a great deal on a good scope and a great mount.

Contact Tom Blaszak, [key\\_string\\_guy@yahoo.com](mailto:key_string_guy@yahoo.com)

## Livonia Rider's to Close

Dale Ochalek

Reports via message board on the FAAC's Yahoo Group site (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub>) are that the Livonia Rider's Hobby shop, with its wonderful Telescope gear section, manned by John Kirchhoff, will be closing its doors August 31 (John has also been assisted there by FAAC member Tom Blaszak). Reasons cited include the loss of business due to changing times and poor general economic conditions.

According to John, he will move his telescopes and equipment to the Ypsilanti Rider's store, 3140 Carpenter (734-971-6116). See him there, says John, after the AATB on September 5-6; he'll make it worth your while!

Thanks John, and Livonia Rider's, for years of cooperation and support!



Great Lakes Association of Astronomy Clubs (GLAAC)  
presents our



# 12th Annual Astronomy at the Beach

Friday & Saturday, September 5 & 6  
at Kensington Metropark, from 6 pm - midnight (rain or shine)

With a special talk by Dr. Mary Putman from the University of Michigan Astronomy Department on

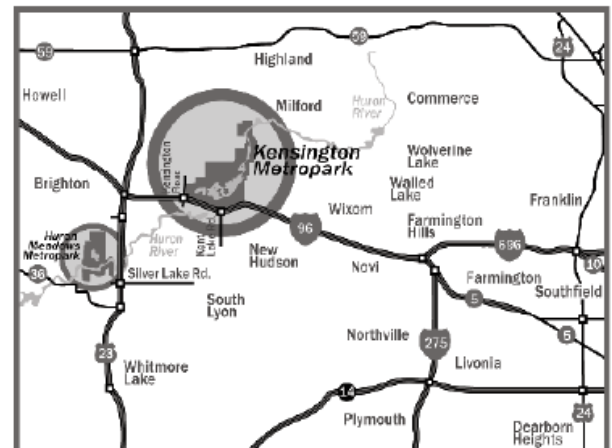
## How Do You Feed A Galaxy?



- ▼ Learn about astronomy first hand
- ▼ View dozens of exciting objects through

our telescopes and binoculars

- ▼ Children's celestial scavenger hunt with prizes
- ▼ Tour the constellations
- ▼ See digital imaging
- ▼ Comet making demonstration
- ▼ Plus much more!  
*(food & beverages available for purchase)*



For more information call the Kensington Nature Center at 248-685-0603 or visit the GLAAC website at: [www.boonhill.net/glaac/](http://www.boonhill.net/glaac/)

**To Kensington Metropark:**  
Take I-96 to Exit 153 (Kent Lake Road), then follow signs to Maple Beach.  
**(NEW LOCATION WITHIN THE PARK)**  
**\$4.00 Vehicle Entry Permit required to enter Park. Event is FREE!**

Sponsored by:



Ford Amateur Astronomy Club  
Warren Astronomical Society  
The Astronomy Club at Eastern Michigan University  
University Lowbrow Astronomers

Oakland Astronomy Club  
Seven Ponds Astronomy Club  
Sunset Astronomical Society  
Amateur Astronomers of Jackson



# DARK SKY WORKSHOP

Hosted by

*Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC)*

Sunday, September 28-Sunday October 5, 2008

**River Valley RV Park, 2165 S Bailey Lake Avenue, Gladwin, MI 48624**

**Camp Phone: (989) 386-7844, Website: <http://www.rivervalleyrv.com>**

## WORKSHOP:

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, Astro Imaging Special Interest Group is sponsoring a Dark Sky Workshop. All club members and their guests are invited to come out and spend a week with friends, under mag 6.5 skies. You don't need to be an imager to attend.

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

The purpose of the Dark Sky Workshop is to offer FAAC members and friends time to mingle and engage in astronomy related activities. The main event of course will be the nightly observing and imaging on the hill, under clear dark skies (we guarantee the "dark" part). By day, we hope to set up a learning atmosphere around topics like imaging techniques, equipment, software, and so on. A more precise schedule of events will be forthcoming, as plans are finalized.

**Workshop Fee: \$15 for the week plus...**

- **Tent Camping** (on observing hill) - **\$5.00 / night**
- **RV Site** (water & elec.) - **\$25.00 per night** (Please book and pay for your RV site directly with the campground)

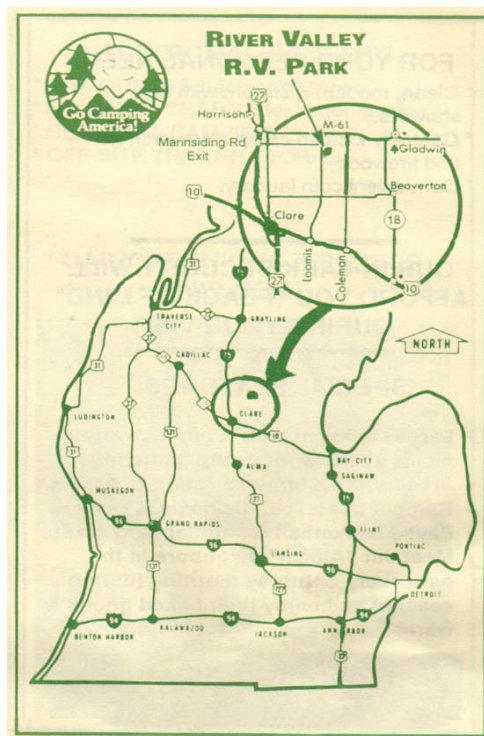
**Advanced registration ends August 28.** Please add your name and info to the Sign Up Sheet in the Database Section of the Yahoo Site. Please send \$15 payable to FAAC at address indicated below. Please include: Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail, and Number of Guests

**Make Checks Payable:** to FAAC for advance admission or table registrations. Send payment to Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, P.O. Box 7527, Dearborn, MI 48121-7527

**Please note:** Our event will be followed one day later, (September 13), by the Great Lakes Star Gaze, which is at the same site this year. If you plan to stay on for that, you may be asked to vacate the hill for a time while they lay things out. Star Party etiquette would be appreciated!

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

**For More Info Contact:** Gordon Hansen: [GordonH2006@comcast.net](mailto:GordonH2006@comcast.net) or (734) 675-6137, or Tony Licata: [tonylicata2003@yahoo.com](mailto:tonylicata2003@yahoo.com) or (248) 442-2806





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



# RIDER'S<sup>®</sup>

## HOBBY SHOPS

<b>Store Hours:</b> M-F 10am-7pm SAT 10am-6pm SUN Noon-5pm	<b>Gen. Manager:</b> John Kirchhoff <b>Email:</b> livonia@riders.com <b>http://www.riders.com</b>	30991 Five Mile Road Livonia MI 48154 Tele: (734) 425-9720 FAX: (734) 425-2029
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**Visit our new Ypsilanti flagship store!  
3140 Carpenter Rd. 734-971-6116**

**Our Livonia Store is Closing August 31st ...**

**Final inventory liquidation sale.....savings on  
EVERYTHING in the store!**