



# STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 18, Number 8

August 2009

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### Reminder!

Multi-Club FAAC Picnic  
Saturday, August 29 !

At Island Lake, 5:00 pm,  
before Beginners Night,  
at the Spring Mill Pond  
site. Hamburgers, hot  
dogs provided. Bring a  
dish to pass. Contact  
Doug Bauer -  
doubauer@comcast.net



## A Planet Named Easterbunny?

You know Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. But how about their smaller cousins Eris, Ceres, Orcus, and Makemake? How about Easterbunny?

These are all names given to relatively large "planet-like" objects recently found in the outer reaches of our solar system. Some were just temporary nicknames, others are now official and permanent. Each has a unique story.

"The names we chose are important," says Caltech astronomer Mike Brown, who had a hand in many of the discoveries. "These objects are a part of our solar system; they're in our neighborhood. We 'gravitate' to them more if they have real names, instead of technical names like 2003 UB313."

Nearby planets such as Venus and Mars have been known since antiquity and were named by the ancient Romans after their gods. In modern times, though, who gets to name newly discovered dwarf planets and other important solar-system bodies?

In short, whoever finds it names it. For example, a few days after Easter 2005, Brown and his colleagues discovered a bright dwarf planet orbiting in the Kuiper belt. The team's informal nickname for this new object quickly became Easterbunny.

However, ever since its formation in 1919, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) ultimately decides whether to accept or reject the name suggested by an object's discoverers. "Easterbunny" probably wouldn't be approved.

...continued on page 3

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## FAAC Copernicus Mentoring Program

President's Corner

Doug Bauer, FAAC President

At the August FAAC Board Meeting, Ben Cline brought in a topic of special interest: "What can FAAC do to assist novice members in learning the basics of astronomy?" Ben pointed out that the club does a lot of outreach to various groups, does presentations at the monthly meetings, and holds beginners night events once a month in the warmer months, but we are not

...continued on page 2

# STAR STUFF

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STAR STUFF is published eleven times each year by:

**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)

adequately addressing the needs of people that join the club with a basic interest in astronomy who want to learn more.

It was pointed out that someone new to the club might feel kind of intimidated by the other members who have been into the hobby for a long time. Several of us reached back into our distant memory (longer for some than others) and recalled their first few meeting or their first telescope and the feeling of being overwhelmed.

We decided that there might be a way of reaching out to members who want to learn more including some of the basics that many of us take for granted.

We are going to set up a mentoring program where mentors (the Copernicus') will be solicited and paired up with members who have an area that they want to learn. Once the two are introduced, it will be up to them to decide how best to accomplish this learning. It could be through occasional meetings, joint observing sessions, internet or phone conversations, but the two of them will determine what works best for them.

In future meetings we will be soliciting volunteers to be mentors and members who want to have a mentor assigned.

Some of the areas for learning include:

- Constellations/Asterisms
- Planispheres
- Key stars
- Planets
- Star Charts
- Finding objects in the sky
- Planning observing sessions
- Binocular viewing
- Basic equipment
- Telescope setup and alignment
- Collimation
- Imaging
- And many others

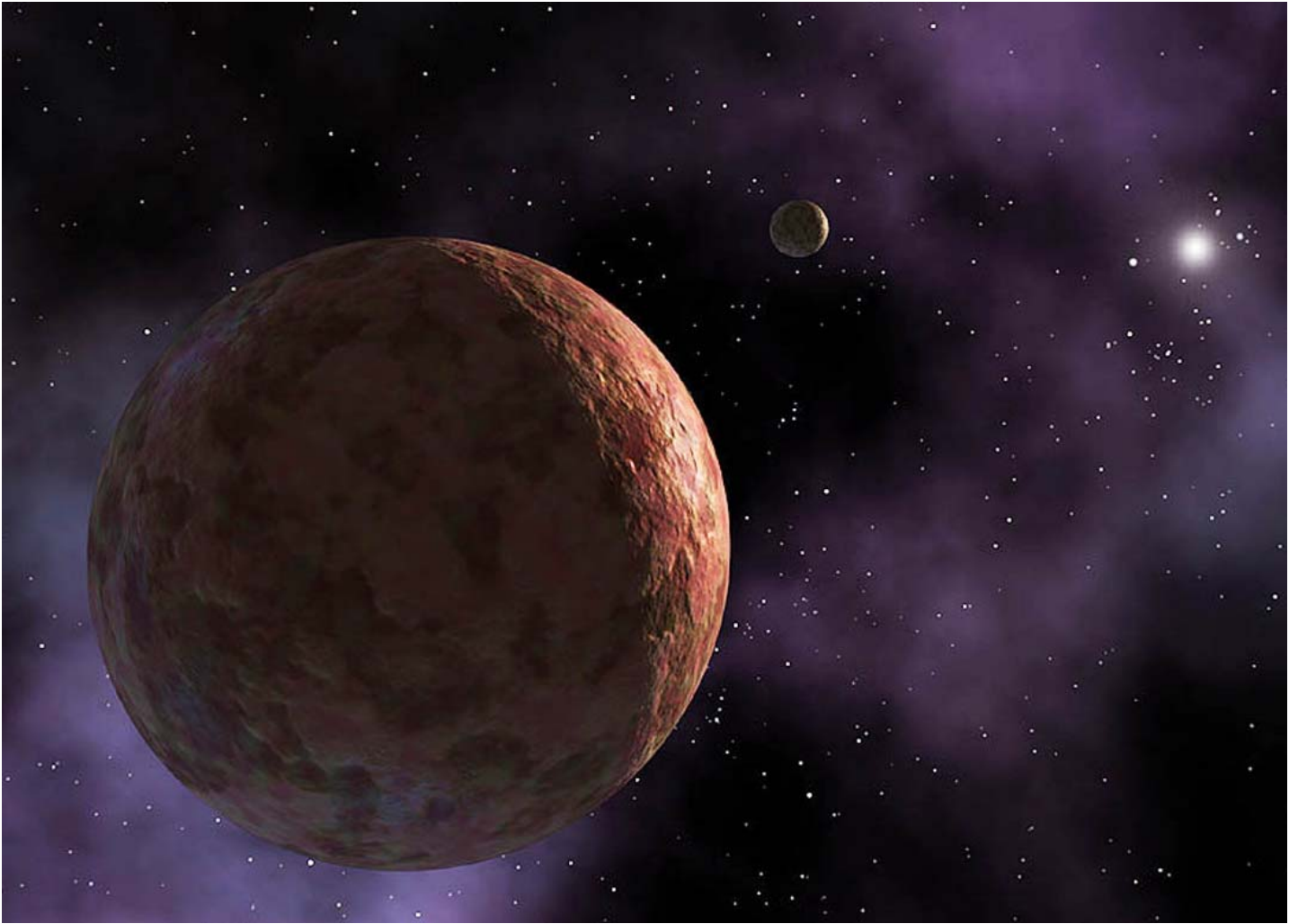
I hope many club members will respond to this calling and feel the joy of helping others.

Thanks,

Doug Bauer

[dougbauer@comcast.net](mailto:dougbauer@comcast.net)

## Easterbunny ... (continued from page 1)



*Artist's rendering of dwarf planet MakeMake, discovered around Easter 2005. Unlikely to gain acceptance their nickname Easterbunny, the discoverers named it for the god of humanity in the mythology of Easter Island.*

According to IAU guidelines, comets are named after whoever discovered them—such as comet Hale-Bopp, named after its discoverers Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp. Asteroids can be named almost anything. IAU rules state that objects in the Kuiper belt should be given mythological names related to creation.

So Brown's team started brainstorming. They considered several Easter-esque names: Eostre, the pagan mythological figure that may be Easter's namesake; Manabozho, the Algonquin rabbit trickster god.

In the end, they settled on "Makemake" (pronounced MAH-kay MAH-kay), the creator the creator of humanity in the mythology of Easter Island, so named because Europeans first arrived there on Easter 1722.

Other names have other rationales. The dwarf planet discovered in 2005 that triggered a fierce

debate over Pluto's status was named Eris, for the Greek goddess of strife and discord. Another dwarf planet with an orbit that mirrors Pluto's was dubbed Orcus, a god in Etruscan mythology that, like Pluto, ruled the underworld.

Brown says he takes "this naming business" very seriously and probably spends too much time on it. "But I enjoy it." More tales of discovery and naming may be found in Brown's blog [MikeBrownsPlanets.com](http://MikeBrownsPlanets.com)

Constellations have also been named after ancient gods, human figures, and animals. Kids can start to learn constellations by making a Star Finder for this month at [spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/st6starfinder/st6starfinder.shtml](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/st6starfinder/st6starfinder.shtml), also with note on why astrology has no place in science.

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

## July Meeting Minutes

Kevin Medon/Lori Poremsky

Attendance: 36+

President Doug Bauer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the HFCC Berry Amphitheater Auditorium in the Administrative Services and Conference Center building with introductions, while pizza and pop were enjoyed.

Doug Bauer welcomed a couple of guests and new members:

- Jarrod Kudzia – new member
- Rob Moore – guest
- Wendy Palumbo - guest

Several members shared observing experiences.

Doug Bauer and John Schroer shared information about the outreach Kids Campout that they attended in Alpena Friday evening. A planetarium show was put on for them and they participated in a Big Dipper Sky Clock project. In the evening they set up the scopes. They were fortunate enough to see the Space Station fly by.

Frank Ancona reported on his observations out west. He was able to make arrangements to look at globular clusters through a 24-inch F-12.

Preston Crofts shared his observing experiences with the group.

John Schroer made special mention that new, extremely improved, instructions have been posted on the internet for putting together the Galileo telescopes.

Ken Anderson noted his observing experiences in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and indicated that is was a nice place to observe.

Ken Anderson also brought to the attention of the group a book he had found, called "Atlas of the Messier Objects." He noted that the book has some hand drawings from Astronomer of the past, and also mentioned that is not a field map, but interesting nonetheless. The author is Stoyanl, the publisher is Cambridge University and the ISBN number is 978-0-521-89554-5 for anyone who might be interested.

The main presentation was entitled "Preserving the Night Sky," and given by Frank Ancona. Different types of light pollution were noted, and ways by which individuals can approach their local governments to consider the lighting they approve; light pollution prevention starts in your local communities.

After the presentation mention was made that the McDonald Observatory was getting involved to help the Texas Star Party alleviate light in three surrounding counties due to dude ranches and the local attraction of the Texas Star Party. They are beginning to realize the impending light pollution and recognize that the Star Party is a local attraction that they want to preserve.

Milton French gave the tech talk presentation on "Comet Path Calculations." Calculations of past and present were discussed.

Club Business

Lori Poremsky reported that there were no updates to the secretary's report.

John Schroer motioned that the June minutes be approved as written. Gordon Hansen seconded. Minutes were approved as written.

Steve Flessa noted that the FAAC liability insurance has been renewed, and the FAAC club has made up to a \$500 dollar contribution toward the renovation of the Lincoln Park Observatory. He also shared that the FAAC is sponsoring two sites on the Clear Sky Clock for a total of \$100. Steve mentioned that Galileo scopes can still be ordered for \$16.50, and that he is accepting Astronomy League dues of \$7.50.

Steve mentioned that Bob McFarland was presented a check from Camera Mart as a \$350 donation toward GLAAC.

There was no Equipment Manager's report this evening. Doug Bauer did note, however, that all equipment is accounted for.

Project/Committees/Events

Gordon Hansen noted that the SIG meetings will be taking place on the second Thursday of the month. The next is one is scheduled for August 13th. The meeting will take place in the HFCC Berry Amphitheater Auditorium in the Administrative Services and Conference Center building.

Gordon thanked the Board for now providing pizza to the attendee of the SIG meeting, and noted that contributions did exceed cost.

Frank Ancona said there was nothing to report from the Dark Sky Committee.

John Schroer reported on events for the International Year of Astronomy 2009. John noted that the Galileo scopes are in. For those who ordered them, Doug Bauer will help distribute

*...continued on page 5*

## Minutes ... *(continued from page 4)*

after the meeting. John mentioned that the Detroit Science Center is using the Galileo scopes for family events.

John noted that they are extending production line of the scopes in China and that they can still be ordered. If you are interested please contact John Schroer for more information or visit the website.

John Schroer reported that the Society of Black Physicists is planning to host Urban Start Parties in Detroit during the October timeframe. More news will come at a later date.

On Monday, October 12, Brother Guy Consolmagno is giving a talk "Why does the Vatican need an Astronomer," at the Detroit Science Center. The charge will be \$10 per person. Discussions are taking place regarding a discount for the FAAC members.

Greg Ozimek mentioned that on the afternoon of October 12, Brother Guy would also be making a presentation at U of M Dearborn, and on Sunday, October 11 at Lowbrows in Ann Arbor, as well.

Lori Poremsky indicated that the third and fourth cable show has been taped. The third show is ready for delivery and the fourth will be finalized this coming Monday. Lori thanked Tim Dey and George Korody for participating in the taping of the third show entitled "Renovation of the Lincoln Park Observatory." As a result of that show Tim Dey has been able to get the program shown on all local Lincoln Park cable stations, including WOW.

Lori thanked Sandra Macika for her participation in the fourth show, "Observing Jupiter."

Lori thanked Jon Blum for distributing our show to his local and surrounding cable stations.

If anyone is interested in helping pitch to their local cable stations - if you are interested in having a copy, please contact Stephen Uitti or Kevin Medon. The next pre-production meeting will be held on Monday, August 10. The next show will be taped on Monday, August 17. If you are interested in participating, either on camera or behind the scenes (running camera, audio or other technical aspects - all can be taught in one night) please let a member of the production team know. Currently our team consists of Stephen Uitti, Don Klaser, John Schroer, Lori Poremsky, Kevin Medon and Ken Anderson.

John Schroer noted that Astronomical League dues are being accepted by Steve Flessa. If you are interested in continuing your membership or beginning a membership, please pay Steve this evening. Dues are \$7.50 for the year.

### Open Discussion

Doug Bauer mentioned that there would be a Beginner's Night taking place Saturday (July 25), at Island Lake. He asked how many would be attending noting that the Warren Club Picnic was being held on the same day and wanted to make sure there would be coverage. At least three people indicated that they would be attending Beginner's Night.

Doug Bauer reported that the Warren Club Picnic (not the August 29 picnic) is a multi-group picnic to be held at Stargate. It is being held between noon and whenever at Wolcott Mills Observatory at 29 mile. Dinner is generally served between 4:00 and 7:00 pm. More information will be posted on the Yahoo group, on the Warren website and at MeetUp.Com.

Doug Bauer mentioned that on August 29 the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club is hosting a multi-club picnic, starting before our regularly scheduled Beginners Night at Island Lake. Doug has extended invites to other clubs. FAAC to provide hamburgers and hotdogs and is asking that a dish be brought to pass. Beginners Night starts around 7:00 pm for the public. We'll start the picnic around 5:00 pm. Contact Doug Bauer, [dougbauer@comcast.net](mailto:dougbauer@comcast.net) to RSVP.

Bob McFarland reported the progress of retaining Lake Erie Metro Park access. Meetings with park management are still taking place, and nothing has yet been finalized. They are making good progress and an observing site has been suggested by park management. Details are still being worked out. Bob is hoping that things will be finalized sometime in the coming week. If things work out the new site will be available from April 1 to November 30 and all must be off the grounds by 3:30 am. Once finalized, the process and rules will be posted to the Yahoo Group.

Bob also noted that pre-arranged special events can still take place, such as Beginners nights. These events will more than likely continue at the normal location. However, since the FAAC is sponsoring a picnic at the August Beginners Night at Island Lake, Lake Erie Beginners Night will most likely not resume until next year.

*...continued on page 6*

## Minutes . . . *(continued from page 5)*

Bob McFarland asked for a volunteer to manage the relationship at Lake Eric Metropark once the details have been finalized. Dennis Salliotte agreed to take on that responsibility.

Doug Bauer mentioned an incident that took place and Island Lake. There was an emergency late at night, and when rescue tried to get in the park they found the FAAC combination lock on the gate. Fortunately, rescue was able to break it off to enter the park, however, it is imperative that park rules are followed and that the combination lock always remains on the FAAC box to the left of the park gate.

It was asked whether the Richmond Club Picnic was taking place this year. To date, nothing has been scheduled, and it is assumed that because of an incident at the airport, they are more than likely not having a picnic this year.

Bob McFarland noted that he has approached the library in Troy at Livernois and I-75 off the Big Beaver exit and asked whether or not they could start hosting a sidewalk astronomy event outside the library later in the season. Scopes would be set up on the sidewalk as an outreach for observing. The library was exciting about the opportunity.

The meeting was called to a close by Doug Bauer at 7:50 pm.

### Recurring Events

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009) celebrating 400th year of the Galileo's telescope. American Astronomy Society (AAS) and Astronomical League are celebrating "International Year of the Telescope." All year long, expect speakers. We may get additional support for our Astronomy at the Beach (AATB).

DSC, Cranbrook, FAAC, and GLAAC plan to bring more astronomy to the general public. Set up telescopes in your local community or 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 \$16.50, and you will be able to see Saturn and Jupiter with it. Additional scope orders can be placed on the Galileo Scope website.

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next one September 10) at 5:30 pm in the HFCC Berry Amphitheater Auditorium in the Administrative Services and Conference Center building. Topic – TBD. Pizza will be provided.

FAAC General Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month, 5:30 pm, with the next one August 27 in the HFCC Berry Amphitheater Auditorium.

The FAAC Board meetings are usually the first Thursday of each month, 5 pm (next one September 3) at Senate Coney Island, Rotunda at Greenfield Rd., Dearborn, (313) 441-1027.

Beginners nights continue in 2009 on first quarter moon Saturdays (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 Beginners Night at Island Lake State Park (Spring Mill Pond) and also Lake Erie Metropark (Cove Point Picnic Area). Bring your telescope or 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).

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), \$43; patch, \$9; flex-fit cap, black with silver, \$19; legacy jacket, black, \$58; casual club polo shirt, royal blue, \$41; star presenters shirt, French blue, \$52; hooded sweat shirt, black, \$46; hooded sweat shirt, full zip, black, \$49; star gazer blanket, reversible, royal blue or black, \$38; weekender duffel, new larger size, royal blue or black, \$38; expanded brief case, royal blue, \$28.

Diane Worth said she will bring filled orders to AATB. Contact Diane Worth at [dianewsky\\_night@yahoo.com](mailto: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 VP Chuck Jones are backup key holders for returning and signing out books.

Seeking speakers for 30-60 minute Presentations, or the 15-20 min. Tech Talks. Doug Bauer: [dougbauer@comcast.net](mailto:dougbauer@comcast.net) or call 313-828-7385.

## Meeting Agenda - August 27

**5:30 pm – HFCC – Berry Amphitheater Auditorium - Admin. Services and Conference Center**

(Map can be found at:

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

**Opening/Introduction/Member Observing**

**Pick up and pay for Galileo 'scopes (\$16.50)**

**Presentation:** George Ellery Hale – Ken Bertin (WAS)

**Tech Talk:** None

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

**Club Projects/Committees/Member Support**

- Astrophoto SIG – Gordon Hansen
- Dark Sky Committee– Frank Ancona
- Astronomical League Dues! – John Schroer
- Open Discussion

## Astro Imaging SIG

Gordon Hansen

All are invited to join us in the Astro Imaging SIG meetings, to share and discuss images, experiences, and techniques.

We always have a good time, with lively discussion, and sharing of valuable information.

Next meeting is September 10. Note the new meeting room location – HFCC Admin. Services and Conference Center (same building), Berry Amphitheater Auditorium.

Topics invited. Pizza served.

## FAAC Events 2009

Kevin Medon and Lori Poremsky

**August 29** – Beginners' Night, AND Multi-club Picnic, Island Lake Recreation Area, 5 pm. Contact Doug Bauer.

**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 12** – Brother Guy Consolomagno, "Why does the Vatican need an Astronomer," Detroit Science Center, \$10, also speaking at U of Dearborn in the afternoon.

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

## Items for Sale

**Meade Lightbridge Deluxe 12"** – F/5, 1524mm focal length. Purchased new last year. Perfect condition mechanically, optically and cosmetically. Big, clear deep sky views. Built-in battery powered cooling fan, two-speed Crayford focuser (1.25 / 2-inch). Easy to transport, set up collimate and use - smooth as silk. Upgraded with Bob's knobs and heavier collimation springs. Includes shroud, cover, Telrad and secondary mirror heater. Over \$1000 invested, will sell for \$650.

Contact John Johnson at [jjohnsonpub@yahoo.com](mailto:jjohnsonpub@yahoo.com) or (248) 515-0014.

**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.

## Treasurer's Report

Steve Flessa

### 8/20/2009 Balance

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Checking	\$1,244.87
Savings	\$549.90
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$1,794.77</b>

<b>Cash Account</b>	
Cash	\$95.00
<b>TOTAL Cash Account</b>	<b>\$95.00</b>

<b>Investment Accounts</b>	
CD 1	\$1,076.18
CD 2	\$1,043.01
<b>TOTAL Investment Accounts</b>	<b>\$2,119.19</b>

<b>Asset Accounts</b>	
Equipment	\$1,284.46
Scholarship	\$541.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,825.51</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5834.47</b>
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<b>Memo:</b>	
GLAAC	\$2,727.40
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,561.87</b>



The Seventh Annual  
**Great Lakes Star Gaze**  
**September 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**“A Star Party with Dark Skies”**  
Held at River Valley RV Park  
Gladwin, MI

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Location and dark skies are the main attractions of this star party. Gladwin's central location provides excellent observing without traveling hours into Northern Michigan. Limiting magnitudes are estimated to be around 6.5 at zenith with some minor light domes from the cities of Mt. Pleasant and Midland, some 30 miles away. This is a star party for the astronomer who loves to observe and mingle with other astronomers. Some practical and interesting talks are scheduled to enhance your weekend experience.

**GETTING TO RIVER VALLEY RV PARK:**

2165 South Bailey Lake Ave., Gladwin, MI 48624

**From US-10**

Travel 11 Mi. N. from Loomis Exit.

**From US-27**

Travel 6-1/2 Mi. E. from Lake George Exit.

From M-61 travel 2-1/2 Mi. S. on Bailey Lake Ave.  
(Midway between Gladwin and Harrison).

**WHAT IS INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION?**

- Camping on the observing hill, **tents only!**
- Participation in presentations and observing.
- Hot coffee/chocolate in welcome tent.
- One ticket for door prize raffle per registration
- Clean hot shower/restroom facilities.

**TRAVEL TRAILER FEES:**

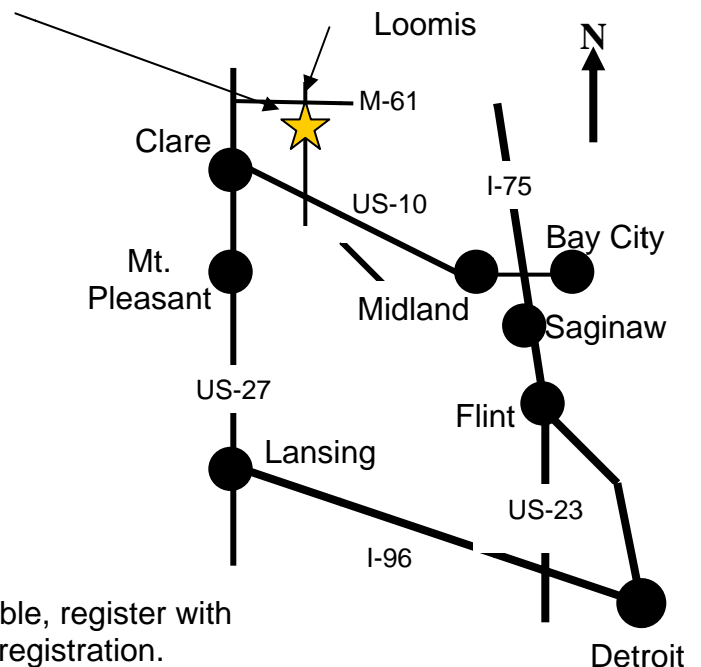
- Water & electric sites for travel trailers are available, register with River Valley RV Park for a site in addition to our registration.
- Full hook-up sites run \$25 per night **plus** our star party registration fee.
- **River Valley RV Park, Phone: (989) 386-7844 Website: [www.rivervalleyrv.com](http://www.rivervalleyrv.com)**

**FOOD VENDOR:**

“Lisa’s Lunch Wagon” Lisa and her family will again be present to provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner on the hill.

**EARLY REGISTRATION:**

Registrations postmarked on or before **August 21, 2009** will save **\$15.00** off the cost of the regular registration fee.



**[www.greatlakesstargaze.com](http://www.greatlakesstargaze.com)**





Great Lakes Association of Astronomy Clubs (GLAAC)

presents our

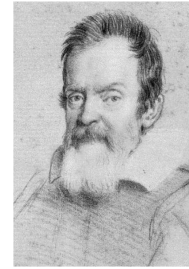


# 13th Annual Astronomy at the Beach

Friday & Saturday, September 25th & 26th at Maple Beach, inside Kensington Metropark, from 6 pm - midnight (rain or shine)

## See What Galileo Missed!

With a Special Talk on Amateur Astronomer Contributions to Extrasolar Planet Research by Robert Naeye, Editor-in-Chief of Sky & Telescope Magazine



<http://astronomy2009.org>

- ▼ 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)*



### To Kensington Metropark:

Take I-96 to Exit 153 (Kent Lake Road), then follow signs to Maple Beach. (NEW LOCATION WITHIN PARK)

**\$4.00 Vehicle Entry Permit required to enter Park. Event is FREE!**

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/)

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

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



**August 29, October 24**

Ford Amateur Astronomy Club *presents*

*Beginners Nights 2009*

with: New Detroit Science Center and Rider's Hobby

Do you have a new telescope that you are learning to use? Do you want to see samples of what the night sky has to offer? Consider coming out to **Island Lake State Recreation Area** on **Beginner's Night**. These Saturday nights are dedicated to providing equipment and observing assistance to new astronomers (**weather permitting**). The events will take place regardless of sky conditions; **if it is raining, the event will be cancelled.**

The Island Lake site is at the "Spring Mill Pond" parking lot/picnic area, at the Island Lake State Recreation Area, on Kensington Road, south of I-96 between South Lyon and Brighton. See <http://www.boonhill.net/faac/other/observe.html>

**NOTE: August 29 includes club picnic starting at 5 pm!** Gordon Hansen, 734-675-6137 or [fordastronomy@comcast.net](mailto:fordastronomy@comcast.net). RSVP to Doug Bauer, [dougbauer@comcast.net](mailto:dougbauer@comcast.net)