



# STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 16, Number 11

November-December 2007

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## ... for the Astronomers

John Kirchhoff / Dale Ochalek

Amazingly enough, another year has come and gone since our last look at Christmas gift ideas for the astronomically-inclined among us. So, again this year, John Kirchhoff, general manager at Rider's Hobby in Livonia, and FAAC member in good standing, has given us a look at some hot items for the season ...

Williams Optics has new offerings - here, a trio of apo refractors. Atop, the Zenith Star 66 mm SD for \$369 w/case. Left below, the Megrez 90 for \$1195. Right, the Megrez 110 mm, for \$1398. All have retractable dew-shields. Some FAAC members have used the 90mm, with nice astrophotos to show for it.



Photo by Dale Ochalek

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## In Search of... President's Corner

Don Klaser, President, FAAC

Astronomers have been a busy lot in recent years - from listening to radio waves for signs of intelligent communication to trying to detect a slight wobble in a far off star that might indicate a planet that is in the stars habitable zone to pondering the possibilities of elemental life forms on places like Europa and Titan

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# STAR STUFF

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

PRESIDENT: Don Klaser  
VICE PRESIDENT: Doug Bauer  
SECRETARY: Ken Anderson  
TREASURER: Gordon Hansen  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Dale Ochalek

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 of the dark skies at Richmond Airport, Unadilla, given prior permission. See the FAAC Yahoo Group\* for more information.

Observing schedules and additional information are available on our website ([www.boonhill.net/faac](http://www.boonhill.net/faac)), 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)
Life Membership:	\$150	

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)*

in our own solar system, as well as other locations in the Milky Way Galaxy.

And while I've read about the search, I haven't come across anything that says what we'll do if (when) we encounter one or more, of them. Will they smile and wave back, assuming they have mouths and hands (though I hope they haven't invented the "Queen Wave" yet)? And if it's microbial in form - what then? How do we know if it will be beneficial or detrimental to our species?

The years ahead will no doubt be filled with exciting discoveries, raising more questions than answers. I can hardly wait to see what happens!

In the meantime, may you and your family enjoy everything the holiday season has to offer.



Don Klaser

## Time to Renew, Members!

Gordon Hansen

It's time to renew your membership in FAAC! Send your check in today to FAAC, P.O. Box 7527, Dearborn, Michigan 48121-7527. Please include any updates to your contact information.

Membership includes access to the observing sites at Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie Metro Park, and Richmond Airport. Discounted subscriptions to *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazines. **AND** most importantly, the interaction with people who share your love for astronomy.

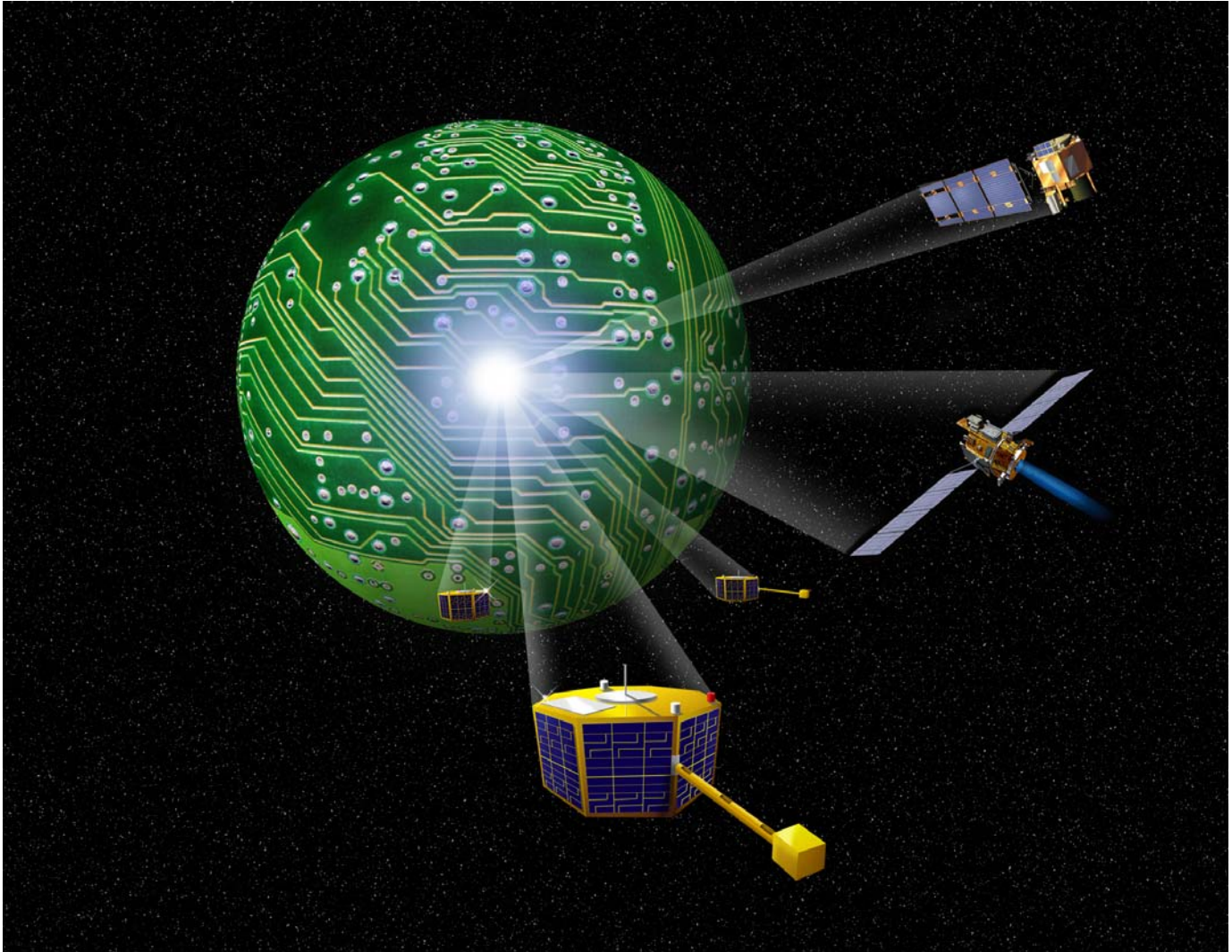
Renewal fees for 2008 are only \$25, and after January 31, \$30!





## Going My Way?

Diane K. Fisher



*NASA's New Millennium Program selects breakthrough technologies that will be of the greatest use to future space and Earth science missions and that are perceived to be risky to the first user.*

Not many endeavors require that you plan the mode of transportation before you even know what it is you are transporting. But weighing the physics and economics of getting any sort of cargo to space is a major part of designing a space mission.

It's one of the first issues that NASA's New Millennium Program (NMP) considers when planning a new mission. NMP has the forward-looking job to identify promising new technologies for space exploration. It then helps to mature the technology so it will be available to the space

missions of the future. If the technology cannot be tested adequately on Earth, the last part of this process is to actually send the technology into space. With carefully documented test results, future mission planners can confidently incorporate the new technology into their designs.

But where to begin? On call from the start, Linda Herrell is the New Millennium Program Architect. Given a list of proposed technologies, she has the job of figuring out the feasibility of wrapping a mission around them.

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for the Astronomer...

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Some of the suggestions here include several fine refractors, software, and a new Meade mySky personal planetarium unit (**NOTE:** prices are approximate, and may vary, depending on packages, and specials)...

Photos by Dale Ochalek



Above: The Meade mySky™, a new personal planetarium, for \$399, with a virtual sky display with stars, deep sky, constellations, etc. It has a GPS system and has a Goto arrows to find objects, or use it to point skyward and identify. If you buy the ETX -90 or 125, and the MySky, Meade offers a \$200 rebate thru 2007, For telescope and accessory needs, or information contact John at Rider's Hobby Shop - call (734) 425-9720.



Below: Starry Night Pro Plus (\$249), Pro (\$149), Enthusiast (\$79). Enthusiast includes the star maps and planetarium software; the Pro and ProPlus add telescope control for Meade, Celestron, and Orion Telescopes. ProPlus adds actual CCD images of the entire sky down to magnitude 14 or 15.



Above: Imaging Source monochrome camera (USB 2.0) 60 frame/s 640/480 resolution (\$390). Other sizes or color cameras available.

## Going My Way... *(continued from page 3)*

"We might be considering six or more technologies, anything from solar panels to imagers to masts for solar sails to more intelligent software. Of those, we may choose four. My job is to answer the question—can the selected technology be transported to and operated in space within the constraints of a low-cost technology validation project?"

Along with the list of possible mission payloads (the technologies), Linda also has a list of spacecraft to put them on, as well as a list of launch vehicle parameters. All she has to do is try them out in every possible combination (of which there are thousands) and see what might work.

"Fortunately, we have a software tool to help with this analysis," says Linda. When it comes down to it, her job is primarily to figure out how to get the technologies into space.

"Sometimes, it's like figuring out how to get across town when you don't have your own car. You have to get creative."

She keeps a database of all possible options, including riding piggyback on another spacecraft, hitching a ride on a launch vehicle as a secondary payload, or sharing a launch vehicle with other NASA, Department of Defense, or even commercial payloads.

Her assessment is but one of a gazillion factors to be considered in planning a mission, but it is indeed one of the very first "details" that forms the foundation for the rest of the mission.

Find out some of the technologies that NMP has already validated or is considering at [nmp.nasa.gov/TECHNOLOGY/innovative-tech.html](http://nmp.nasa.gov/TECHNOLOGY/innovative-tech.html). Kids will enjoy watching Linda's cartoon alter-ego talk about her job at [spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/live](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/live).

*This article and image provided by Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

## Minutes - October Meeting

Ken Anderson

Attendees: 31+

Don Klaser officially started at 5:30 pm with pizza and pop available, in the Hackett conference room of the HFCC Health Careers Building. We welcomed new member John Kriegel, and guests: Merideth Thompson and Ben Cline. Clay Kessler commented that this fall had the most observing opportunities in Michigan that he could recall. Comet 17P Holmes imaging revealed a very bright ball. Visually it was a donut with bright yellow light in center (Ken noted visually like yellow colored planetary nebula). Clay also imaged the Horsehead and Pleiades. Bob Clubb visited Las Vegas and had to drive for over an hour to see the dark sky. Jon Blum observed at Richmond the last three clear Saturdays. The first was so warm some wore short sleeves. The second was cold with frost. The third was in between (sounds like Goldilocks and the 3 astronomers).

Ken and Gordon observed Uranus and noted high power made it easier to confirm the planet. Ken also observed the comet and other "Overlooked Objects" with laminated Telrad flipcharts. George Korody also observed the comet, and noted it was visible even with the bright full moon. Dennis Salliotte was frustrated he could not find the comet the first day with binoculars, but after noticing there was an extra star not shown on his sky chart, he resorted to higher power and confirmed the "star" was in fact the comet. Finally, someone commented Meade is laying off US employees, and moving manufacturing to Mexico and China.

Congratulations to John Schroer for being elected President of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association. John gave the Technical Talk "Remote Observatory." John showed excerpts of the PBS show "Seeing in the Dark," where team Brisk consisting of 4 members claimed to set up a remote observatory in Mexico/Arizona in less than three hours with electricity and web connection (to customer). They did have a lot of prep work such as concrete slab with telescope pier mount, plus observatory shelter.

Step 1 – Computerized mount (paramount ME \$10).

Step 2 – Schmidt/Cassegrain Telescope

Step 3 – Digital Camera

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

Total fixed cost is \$40,000, or the same as the car that drove the team and equipment up to the site. Variable cost is \$100/year for sloth remote control, internet connection for computer, log in and request object(s) to observe.

Orange County Astronomers is a boys and girls club in Mohave desert/Palomar mountains. They have a 20" Riechling Chriton Telescope and an 11 Meade pixel camera. Their site has a concrete pad, electricity, and a web connection.

GONG is a global network for sun quakes. Hubble ST observes in a broad spectrum of infrared, visible, and ultraviolet. James Webb is a replacement for the Hubble but it will just image infrared (not visible light). It will orbit in one of the two Lagrange points 1.5 million miles from Earth. It is 24 feet wide and has shades to keep the mirror cool.

George Korody is able to hook up his backyard 16" SCT telescope for remote observing from inside his house. John Schroer is investigating the possibility of having planetariums being linked directly to observatories. With such forward thinking, it is no wonder that John was elected President of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association. We all wish him the best of luck!

Jon Blum gave the main presentation, "Astronomy Inn Adventure", based on his four night May 2007 Bed and Breakfast experience in Tucson, Arizona. He first learned about the Inn from a 2003 Smithsonian tour to Tucson, Arizona, Kitt Peak, 50 ft tall multiple mirrors, Astronomy Inn, plus other sites.

Astronomy Inn's house on the hill belonged to Ed Vega and Max Bray. It has four guest rooms with different themes -- \$149/night for the Garden, Egyptian, or Galaxy rooms, \$105/night for the Astronomy Studio. The Astronomy room had numerous astronomy photos, a star projector planetarium, and star wars characters Hans, Princess Leia, and R2D2. The media room had a big screen TV and DVD. The computer room had broad band internet access, and was full of gadgets, libraries, fossils, Messier photos (M20, M51, M8, etc.). And obviously there was a breakfast room. In the daytime they had lake paddleboats. They didn't venture far on the trails due to rattlesnake warning signs, but they did see a roadrunner for the first time.

The facility had a wide range of telescopes and binoculars. The 16-ft. dome housed the largest scope which was a 20" maksutov, with 8" SCT finder scope, 31mm Nagler eyepiece, and camera, etc. The 10-ft. dome contained a 12" Meade LX200 SCT. The roll-off room had a 14.5" F5.5 Newtonian, and an 8" Newtonian, 6" F8 refractor, and 25x100 and 30x80 binoculars.

They also had an 18" JMI Truss tube. Eyepieces ranged from 6.7mm to 60mm Celestron Ultima. Outside on the patio was a 16" Celestron Star Hopper Dobsonian, available for guests to use themselves at no extra charge, and covered by doghouse on tracks when not in use.

They also had 20x110 and 25x125 binoculars on stands outside exposed to weather. Only the dobsonian and binoculars on the patio were available for guests to use themselves. The 18" dobsonian could be rented for \$45 for all night. The other scopes required an expert (astronomer tour guide) who received directions from the paying guests if they had special requests. All sessions lasted 4 hours (usually 8 pm-midnight), and the expert was paid the same \$145, \$160 for 20", \$180 for 20" CCD imaging. Daytime solar observing was \$125. April and May are the best times to go. Avoid July and August when they have high temps and lots of rain. For more info visit [www.astronomersinn.com](http://www.astronomersinn.com)

The first night Jon and his wife looked through the 6", 12", and 14.5"; and observed 41 Messier objects, the Virgo Cluster, Omega Centuri, Jupiter, and Saturn. The second night they looked through the 20" MAK with 31mm Nagler at 153x and 0.3 deg TFOV; and observed about 32 NGC objects (NGC4889/4874 galaxies in the coma cluster), V Hydra a red carbon star, 3C273 Quasar in Virgo (1st quasar discovered, 2.6 billion lights years away, and the furthest object one can see in 20"), plus central stars in planetary nebulas (2392 Einstein, 6543 Cat's Eye, 6210 Hercules, and 6826 "Non" Blinking Planetary).

The third night they observed to 4 am to see a different portion of the sky. This time they used the roll off room and observed 30 objects. The fourth night was cloudy (and moon was at 1% illumination) so Jon and his wife enjoyed the planetarium in their room. When it cleared they used the 20" MAK and 31mm Nagler to look at fifteen objects including Stephan's Quintet.

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

The object they liked best was M51 and NGC5195 whirlpool, which they saw in 2003 and made them want to return. In an 8" they can only see the central core of the galaxy. In the 20" they can see a much larger galaxy with spiral arms. M101 also was much larger with spiral arms in the 20". M8 was very bright and he could see the dark lagoon. M20 was Jon's wife's favorite object which she thought looked like a Pansy (flower).

Jon also visited Stellar Vision an astronomy hobby shop owned by Frank Lopez, who built the 10 ft. dome in the roll off room. This is where Jon bought his 8" SCT a year ago. They do public observing on Friday nights.

Don Klaser led the business portion. Ken Anderson gave the Secretary's Report, and apologized for not completing the September minutes on time, and will put them on the web (currently up in draft status). Gordon Hanson gave the Treasurer's Report \$4,573.21 (excluding GLAAC). 2008 FAAC dues reminders will be sent out.

Harold Thomason gave the Equipment Manager's Report. He retrofitted the 4.5" telescope with a new adjustable height Dobsonian mount (for both big and small kids), incorporated Tele Vue rotating bearings, and hand painted FAAC logo. Harold added unique balanced handles on the dobsonian tube. All this for just \$9 of parts and 25 hours of Harold's labor. This telescope is available for any FAAC club member to sign out! Our club also owns a 10x10 ft. canopy, laptop, projector, screen, sound system, and bullhorn. Club members are reminded to read the new Process and Rules, found in the July 2007 Star Stuff and on our Yahoo website, if they want to sign out equipment.

The FAAC Scholarship Committee consists of Ed Halash, Gordon Hansen, John Schroer, and Bob Fitzgerald. We currently have about \$400 in the FAAC Scholarship fund. Ed Halash presented draft FAAC HFCC Scholarship procedures: FAAC develops scholarship procedure for HFCC, for their support. Money will be given by check to HFCC Science Dean Dr. Charles Jacobs. President letter of gratitude. Student selected will be enrolled in a science program at HFCC with financial need.

HFCC will select the student and give the check to the student. Both the student and HFCC will acknowledge FAAC.

In club events:

"Moon Occultation of M45 Pleiades" October 27 8-9:30 pm Lake Erie Metropark last parking lot (drive staying to the right to the end); note this is NOT the nature center. Dennis Salliotte coordinating for a club permit. Please contact Gordon Hansen who is making reservations for Three Hermanos Restaurant. FAAC member event (Not Public). Metropark vehicle permit required.

Eric Rasmussen has been hosting comet 17P Holmes at the U of M Dearborn Observatory 16" telescope in the evening, and plans to be open every Tuesday evening after the HFCC planetarium "Fall Sky" shows give by FAAC's Dennis Salliotte, Bob Clubb, and Ken Anderson. Harold Thomason and Greg Ozimek volunteered to help out Eric. The Observatory was also opened Friday to Tuesday after our November board meeting, and put an announcement on our Ford message board site.

Greg Ozimek praised the resources of U M-Dearborn's 16" Research Telescope and HFCC 45 ft planetarium. Eric and Jim Frisbie will be evaluating the sky with a new sky quality meter.

The Catholic Wyandotte School, vicinity Eureka and Ford, or Fourth and Helm, is seeking FAAC volunteers for November 14-15 event.

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. 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 handouts at the board meeting to show national intentions.

Kensington Metropark is seeking recommendations for a new pavilion (next year),

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

acknowledging that the GLAAC AATB brings in more people than any other single event at the park. Next GLAAC planning meeting is Sunday TBD at 1 pm at the Nature Center. Contact Bob MacFarland or Bob FitzGerald for details or future meetings.

FAAC meetings are usually every fourth Thursday of each month at HFCC Rossenau conference room; however, these holiday months are an exception with next meeting December 6 at 5:30 pm in the HFCC Health Building Hackett Conference room. We apologize for confusion of room change and loss of our normal parking lot, but are grateful HFCC coordinated for an alternative site. With use of the Hackett conference room, we will attempt to have the guard let us into the Health building staff parking lot, two lots down from where we normally park. Main Presentation and Tech Talk are TBD, but fairly certain Jim Frisbie will be doing the Tech Talk. Main presentation will likely be about new equipment and accessories by John Kirchhoff of Riders, so the big kids can plan to get their toys also! Jim Frisbie will be doing the Tech Talk.

The FAAC Board meeting was the first Thursday of each month (next November 1, 5 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn, MI. We discussed member badges/ID cards. We will also be formalizing laser use rules/guidelines at our sites and events. We are requesting help from Doug Bock or someone familiar with myspace, to link an astronomy myspace account with our FAAC website, with the intent to attract younger members. Yolanda Anderson (Ken's 12-year-old daughter) offered to set it up (myspace, blog, links, etc.), but the board may want it more professional looking for a better first impression.

The FAAC Library in HFCC Science Center, conference room 109 may be open one hour before monthly FAAC meeting. Gary Stahl recommends a 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 Don Klaser and V.P. Doug Bauer are backup key holders for returning books.

John Schroer has set up a Detroit Science Center Behind the Scenes FAAC Family event Saturday

12/8/2007 starting at 9 am, as a way to show their thanks for our support. The DSC 9:15 am planetarium will be free and we will have a choice of planetarium or laser show; guest may stay afterward for normal DSC exhibits. Body/Sea Monsters IMAX and Human Body exhibit are not free. DSC parking lot is not free, but John advises one may find free parking on Brush, near the DSC.

Geminid Meteor Showers Thursday December 13, participation as yet TBD.

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next is December 14) at 5:30 pm at HFCC Rosenau conference room. Both this and the last SIG meetings will discuss future plans for the next Dark Sky workshop. Tony is investigating dates for next year. With a new moon on Labor Day 2008, the second event may be weeks of August 1st or 31st. Location for next year may change also to possibly the Rainbow Lodge in the UP, or going South for both lower latitude horizon and warmer weather. Ed Halash recommended Macinaw Bridge Area (5.5 hours away) or 380 miles south to Callore Park, West Virginia.

Ice Daze January 19 at Marshlands Museum in Lake Erie Metropark. Fun family event - Winter/Nature activities, plus Solar and Night Observing noon-11 pm. Hot coco, barn fire, heated indoor restrooms. Free public event, but Metropark vehicle permit required.

George and Pat Korody plan to attend Winter Star Party (February 2008). Register or find out more details on the Winter Star Party web site. Cost is about \$75 per person, plus \$48 to camp.

The fifth annual Astronomy Expo and Swap meet will be February 16 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on 6 Mile, Livonia, is being coordinated by Tom Blaszak (who was not present due to the 10-15% off Rider's sale tomorrow). They will have an indoor planetarium in the gymnasium, plus door prizes/raffle. Six presentations are planned. This year we will be expanding to use the chapel.

"Total Eclipse of the Moon (February 20, 2008 8:43 pm-12:09 am)" Marshlands Museum in Lake Erie Metropark 7:30-11 pm. Mid-Eclipse 10:26 pm. There are heated indoor restrooms. Free event, but MetroPark vehicle permit required.

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

FAAC Club Banquet will be at Station 885, Plymouth, tentatively March 29 (after Easter).

Lights Out America is March 29, 8-9 pm to demonstrate the effect of light pollution (enjoy the Milkyway!), and demonstrate energy waste and potential energy savings. This will be similar to San Francisco where they saved \$millions.

Last night Paris turned off their lights for global warming, and observed the benefit of the night sky. Frank Ancona, representing the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Committee, met with our Governor (Jennifer Grandholm) and State Congressman (Mr. Lavanche and Mr. Kotter) and informed them of about \$10 million potential cost savings for new rheostat dimming lights, and downward light fixtures.

One reference stated Sacramento, CA wasted \$150 million in lighting. He convinced Lansing to turn off lights on the capital in the late evening. He also plans to take his talk to city counselors and mayors.

Ann Arbor will be switching to LED lights with full LED before 1am, and half LED after 1 am; this is a step in the right direction for reducing energy consumption and improving naked eye visibility of the night sky, but current light pollution filters may not work with LED. We wish him the best luck in encouraging our legislature to purchase efficient lighting, saving taxpayers money, and preserving our night sky.

Observing site policies and procedures have been written by Ed Halash (Richmond), George Korody (Island Lake), and Gordon Hansen and Dennis Salliotte (Lake Erie), and these have been posted on the club website. Thanks to Ed, George, Gordon, and Dennis. Anticipate laser rules and guidelines to be incorporated into the above documents. Bob FitzGerald reported we need to show more responsibility with green lasers. John Schroer replied red lasers are safer and potentially less damaging than green ones if used improperly.

There is a \$10 FERA discount for dinner show packages at Andiamo Second City of Novi. Normal price for two is \$50 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, and \$60 on Friday. Call 248-891-8702 and tell them you are a FERA member to get the \$10 discount.

Gordon Hansen has sweatshirts, shirts, hats, and patches available for purchase from Diane Worth's last order. We are considering a new order from Saginaw for sweatshirts, jackets, shirts, hats, and patches and a possible expansion of items from a new catalog. Gordon has new small logo on chest stenciled \$10 T-shirts and \$20 sweatshirts, which were available for the SESMA/FAAC picnic. One club member asked if we could also have the large logo stenciled on the back for additional cost in future orders.

The 2008 Astronomy calendars are available for \$7. Royal Canadian Handbooks are in. Please contact Gordon Hansen if interested for pricing.

Seeking 2007 speakers for both FAAC 30-60 minute Main Presentations, and 15-20 minute Tech Talks. Contact Don Klaser at dklaser4750@wowway.com or call 586-596-9510.

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## FAAC General Meeting Agenda

**December 6, 2007 (5:30 pm)**

### Opening/Introductions

**Tech Talk – SQM** (Jim Frisbie)

**Presentation - - Holiday Astro Gear** (John Kirchoff)

### Club Business Items

- Secretary / Minutes (Ken Anderson)
- Treasurer's Report (Gordon Hansen)

### Club Projects / Committees / Member support

- Astro Imaging SIG (Tony Licata)
- Astronomy Expo & Swap - 2007- (Tom Blaszak)
- IDA Committee - Frank/Greg/John
- DSC Field Trip - Sat., Dec. 8 - John Schroer
- Club Banquet - Sat., March 29, 2008 - Doug Bauer/Walk-ins
- Ice Daze at Lk. Erie Metro Park Jan. 19 2008 (Bob MacFarland)
- Lunar Eclipse Event - Wed., Feb. 20, 2008 - Don Klaser
- Close

## Treasurer's Report

Gordon Hansen

### Bank Accounts

Checking	\$	185.56
Savings	\$	2,367.94
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,553.50</b>

### Cash Accounts

Cash Account	\$	127.08
<b>TOTAL Cash Accounts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>127.08</b>

### Investment Accounts

Certificate of Deposit	\$	1,026.63
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### Asset Accounts

Equipment	\$	436.95
Scholarship	\$	429.05
<b>TOTAL Asset Accounts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>866.00</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL**                   **\$**                   **4,573.21**

Memo:

GLAAC	\$	2,018.17
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### Bank Accounts

Checking	\$	185.56
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## 2008 Calendars, Guides, FAAC Club Gear

Gordon Hanseon

The club is selling numerous items at the December 6 meeting - these also make great stocking stuffers!

You can get Astronomy Magazine's calendar at a discount. Club members can purchase them for \$7.00 - normally selling for \$12.95 - a 45% discount! If you will not be attending, but, would still like to purchase one (or more!), you can send an email to [fordastronomy@comcast.net](mailto:fordastronomy@comcast.net) Mailing charges of \$3 will be added.

Also for sale at the meeting:

- Observer's Handbook 2008 - The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, \$18.00
- An assortment of FAAC club ware - golf shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and jackets

## New Members

Gordon Hansen

The FAAC acknowledges and welcomes the following new members:

- Rob Anderson
- John Johnson
- Dimitri Obraz
- Peggy Beams
- John Kriegel
- Richard Peffer

We hope your membership will be rewarding and enjoyable. Let us know how we can help you enjoy amateur astronomy.

## Items for Sale

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

**Celestron Orange Tube 8"** (mid-1970s) Very good condition, no scratches, w/camera mount, tripod. RA bearings, slo-mo Dec fine. Corrector plate needs cleaning; needs visual back, diagonal. Contact Dr. Nicolle Zellner, Albion College [nzellner@albion.edu](mailto:nzellner@albion.edu)

**Schmidt-Newtonian 10"** – F5.35, 1360 mm focal length with 2" focuser. Includes 60 mm guide scope, Full aperture solar filter by Thousand Oaks (Mylar). Also includes cooling fan, extra set of "O" rings. Corrector plate made by Optron systems (division of Nazca Corp. of Callifornia). Also available is the Crestliner mount (on wheels). 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

**AstroSystems 12.5" F5.26** TeleKit Dobsonian, 2" thick 1/15 peak to valley wave front Pegasus primary, new Sky Commander XP4 DSC, AstroSystems Phase IV focuser, 9 x 70 finder, internal filter slide, secondary heater, base mirror fan with 2 boundary layer fans, light shroud, full nylon cover, truss bag, wheelbarrow handles, other extras. \$4400 new, asking \$2150. Contact Bob, [stargzr@wowway.com](mailto:stargzr@wowway.com)



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

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual*

# Astronomy Show & Swap Meet

Hosted by  
Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC)  
& Rider's Hobby – Livonia

**Saturday, Feb 16, 2008 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
Holy Cross Church Gymnasium, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia, 48152

### Included: FAAC Speakers

- 10:00 am: Astronomy 101 – G. Hansen
- 11:00 am: The Leap from Film to Digital Image – C. Kessler
- 12:00 pm: How to Succeed in Astronomy without Going Broke – J. Schroer
- 1:00 pm: How to Safely Maintain Telescope/binocular/eyepiece Optics – J. Kirchhoff
- 2:00 pm: Binocular Observing – J. Frisbie

### Broader Astronomy Subjects

- 10:30 am: Preserving the Night Sky in Our Neighborhoods – F. Ancona
  - 11:30 am: How to Make a Star – Dr. K. Bjorkman, U of Toledo
  - 1:00 pm: The Future of the Universe – Dr. F. Adams, U of M
- Planetarium Lectures @ 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm – T. Cervenak**

### Earn Cash By Selling Your Extra:

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

**Admission:** \$5.00 at the door or presale  
(children 15 and younger – Free)

**Table Fee:** Individuals \$15 in advance, or as available at Door, \$20 (one person).

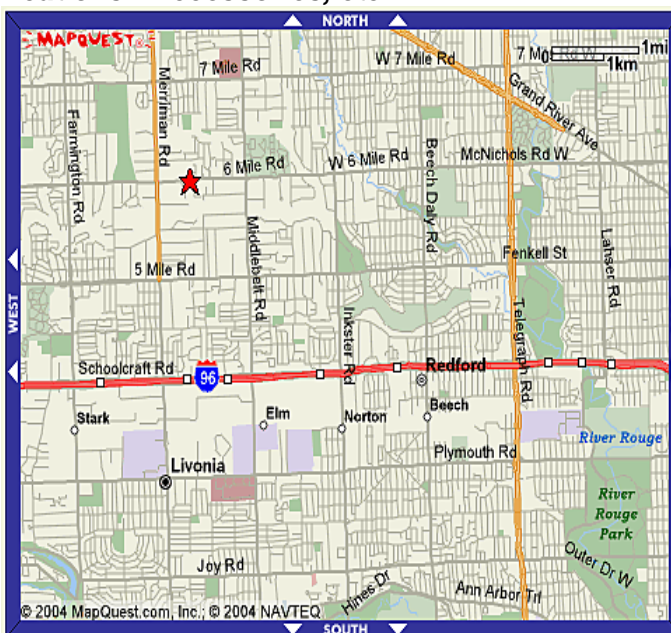
**Advanced Registration ends January 21, 2008.**

**Vendors, Manufacturers, Commercial, contact below for table, exhibit space and fees.**

**Doors Open:** 8:00am for setup. **Complimentary Coffee & Donuts provided by Rider's Hobby.**

**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 - by Jan. 21, 2008.**

**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 Blaszak via email: [key\\_string\\_guy@yahoo.com](mailto:key_string_guy@yahoo.com) or call (734) 425-9720, or John Kirchhoff via email: [riderslivonia@aol.com](mailto:riderslivonia@aol.com) or call (734) 425-9720**

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-9pm SAT 10am-6pm SUN Noon-5pm	<b>Gen. Manager:</b> John Kirchhoff <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.riders.com">http://www.riders.com</a>	30991 Five Mile Road Livonia MI 48154 Tele: (734) 425-9720 FAX: (734) 425-2029
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Happy and Safe Holidays

from all of us at Rider's...  
We appreciate your support!

