



# STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 18, Number 1

January 2009

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## Severe Space Weather

Dr. Tony Phillips

Did you know a solar flare can make your toilet stop working?

That's the surprising conclusion of a NASA-funded study by the National Academy of Sciences entitled Severe Space Weather Events—Understanding Societal and Economic Impacts.

In this 132-page report, experts detailed what might happen to our modern, high-tech society in the event of a "super solar flare" followed by an extreme geomagnetic storm. They found that almost nothing is immune from space weather—not even the water in your bathroom.

The problem begins with the electric power grid. Ground currents induced during an extreme geomagnetic storm can melt the copper windings of huge, multi-ton transformers at the heart of power distribution systems. Because modern power grids are interconnected, a cascade of failures could sweep across the country, rapidly cutting power to tens or even hundreds of millions of people. According to the report, this loss of electricity would have a ripple effect with "water distribution affected within several hours; perishable foods and medications lost in 12-24 hours; loss of heating/air conditioning, sewage disposal, phone service, fuel re-supply and so on."

"The concept of interdependency," the report notes, "is evident in the unavailability of water due to long-term outage of electric power—and the inability to restart an electric generator without water on site."

It takes a very strong geomagnetic storm to cause problems on this scale—the type of storm that might come along only every century or so. A point of

*...continued on page 3*

## 2008: Busy Year

President's Corner

Doug Bauer, FAAC President

I hope you all had a great holiday season. 2009 is upon us and we are all looking forward to a better year and clearer skies.

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club had a busy year in 2008 with many outreach opportunities, including:

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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:	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)

- Lake Erie Ice Days
- Bruyn Lake Campgrounds
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- Barth Elementary School at Romulus
- Astronomy Day at the Detroit Science Center, Cranbrook, Kensington and Lake Erie Metroparks, and Island Lake
- Edison Boat Club, Detroit
- Farmington Hills Cub Scouts
- Garfield Elementary, Livonia
- Hillside Elementary in Farmington Hills
- Meadowbrook Music Festival, Rochester Hills
- Girl Scout Camp Innisfree, Howell
- O. W. Holmes in Southwest Detroit
- Proud Lake Recreation Area
- Stepping Stone School for the Gifted, Farmington Hills
- University Of Michigan Dearborn and Henry Ford Community College events
- Astronomy at the Beach at Kensington Metropark
- Several Beginner's Nights at both Island Lake and Lake Erie Metropark

During these events we have had the opportunity to introduce thousands of people to the wonders of astronomy and sparked a longer-term interest in many people. Several of whom have joined our club.

We have also had many great presentations at our General Meetings and a very active Special Interest Group on Astro-Imaging.

All of these events require planning and volunteers to make them happen.

I want to thank all of you who have participated in these and the other FAAC activities that make this club so alive. FAAC is a club where people with an interest in astronomy can get together and share their knowledge and camaraderie.

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy and as such we will have many opportunities to introduce people to astronomy through outreach programs. If you have not participated in the 2008 outreach events or been involved in other club events, make a New Year's resolution to get more involved. You will find it very rewarding.

Thanks for the great 2008, and looking forward to an even better 2009.

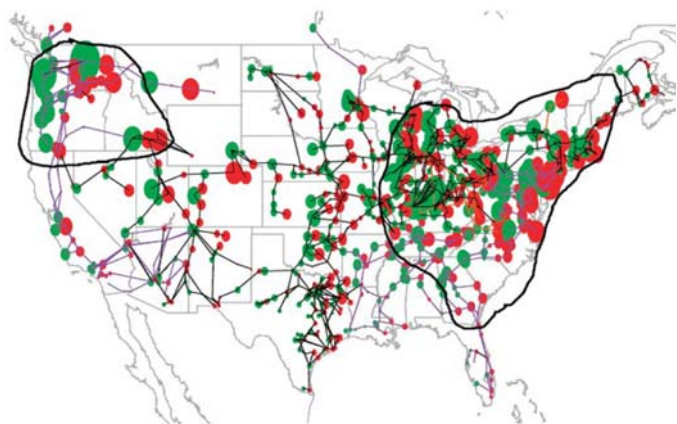
- Doug Bauer

## Space Weather ... *(continued from page 1)*

reference is the "Carrington Event" of August-September 1859, named after British amateur astronomer Richard Carrington who witnessed the instigating solar flare with his unaided eye while he was projecting an image of the Sun on a white screen.

Geomagnetic storms triggered by the flare electrified telegraph lines, shocking technicians and setting their telegraph papers on fire; Northern Lights spread as far south as Cuba and Hawaii; auroras over the Rocky Mountains were so bright, the glow woke campers who began preparing breakfast because they thought it was morning!

"A contemporary repetition of the Carrington Event would cause ... extensive social and economic disruptions," the report warns. Widespread failures could include telecommunications, GPS navigation, banking and finance, and transportation. The total economic impact in the first year alone could reach \$2 trillion (some 20 times greater than the costs of Hurricane Katrina).



*On this power-grid map of the United States, the black-circled areas are regions especially vulnerable to collapse during an extreme geomagnetic storm. Inside those boundaries are more than 130 million people. Credit: National Academy of Sciences report on severe space weather.*

The report concluded with a call for infrastructure designed to better withstand geomagnetic disturbances and improvements in space weather forecasting. Indeed, no one knows when the next super solar storm will erupt. It could be 100 years away or just 100 days. It's something to think about ... the next time you flush.

One of the jobs of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) and the Polar-

orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES) operated by NOAA is to keep an eye on space weather and provide early warning of solar events that could cause trouble for Earth.

You can keep an eye on space weather yourself at the National Weather Service's Space Weather Prediction Center, [www.swpc.noaa.gov](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov). And for young people, space weather is explained and illustrated simply and clearly at the SciJinks Weather Laboratory, [scijinks.gov/weather/howwhy/spaceweather](http://scijinks.gov/weather/howwhy/spaceweather).

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

## Wyandotte Outreach Program

Stephen Uitti

There was an outreach program at the Wyandotte Catholic School on Tuesday, January 13. The kids got treated to a quick introduction to astronomy by Bob MacFarland.

The kids also strung the distances of planets from the Sun to scale, were shown a couple basic telescope types, and saw a few objects in telescopes. The skies were clear, and calm, though it was cold (12° F). Without a doubt, a good time was had by all.

Photo by Stephen Uitti



*Intro to astronomy by Bob MacFarland.*



## December Meeting Minutes

Ken Anderson

Attendees: 31+

Doug Bauer started the FAAC meeting at 5:30 pm in the HFCC Health Careers Education Center Hackett Conference Room with introductions, then pizza and pop. Greg Ozimek and Sandra Macika were thanked for bringing the food and drinks. Sandra gave her "Lick Observatory" presentation to the Warren Astronomical Society (WAS). Tony Licata supported an astronomy scouting event with his 9 year old son, and they observed the space station with binoculars, and all participating scouts received a patch the next day. Steve Woodie from WAS also observed the ISS with his 10" dobsonian. George Korody stated his LX200 can track the space station till the meridian. Ken Anderson reported observing NGC 604 nebula in M33 pinwheel galaxy when filters are free of dew. Jon Blum mentioned there was an informal astronomy club north on Rochester Rd in Lakeview, plus the Berkley Astronomy Club gives 40 lectures. Clay Kessler imaged IC405 from 1-4am. Steve Woodie evaluated pinpoint focus center to edge of low power eyepieces between 28-36mm with a Tele Vue Paracorr. He also said he will buy and write a review of a "telescope not to have" and explain why not (to educate the potential customer of what and what not to buy). Doug Bauer is seeking nominations for this year's "Sirius" Award to be presented at the club banquet. The current elected board members are ineligible and will make the final vote, maintaining secrecy till the award is presented. Doug also informed us of an OPT discount/rewards program where FAAC can get awards such as eyepieces, barlows, or lasers; but it does require individuals to sign up and provide e-mail address to OPT (see Doug if interested in participating). Other specific events were mentioned, and can be found at the end of the minutes in the events section. Reminder FAAC elections next month!

George Korody gave the main presentation of his first 75 years and "Evolution of Observing". He was born in 1933 during the Great Depression and was the oldest with two brothers and two sisters all three years apart. He lived 15 miles from Pittsburg, and his Dad was a coalminer three days a week. They grew their own food on their farm. They used natural gas lighting with a pale yellow burning wick. For refrigeration they had a wood door root cellar near a stream for vegetables.

They had a stove oven, and a smoke house for pork. There were two wooden bridges nearby,

similar to that found in Greenfield Village. In the valley they had little light pollution, and during his two-mile walk home from high school, George could see the Milky way and the dark nebular patches that covered up the stars.

As a kid he found numerous Indian arrowheads and flint. In 1955 Indian artifacts were found in a groundhog hole. In 1973, the University reported this area (Meadowcroft Rockshelter) was continuously inhabited for the last 14,000 years.

George entered the Army, and his brother was in Hawaii from 1942 to 1945 for WWII. In July 1947 he read about aliens landing at Roswell. In 1948 the 200" telescope was completed at Mt. Palomar. George married Pat in 1956. He wanted a telescope, and there were no Tasco pre-made scopes, but Detroit Astronomical showed you how to grind your own mirror and make your telescope with a book by A.J Thompson. In 1959 George had his 6" F8 pipe mounted scope. A year later he took his first image of the moon with a Kodak Browning camera. He then made a DSC 12.25" planetary scope with a 6" f4 finder.

Then he made a Bigeye DSC dobsonian 6" with a 4.25 f6 finder. From 1965-67 George's friend Mike Russo needed help grinding an 8" mirror, so George showed him how. George started getting Sky & Telescope magazine in 1964 and still has them all. While working at Ford, George had no time to observe. He was FAAC VP from 1995-98. Clay Kessler was doing something for Mike Russo, and George reunited his old friendship. They helped put in the celestial pier and four corner posts for George's Observatory with 10" LX200 which was later upgraded to a Paramount C14. Meanwhile back in his old hometown in Pittsburg County Park the Mingo Creek Observatory received a \$350,000 grant for a 24" Ritchey Chrétien which will be used for their use plus public outreach. This concludes George's first 75 years. We all look forward to all the interesting stuff he does in his next 75 years!

John Kirchhoff gave the "Astro Christmas Toys" tech talk. The new 8000 square ft. Rider's Hobby Shop store is located at Carpenter and Packard in Ypsilanti. Starting in January 2009 they will have Thursday night observing, but be forewarned they have light pollution. Dale Ochalek wrote an article about all the new stuff in the December newsletter, but tonight we get to see and touch it firsthand (Riders is not responsible for any misprints in price, etc.):

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

- Orion Edge On Planetary 1.25" eyepieces 3mm-14.5mm parfocal, 55 degrees AFOV, fully multi-coated, \$99 each
- Orion Q70 2" eyepieces 26, 32, and 38mm, fully multi-coated, \$99 each
- Tele Vue Ethos 1.25/2" eyepieces 6mm, 8mm, 13mm, 17mm(2" only), 100 degrees AFOV, fully multi-coated, from \$585. Note the 8mm Ethos has same TFOV as a 25mm Plossl. An 82 deg AFOV Nagler (or equivalent) only shows half TFOV of Ethos of the same power.
- Meade 1.4 Mega Pixel entry level chip with passive cooling \$799 to \$1299 w/ color filter.
- Deep Sky Imager Pro III Monochrome 0.67"
- Celestron Sky Scout with GPS now only \$199.
- Meade personal planetarium My Sky Plus with mini viewing screen only \$199 now
- Orion Star Shoot portable auto guider \$299. Clay Kessler commented that this works well and guides through haze for 3 hours. Automatic calibration. 0.5" chip.
- Orion XY-Positioner for back end of guiding scope \$179 (no need to adjust rings of guide scope).
- Day Star Solar Ready 40mm H-alpha 0.7 Angstrom \$1799. Unlike PST you can do webcam or SCR photography. 60mm now at same price so the 40mm is going back.
- Stellarview 80mm Night Hawk NG (next generation) \$699. Barlow lens with binoview issue on other scopes. Binoview without doublet lens, since you can reconnect focuser to main lens.
- Stellarview 110mm ED \$1150. Nice on Moon. No false colors. Nice hard case. Feather touch focuser option.
- Orion Sky View AZ dual mount \$399. Can collimate one side to the other. No motion control. Able to support 50 lbs total or 2x25 lbs, such as Celestron 9.5" or 8" reflector, etc.
- Orion Mak-Newtonian \$1299. Good flat field 190mm=7" F5.3 100mm focal length. Optimized for astrophotography prime focus (no eyepiece projection). Crayford focuser. Able to use telescope as the lens for the camera.

Let's hope everyone made it onto Santa's good list so we all get something good this year!

Doug next led the business portion. Ken Anderson gave the Secretary's Report, and both 9/25/08 and 10/23/08 minutes were approved and accepted. Steve Flessa passed out a handout for the Treasure's Report: \$1478 Savings + \$666 checking + \$19 cash + \$2091 CDs + \$881 Equipment + \$366 Scholarship = \$5501 total (of which \$1667 belongs to GLAAC). The handout also listed prices and quantities for FAAC logo apparel and Astronomy calendars (\$7) in stock. Note Astronomy magazine now wants club members to order subscriptions through the FAAC treasurer to get the club rate (and not individually as we have previously done).

FAAC Officer Elections will be in January 2009. Sandra Macika and John Schroer have volunteered to be on the nomination committee to guarantee they have at least one person running for each office. Doug Bauer and Steve Flessa are re-running for President and Treasurer. Chuck Jones is running for VP. The Secretary position is still open and requires at least one candidate. Nominations will also be accepted at the meeting, provided the person is present to accept.

Harold Thomason gave the Equipment Manager's Report and reported everything is accounted for. FAAC owns a 10x10 ft. canopy, video projector, screen, sound system, bullhorn, sky quality meter, DVD player, coffee brewer, and an 8" dobsonian telescope with solar filter. To sign out FAAC equipment, please refer to the "Process and Rules" found either on our Yahoo website or in July 2007 Star Stuff.

Diane Worth displayed a blue Armeter vest with club logo.

Ken Anderson, John Schroer, Greg Ozimek, Sandra Macika, Bob MacFarland, Steve Harvath, Eric Rasmussen, and Erik Webster are on the FAAC club telescope committee. On 8/28/2008, FAAC voted overwhelmingly by 33 "for" to 4 "against" in favor of proceeding with a large club telescope. They also voted overwhelmingly in favor by 34 "for", 2 "abstained", and 1 "opposed" in favor of the telescope specifications of: Mirror diameter 22" to \*36" inclusive, and focal ratio f3.5 to f4.5\* inclusive, with the asterisk exception being for the folded Newtonian ideal scopes. The FAAC telescope committee selected two telescopes to rally upon for fund raising and donations purposes (although we will most likely buy a less expensive used telescope when we have sufficient funds). The first ideal telescope is

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

a 28" f3.7 Starmaster with 101" eyepiece height, \$17,000 new cost, and weighing 175 lbs fully assembled. The second ideal scope is a 40" folded Newtonian 3 mirror system with a maximum eyepiece height of 7 ft, a f3.57 focal ratio, 400 lbs est., \$38000 retail est. from Webster Telescopes (with club member Eric Webster providing fee labor). Our next priority is to select a site, to house/store the telescope plus be the primary observing site, with both Richmond Airfield and University of Michigan Lowbrows site being prime contenders, since the board will not allocate any funds till an approved site is selected. Both sites requested to know more details. The goal is that trained club members would only need to bring eyepieces and key, to open up, and start observing. Non-trained club members would need to link with trained ones to use the scope. 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. The large semi-portable/non-permanent/transportable short focal length dobsonian could be relocated for star parties, but will be used mostly visually at the primary site of either Richmond Airfield or UM Low Brows. 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. Sandra Macika is scheduling a book gift wrapping event, consisting of two 3-4 people shifts, at Barnes & Noble this holiday season to kick off the FAAC telescope fund raising effort.

Frank Ancona, the FAAC representative for the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Committee, says one hour lights out will start both 10/20/08 at 9 pm, and 3/28/09 (IYA 400 years of Galileo's telescope) – get the word out. The last 1 hour light/non-essentials out on 3/29/08, which was called "Earth Hour", showed 50 million people can make a difference!

Tim Dey reported \$15,000 grant was approved on 11/14/08, and Toshiba want to have an in person awards presentation! He evaluated 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. 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 previously approved Tim's evaluating their state of equipment (Gordon Hansen and 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. They also located the 1979 restoration contact. Urban skies make it only good for bright objects. OCP educational sales may evaluate a solar scope.

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

In club events (in chronological order):

Cranbrook Astronomy Lectures kicked off 10/17/08 at 7:30 pm to a sellout with Dr. Paul Goldsmith presenting "Molecular Clouds and Star Formation". Advance reservation is required to get the reduced \$8 astronomy club price. Maximum of 200 seats are available. 8 members completed a FAAC post survey. Next presentation – TBD.

10/24/2008, at 6 pm at Detroit Science Center Planetarium. Bob Victor (from Abrahms planetarium) gave a free 1.5 hour presentation of great thing to observe in 2009. If it was clear, we would have also observed Venus from the roof. Thanks to John Schroer and DSC for setting this up. FAAC Attendees included Doug Bauer, Gordon Hansen, Steve Flessa, Ken Anderson (mom, brother, and oldest daughter), Dennis Salliotte, Greg Ozimek, Don Klaser, and others.

11/20/2008, Thursday 6:30/7 pm Farmington Hills Cub Scouts (one pack) 1st Presbyterian (11 mile and Farmington Rd). Doug Bauer, AST 101.

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next two 12/11/08 and 1/8/09) at 5:30 pm in the normal HFCC's Admin building Rosenau conference room. Topic – Gallery bring your own astro photos and share. Clay Kessler will have beginning event for astrophotographers.

Stepping Stone School, 28555 Middlebelt at Farmington Rd, Farmington 12/13/2008 7 pm, 130+ gifted students (K-8th grade), AST101, Mike Bruno's Planet Size and Tape Distance, Telescope Observing, per George Korody.

FAAC Fundraiser 12/14/08, 3-7 pm gift wrapping books at Barnes & Noble on John R. Rd in Troy, Mich. Money raised could be used for club equipment. Barnes & Noble will provide the wrapping paper and tape. FAAC provides the labor and donations of bows and ribbons, and we keep the tips. Sandra Macika set up this trail fund raising event and is one of the volunteers along

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## Minutes ... (continued from page 6)

with Doug Bauer, Bob MacFarland, and Ken Anderson. Club members providing donations of ribbons and bows, please contact Sandra by e-mail/Yahoo site, or phone number given out at meeting.

Dues due 12/31/2008 for next year. Late charge after 1/31/2009. Membership benefits include use of three club observing sites, FAAC message board site, general and SIG meetings, electronic newsletter, camaraderie with fellow astronomers, plus being able to support outreach, beginner's nights, star parties, and planetarium shows

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). 2009 IYA Activities:

January 1, 2009 6-8 pm University of Michigan Dearborn Observatory (see details in UM-D paragraph)

January 10, 2008 Winter Observing (site TBD)

March 28, 2009 8:30-9:30 pm World at Night (Shut off your lights and enjoy the Milky Way!)

April 2-5, 2009 100 hours of Astronomy day and night; May 2, 2009 Astronomy Day.

HFCC planetarium "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" Winter Sky show occurs every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm from January 20 to March 17, 2009. FAAC's Dennis Salliotte and Bob Clubb 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.

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 [www.hfcc.edu/contact/locations.asp](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 1/27/09 and 2/19/09 from 8:00-10 pm (if it is clear) immediately after the HFCC planetarium shows. The UM-D observatory will also be open Friday 2/27/09 from 7-9 pm for observing Venus and the Moon; Monday 12/1/08 from 6-8 pm for observing Jupiter, Venus, and the Moon; and Thursday 1/1/09 from 6-8 pm to kick-off the "International Year of Astronomy". 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. Both HFCC and UM-D facilities are about a quarter mile apart, close enough to walk, but most will drive.

University of Michigan Dearborn Observatory public observing sessions on 3rd floor of Science Learning and Research Center (SLRC).

313-583-6566 hotline will be updated 1 hour before event to inform if cancelled.

Planned times and dates are 6-8 pm on January 1, 2009; 8-10 pm on January 27th and February 19, 2009, and 7-9 pm on Friday 2/27/09 for observing Venus and the Moon.

For addition info see [Astronomy.umd.umich.edu](http://Astronomy.umd.umich.edu) or call 313-593-5277 during business hours.

Eric Rasmussen is looking for FAAC volunteers to run both 8" SCT and the big telescope.

Hartford Library – Road to Stardom 1/5/08  
Gordon Hansen

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next one 1/8/09) at 5:30 pm in the normal HFCC's Admin building Rosenau conference room. Topic – TBD.

Wyandotte Catholic Outreach – 1/13/09 – Starting their own astronomy club. Bob MacFarland coordinating. Dave McKearney, the principal of Wyandotte Catholic High School, on 4th Street and Eureka, wishes to start a Student/Junior Astronomy Club, and is looking for assistance.

1/17/2009, 10 am-Midnight, Ice Daze, Lake Erie Metropark, FAAC Astronomy table and displays, Gordon Hansen's Astronomy 101, Equipment Talk, Dinner at Three Hermanos Mexican Restaurant.

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## Minutes ... (continued from page 7)

Also 6:30 pm nighttime observing and bonfire. Heated indoor warm up at the Marshland Nature Center. Dog sledding, and lots of other non-astronomy daytime exhibits/events. Astronomy will only be Saturday (although non-astronomy Ice Daze will be both Saturday and Sunday). Contact Bob MacFarland if interested in participating.

FAAC meetings are every fourth Thursday of each month, with the next one 1/22/09 in the normal HFCC Rosenau conference room. Main Presentations are "Bruce Sidell, Pre-eminent Galaxy Observer ..." and "... Galactic Catalogs 18th century until 1989" by G.M. Ross from the Grand Rapids Astronomical Association. Due to two main presentations, we will not have a Tech Talk. The FAAC Board meetings are usually the first Thursday of each month (1/6/09 and 2/5/09, 5 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn, Mich.

The FAAC Library and DVD collection is in HFCC Science Building Room 109. We are looking for a new librarian. 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.

2/4/09 6-8 pm Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum (members only event) FAAC will provide telescope observing of bright objects from this down town location. Contact Doug Bauer is interested in attending.

2/15/09 1-4 pm Detroit Science Center – A Galaxy Revealed (M101 ISS, Hubble X-ray/Chandra Visible /Spitzer IR combined and separate images), Astronomical Tools and Galileo's Birthday. Star Trek Artifacts from TV series and all five movies opening week. FAAC equipment display. Contact John Schroer.

Florida Key Winter Star Party is 2/26/08.

3/7/09 9am-4 pm Astronomy Expo/Swap, Holy Cross Church Gymnasium, 30650 Six Mile Rd, Livonia. Used and New equipment. – Don Klaser and Tom Blaszak coordinating.

FAAC Banquet is 3/14/08 6 pm at Ernesto's on Plymouth Rd, Plymouth \$35/person. FAAC telescope. Astro Jeopardy - Dale Ochalek. Door prizes/raffle. Gordon Hansen taking reservations and money. 3/16-28/09 Count Stars in Orion from wherever you are and report to Detroit Science Center.

4/2/09 through 4/5/09, 100 Hours of Astronomy! – Island Lake State Park (8-11 pm), Lake Erie Metropark (8-11 pm), Detroit Science Center (9am-3 pm) and Cranbrook (TBD) – John Schroer contact.

4/4/09 Metro Beach (16 Mile and Lake St. Clair) – FAAC and other clubs, TBD, - contact Doug Bauer.

5/2/09 International Astronomy Day – Detroit Science Center FAAC telescopes displays and public viewing. Activity Guides for the first 6 months (get from kasonline.org); contact is John Schroer.

Beginner's nights will resume in Spring 2009 on 1st quarter moon Saturdays (5/2/09, 5/30/09, 6/27/09, 7/25/09, 8/29/09, and 10/24/09), 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 possibly also Lake Erie Metropark (Marshlands Museum). Gordon Hanson is asking those that participated at Lake Erie, if they would like to continue at both sites, or just do Island Lake. 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).

9/25-26/2009 (New Moon weekend) 6 pm-Midnight Astronomy at the Beach (AATB) 2009 will be at Maple Beach (not Martindale Beach) same as last year.

FAAC Club wares with embroidered five color club logo can be ordered up to 8/15/08 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 and 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.

Bob FitzGerald's 2009 Royal Canadian Handbooks order for 15 has come in, and he still has four available for \$18.50 each (a \$14 savings over individual prices). Additional 25 2009 Astronomy calendars are available for \$7 (regular retail \$13).

...continued on page 9



## Minutes . . . *(continued from page 8)*

John Schroer hand delivered the October Reflector, to those who previously signed up for the Astronomical League, since it was past their mailing cutoff/ Membership benefits can be found in star stuff or the club website.

Bob Boswell, Bob Clubb, Phil Harris, and Gordon Hanson, please pick up your first Reflector from John Schroer. Perhaps some club members may be interested in working on some of the observing certificates.

Seeking 2007 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.

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## Meeting Agenda - January 22

### 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:** On "Bruce P. Sidell, pre-eminent galaxy observer in Michigan, the man and his passion." And the gradual, then fast march to rigorous galactic catalogues starting in the 18th century until 1989 - G.M. Ross - Grand Rapids Astronomical Association

#### Election of Officers

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

#### Club Projects/Committees/Member Support

- Ann Arbor Museum Outreach – Weds. - Feb 4th
- Club Banquet Ernesto's in Plymouth - 6:00 pm, Sat, March 14th - \$35/person
- 2009 Expo – Sat - March 7<sup>th</sup> – Tom Blaszak
- Dark Sky Committee– Frank Ancona
- Lincoln Park Observatory Restoration – Tim Dey
- International Year of Astronomy 2009
- Open Discussion

\* **Note:** The SIG meeting will use the Hackett room on February 12, 2009.

## Sympathies Appreciated

Thanks to all FAAC Members for your expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance during the recent difficult times.

-- Bob FitzGerald

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## 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

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

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

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## 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 February 12, HFCC Hackett CR. Topics invited.



# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual

# RIDER'S HOBBY SHOPS

# Astronomy Show & Swap Meet

Saturday, March 7, 2009 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Holy Cross Church Gymnasium, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia, 48152

## ASTRONOMY PRESENTATIONS

- |             |                      |   |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| 10:00 am:   | <b>Gordon Hansen</b> | <b>Astronomy 101</b>  |
| 11:00 am:   | <b>Clay Kessler</b>  | <b>Climbing the Learning Curve – Astrophotography with a DSLR</b> |
| 12:00 noon: | <b>John Schroer</b>  | <b>Astronomy 102 – Practical Astronomy for Newcomers</b>          |
| 1:00 pm:    | <b>Jim Frisbie</b>   | <b>Binocular Observing</b>  |
| 2:00 pm:    | <b>M. Kedzior</b>    | <b>Building/Assembling Your Own Telescope - Workshop</b>          |

## Featured Topics

- |           |                        |  |
|-----------|------------------------|--|
| 10:30 am: | <b>Frank Ancona</b>    | <b>Introduction to the Dark Sky: Finding It – Saving It</b>      |
| 11:30 am: | <b>Tony Licata</b>     | <b>Choosing Astrophotography Equipment</b>                       |
| 1:00 pm:  | <b>Dr. K. Bjorkman</b> | <b>Stars and Disks (and Planets?), Oh My!</b>                    |
| 2:00 pm:  | <b>T. Trusock</b>      | <b>Star Testing Your Optics: A Primer on Optical Aberrations</b> |
| 3:00 pm:  | <b>Dr. Fred Adams</b>  | <b>Extrasolar Planets</b>  |

**Planetarium w/ Lectures @ 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm – T. Cervenak**

## Buy / Sell / Trade:

**Telescopes - Eyepieces - Cameras - Binoculars - Mounts  
Tripods - Software - Publications - Accessories, etc.**

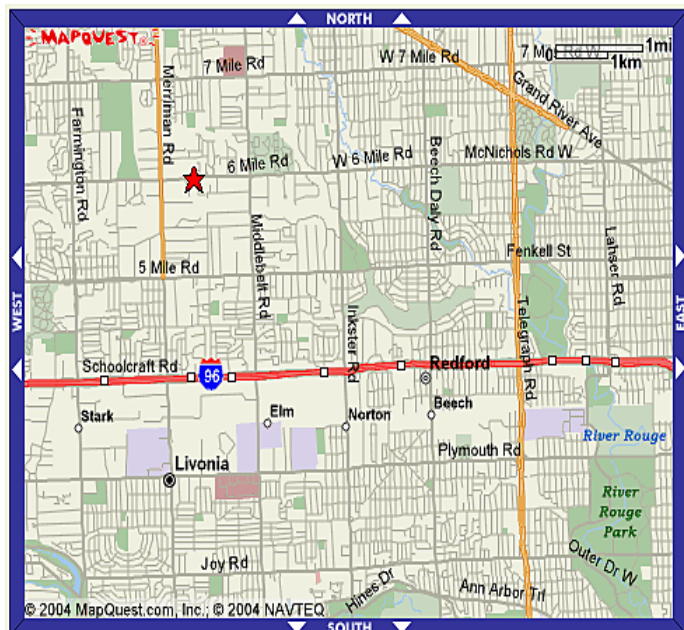
**Admission:** \$5.00 in advance or at the door  
**Sales Table:** \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the Door, as available. One admission included.

**Advance registration ends February 15, 2009.**

Doors open **8:00am for setup**. *Catering by KIM (Pizza, Hot dogs, Wraps, and other Morsels).*

**Send check, payable to FAAC**, for advance admission or table registrations: **FAAC, P.O. Box 7527, Dearborn, MI 48121-7527.**

**Location:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church Gymnasium  
30650 Six Mile, Livonia, 48152, north side of Six Mile,  
½ mile east of Merriman. See **STAR** on map.



For More Information: **Contact Tom Blazak: [key\\_string\\_guy@yahoo.com](mailto:key_string_guy@yahoo.com) or call (313) 516-5978, or Don Klaser: [dklaser4750@wowway.com](mailto:dklaser4750@wowway.com)**



# FAAC Dinner Banquet 2009

*Saturday, March 14, 2009  
6:00 pm until ?*

**Astro Slide Show – Door Prizes – Astro-Jeopardy**

**LOCATION: Ernesto's, 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, Michigan (734) 453-2002.**

## Dinner Selections:



*Chicken Ernesto with Italian sausage, bell peppers, mushrooms, & sweet cherry pepper sauce*

or

*Broiled Salmon with Cucumber-Dill sauce*

or

*Roast Top Round of Beef with a rich red wine mushroom demi-glace*



*Dinner includes a side of Penne with Tomato Basil, a tossed mixed greens salad, and freshly baked bread*

## Assorted Desserts



**Coffee, tea, iced tea, and soft drinks** will be available throughout the evening.

**A Cash Bar is available.** Ask your server for beer, wine, and mixed drinks.

## Dinner Speaker: Gary Strumolo

**ADMISSION:** \$35 per person.

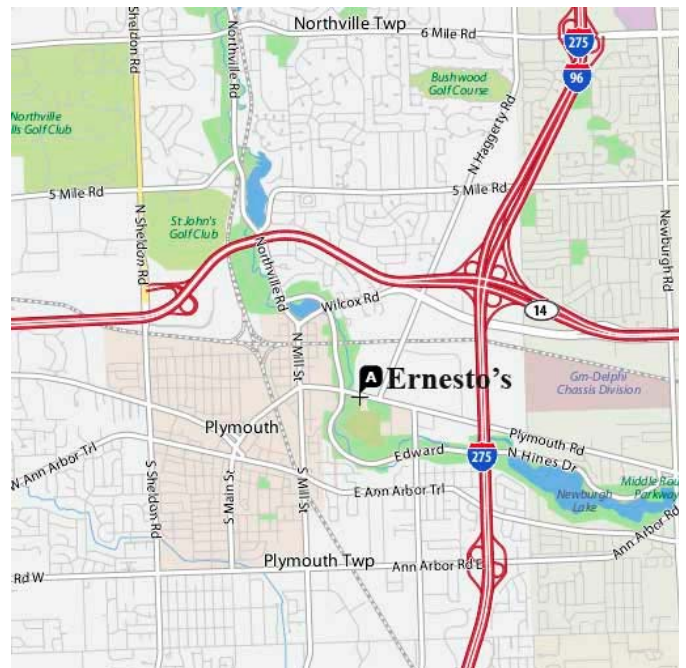
**Cocktails 6:00 pm (cash bar) - Dinner 7 pm.**

**Make Checks Payable:** Please pay Gordon Hansen at the General Meeting, or send payment to Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, P.O. Box 7527, Dearborn, MI 48121.

"Thank you for another great year. We hope to see you there. Please let us know if you are coming!"

- - **FAAC Board.**

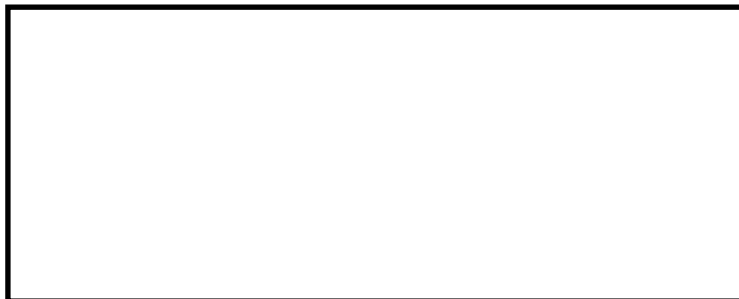
**Location:** The restaurant, **Ernesto's**, is located on Plymouth Road, near Haggerty. \* **See A on map\***



**For More Information:** Gordon Hansen at ghhansen@comcast.net or post on the Yahoo Group.



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



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**RIDER'S**  
**HOBBY SHOPS**

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**Buy / Sell / Trade Astronomy Goods, etc.  
(see inside for more details)**