



STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 17, Number 9

September 2008

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Extreme Starburst

Dr. Tony Phillips

A star is born. A star is born. A star is born. Repeat that phrase 4000 times and you start to get an idea what life is like in distant galaxy J100054+023436.

Astronomers using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope and ground-based observatories found that the galaxy gives birth to as many as 4000 stars a year. For comparison, in the same period of time the Milky Way produces only about 10. This makes J100054+023436 an extreme starburst galaxy.

"We call it the 'Baby Boom galaxy,'" says Peter Capak of NASA's Spitzer Science Center at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, CA. "It is undergoing a major baby boom, producing most of its stars all at once. If our human population was produced in a similar boom, then almost all people alive today would be the same age."

Capak is lead author of a paper entitled "Spectroscopic Confirmation of an Extreme Starburst at Redshift 4.547" detailing the discovery in the July 10th issue of Astrophysical Journal Letters.

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Council of Presidents

President's Corner

Doug Bauer, FAAC President

On July 11, 2008, Bob Berta, of the Warren Astronomical Club, called to order a meeting of the Michigan Astronomical Societies Council of Presidents, with the presidents and representatives of the local astronomy clubs. He wanted to get a group together that could establish resource sharing between astronomy clubs in southeastern Michigan in order to serve our members and the general public better and more efficiently. Effectively sharing our strengths will help smaller and larger clubs alike offer more activities and offer more valuable ones.

In attendance were Michael Narlock (Cranbrook), Doug Bauer, Bob MacFarland (FAAC), John Lines, Ron Schank (Seven Ponds), and Bob Berta,

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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).

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.

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. 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.

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

Marty Kunz, Ken Bertin, Alan Kaplan, Cheryl Kaplan, and Jonathan Kade (Warren Astronomical Society).

A list of possible joint efforts was developed:

1. A shared large telescope
2. A dedicated dark sky observing site co-owned by all area clubs - this could be done in an affordable way by getting a joint loan
3. Sharing existing observing sites
4. Sharing presenters (specifically, internationally prominent speakers that single clubs cannot host on their own)
5. Coordinated event planning for the IYA, 2009.
6. Junior astronomy club affiliates and mentoring
7. Shared beginner's nights and observatory/observing site open houses
8. Joint field trips to of astronomical interest
9. Community projects (such as refurbishing the Lincoln Park High School observatory)
10. Shared astronomical libraries
11. Shared special interest groups (solar, photography, etc.)
12. Mass local sidewalk astronomy events coordinated by the clubs
13. Club newsletter sharing - add each other to email distribution lists
14. News updates during general meetings from other clubs, perhaps establish liaisons to other clubs to keep up with events and activities.

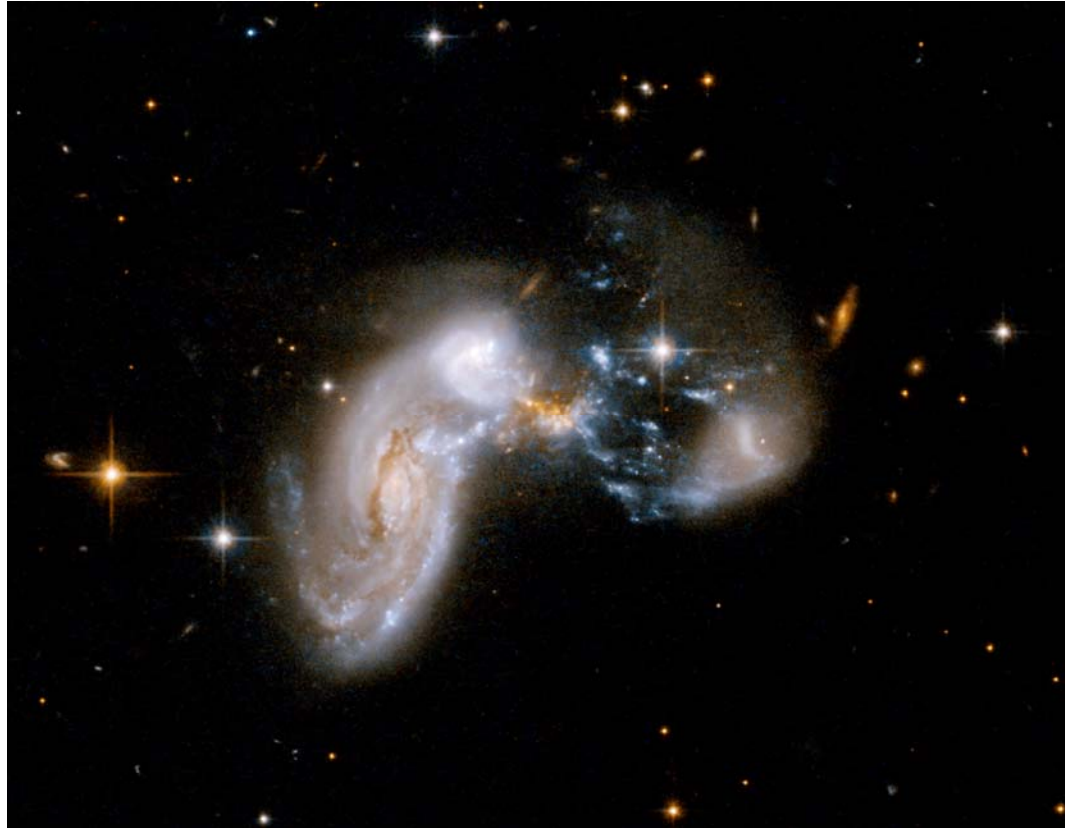
The final product of the Council of Presidents discussions would be a reciprocal resources agreement, formality of such determined later.

Michael Narlock discussed what Cranbrook as an institution can offer to SE Michigan clubs. They would be generally willing to host speakers of the caliber of Paul Goldsmith two to three times a year, including paying for their honorarium, travel, and lodging, if the clubs can guarantee attendance. The financial arrangement would work as it has for the Goldsmith talk.

Cranbrook will also be creating a promotional website for the International Year of Astronomy that will serve as a clearinghouse for SE Michigan astronomical news, activities, and events – including those of local clubs - and is intended to live beyond 2009. The site has been created and is still having content added. Please check it out at www.ASTROmichigan.org.

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Starburst ... (from page 1)



The “Baby Boom” galaxy loosely resembles the galaxy shown here, called Zw II 96, in this Hubble Space Telescope image. This galaxy is only 500 million light-years away, while the Baby Boom galaxy is 12.3 billion light-years away.

The galaxy appears to be a merger, a “train wreck” of two or more galaxies crashing together. The crash is what produces the baby boom. Clouds of interstellar gas within the two galaxies press against one another and collapse to form stars, dozens to hundreds at a time.

This isn’t the first time astronomers have witnessed a galaxy producing so many stars. “There are some other extreme starburst galaxies in the local universe,” says Capek. But the Baby Boom galaxy is special because it is not local. It lies about 12.3 billion light years from Earth, which means we are seeing it as it was 12.3 billion years ago. The universe itself is no older than 14 billion years, so this galaxy is just a youngster (Capek likens it to a 6-year-old human) previously thought to be incapable of such rapid-fire star production.

The Baby Boom galaxy poses a challenge to the Hierarchical Model of galaxy evolution favored by many astronomers. According to the Hierarchical Model, galaxies grow by merging; Add two small galaxies together, and you get a bigger galaxy.

In the early years of the universe, all galaxies were small, and they produced correspondingly small bursts of star formation when they merged. “Yet in J100054+023436, we see an extreme starburst. The merging galaxies must be pretty large.”

Capak and colleagues are busy looking for more Baby Boomers “to see if this is a one-off case or a common occurrence.” The theory of evolution of galaxies hangs in the balance.

Meanwhile... A star is born. A star is born. A star is born...

See more breathtaking Spitzer images at www.spitzer.caltech.edu/Media/mediainages. Kids can play the new Spitzer “Sign Here!” game at spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/spitzer/signs.

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

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

Mike Narlock noted that, while a meeting such as this is a great start, the enthusiasm generated must be turned into action. Momentum created by real successes, such as Phil Plait's talk earlier this year, generates more enthusiasm and more success. The Plait talk was an experiment that amply demonstrated the local community's ability to turn up attendees and made future presentations easier to justify.

On the topic of the fall Goldsmith talk, Mike Narlock said that around one hundred attendees is a justifiable number; two hundred is a full audience. If the clubs can really generate attendance, Cranbrook may be willing to have two talks: a members-only talk and a talk for the general public. The level of the presentation content may have to change slightly between such talks, or it might have to pitched somewhere in the middle.

The clubs are accepting registrations now. Final club sign-ups would be desired by Cranbrook on or before October 1. The club rate is \$8.

We need to support Cranbrook's efforts in order to get the speaker series going (see below).

Support Cranbrook Series

Doug Bauer

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

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

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

Institute Lecture Series Presents...

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

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

Pre-registration is required (call 248-645-3210).

Description: The Milky Way and other galaxies are readily recognized as containing billions of stars, and in fact, most of the matter we can readily identify is in the form of stars. But where do stars come from? From what are they made? And how does star formation take place? Paul Goldsmith, Chief Technologist for the Astronomy and Physics Directorate and Senior Research Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory will answer these questions and examine the evidence that star formation is an ongoing process. Goldsmith will also discuss some of the future space missions that are going to give us a much better view of how new stars and planets have been formed throughout cosmic time.

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

August 28 Meeting Minutes

Ken Anderson

Attendees: 38+

Doug Bauer started the FAAC meeting at 5:30 pm in the HFCC Rosenau conference room with introductions, and then pizza and pop. Doug reminded everyone that the next meeting September 25 will be in the HFCC Hackett Conference Room (NOT the normal HFCC Rosenau conference room)!

Sandra Macika incorporated beverage choices into the attendance roster to better serve club members at future meetings, but Ken will get the pop for the next meeting in her absence. Bob FitzGerald reminded people to sign up for membership tags if they haven't received one yet. The first one is complimentary, replacements are \$5. Bob will also be ordering 15 Canadian Handbooks for \$18.45 each (a \$14 savings over individual prices). Due to agenda tonight, Doug chose to skip member observations.

Sandra Macika gave a "Lick Observatory Update" tech talk. Ken Anderson and Sandra Macika gave the "Club Scope Proposal and Vote" tech talk.

The presentation and table is on the club website in the club telescope folder. Ken discussed the

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Minutes ... (from page 4)

proposal, specifications, and ideal scopes. Sandra presented Barnes and Nobles gift wrapping plus other fund/donation raising ideas. WE DEFINITELY NEED VOLUNTEERS IF THE CLUB TELESCOPE IS TO BECOME A REALITY! After lengthy discussions the club 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. Due to either timing, or wanting more time to think about it, the club decided not to discuss or vote on the ideal club telescopes. 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 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 6 ft (now 7 ft), a focal ratio TBD (now f3.57), 600 lbs est. (now 400 lbs), \$38000 retail est. from Webster Telescopes (with club member Eric Webster providing fee labor). Our next priority is to select a site with both Richmond Airfield and University of Michigan Low Brows site being prime contenders, since the board will not allocate any funds till an approved site is selected.

Bob Bertha from the Warren Astronomical Society gave the "Ultra Sensitive Video Presentation and WAS Outreach Program: main presentation. For video astronomy Bob uses a Celestron 8" SCTR Fast Star system with wide field digital imaging optical connector for f1.8 fast imaging with a small chip. The Starizona Hyperstar f1.8 in front of the SCT has an issue since you can not collimate the system. He experimented with video cameras on his 11" Celestron Fast Star, by hooking up a video camera in place of the secondary mirror, which did have a problem with some high noise hot spots since it was not cooled. Now smaller cooled cameras are available that can fit in your hand. The ability to collimate larger hardware is possible by becoming tilt able with three screws for rotation. In the old days equatorial or fork-mounted wedges were required for long exposures. Today's fast systems do not require polar alignment. Planets need only

1/2000-second imaging. Multiple exposures use 1/60 second, or a maximum of 5-6 seconds. Bob definitely recommends night photography Hydrogen alpha filters. It is as simple as pushing a start/stop button, where you plug into the output device such as a TV or security monitor. You can record directly to a camcorder (video in) for later playback. Optional accessories include a 1.25" nose in the eyepiece, and T-mount adapter, 35mm camera thread. Bob also has a Televue 85, spacers will filter threads, and SCT speed/resolution adapters. Video requires a fast system by incorporating a Hyperstar focal reducer.

A 10" black and white monitor can see up to magnitude 4 light pollution and you can take a 45 second picture of a TV screen monitor. Hydrogen alpha only picks up the red image. Ken did not understand why Bob said to "... not use a sky glow filter"? Bob talked about the difficulty to copy to video camera using contrast/brightness dials on the TV. Instead use the Cam camera adjustments. Finally when using a Nikon SLR with moiré glass focus either behind or in front of the glass.

The WAS outreach program brings astronomy to non-astronomers, such as the elderly, wheel chair, all handicaps (physical, mental) including visually impaired. They have given four presentations to 200 guests. For the visually impaired they use both Braille and textural pictures for constellations and deep sky objects. Some of their visually-impaired guests are able to see a bright TV. WAS volunteers in part to become Michigan exempt (5013c Tax exempt for tax write off donations), which requires giving back and helping the community. Perhaps FAAC may want to help out the community, like WAS?

Doug Bauer next led the business portion. Ken Anderson gave the Secretary's Report, and the August 28 minutes posted on the website and in the newsletter. Some date corrections were noted and posted on the website as August 28 FAAC Minutes#2, and in the club events section below. Bob Clubb's grandson Christopher Merrill and another student from West Utica Elementary School received the Science Olympiad Reach for the Stars 2nd place at Macomb County for moon phases, deep sky objects, and planet project and display. The minutes were accepted by the club. Steve Flessa gave the Treasurer's Report showing FAAC has about \$6000 plus \$2061 for

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Minutes ... (from page 5)

GLAAC. We have over \$1000 in both equipment and scholarship funds combined. Recent expenses include \$320 for insurance and \$300 for GLAAC.

Harold Thomason gave the Equipment Manager's Report accounting for everything, and jokingly said we need a replacement before we get a large club telescope. 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.

Ken Anderson, John Schroer, Greg Ozimek, Sandra Macika, Bob MacFarland, Steve Harvath, Eric Rasmussen, and Erik Webster are on the FAAC club telescope committee. Anyone else with experience with dobs 22" or greater, or having people skills getting donations or negotiating land use deals would be greatly appreciated. We are potentially seeking a large (22" to 36" diameter) semi-portable/non-permanent transportable (f3.5 to f4.5) short focal length dobsonian, which could be relocated for star parties, but be used mostly visually at the primary site of either Richmond Airfield or UM Lowbrows. A short focal length would increase safety and reduce the requirements for a tall ladder, at the additional expense of requiring a Tele Vue Paracorr coma corrector. If we select a telescope with eyepiece height greater than 10 feet, the long term would be to get go to and tracking to speed up guest throughput of the same object (vs. having to constantly relocate the object climbing up a ladder between guests).

Ken discussed the plan at the August 7 board meeting, and the board requested to have all cost for telescope, land use, storage before committing any funds; plus was not in favor of advertising for donations at September's AATB. As the next step, our committee is talking with and considering Richmond Airfield and University of Michigan Low Brows as a place to house/store the telescope plus be the primary observing site, and both requested 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. See today FAAC club vote results above in the tech talk.

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

Tim Dey is evaluating the Lincoln Park School observatory with F8-9 9' (85-98") long 12.5" diameter mirror for restoration. They also have an 8" reflector telescope. Unfortunately due to not being adequately covered, everything had bird droppings on it. Their last observing session was in 2001. Their dome still worked since maintenance consisted of an annual lube. They still have all their eyepieces. The FAAC board approved Tim's evaluating their state of equipment (Gordon Hansen and Dennis Salliotte), and determine what it would take (time and dollar wise) to restore their equipment. The 1964 German Equatorial 11" mirror needs to be recoated. Volunteers needed to pull mirror and evaluate. Perhaps a corporate sponsor could advertise name on the shed. A grant application was mailed out August 1st. OCP educational sales may evaluate a solar scope. Urban skies make it only good for bright objects. Greg Ozimek said Tim will find out in October if the grant will get approved. They also located the 1979 restoration contact.

John Schroer said all those who signed up for the Astronomical League will start receiving the October Reflector. Membership benefits can be found in star stuff or the club website.

Greg Ozimek reported sighting new crescent moons (after a new moon) with his new 80mm binoculars. He became interested in this by Bob Victor who in 1989 observed the youngest new crescent (in some cultures this signaled the official start of the month).

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

Meadowbrook and DSO "Concert Under the Stars" with Astronomy Aug 2nd. Don Klaser coordinating. Doug Bauer, Ken and Violet Anderson, Bob MacFarland, Bob FitzGerald, Frank Ancona, Sandra Macika, Dennis Salliotte, and John Shroer attending with solar and night scopes plus binoculars. Solar astronomy before and night astronomy from intermission until post concert/closing. Able to see the sun, Jupiter, M13, M57, Alberio, plus the Goodyear Blimp!

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Minutes ... (from page 6)

We met at TGIF as a group to eat before setting up at 5 pm.

Proud Lake State Park was officially rescheduled for August 30 - Paul Offberger coordinating, Doug Bauer contact, Astronomy 101, Dark Sky Preservation, Sky Tour, Telescope Observing 7-10 pm at the beach. Doug Bauer, Ken Anderson, Sandra Macika, and Dennis Salliotte attending, plus John Connop and Art Parent will be camping there that weekend too! Solar scopes welcome.

Abrahm's Planetarium will give 1.5 hour presentation September 3 and September 26-28 on great things to observe in 2009.

Astronomy At The Beach (AATB) September 5-6, Kensington Metropark at Maple Beach site (Not the old Martindale Beach site). Bob MacFarland has FAAC table volunteer sign-up sheet. We need to generate a list of everything we plan to sell and have the list reviewed (due to the light bracelet issue last year with site vendor exclusive rights). Last year we had 70 telescopes and 7,300 attendees. Next GLAAC planning meeting is Sunday TBD at 1 pm at the Nature Center. Contact Bob MacFarland or Bob Fitzgerald for details or future meetings. DSC will be bringing their portable planetarium again. Raffle prizes (Televue/Meade eyepieces, My Sky, Rider's Gift Certificates) will be available for all club members who present or set up telescopes to show the sky to the public. Amateur Radio Astronomy will be conducting real time radio and imaging. Reminder bike path must remain clear for bikers for every ones safety. The event is also listed in astromichigan.org

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

The 313-583-6566 hotline will be updated 1 hour before event to inform if cancelled. Planned dates are 9:30-11:30 pm on July 18, Aug 1, Aug 15, and November 1, 2008. Earlier 8-10:00 pm on Sep 5 (5-7 planets), Sep 23, and Oct 21, 2008. And earliest in the winter 6-8 pm on December 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009. For addition info see Astronomy.umd.umich.edu or call 313-593-5277 during normal business hours.

HFCC planetarium show "The Road Not Taken - Fall Sky" occurs every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm from Sep 9, 2008 to November 25, 2008.

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" display on the campus of HFCC. HFCC campus maps can be found at www.hfcc.edu/contact/locations.asp.

Eric Rasmussen may open the University of Michigan- Dearborn Observatory (third floor of UM-D's Science Learning Research Center) on September 23 and October 21 8:00-10 pm (if it is clear) immediately after the HFCC planetarium shows. The UM-D observatory will also be open Saturday November 1 from 9:30-11 pm for observing asteroid Vesta; Monday December 1 from 6-8 pm for observing Jupiter, Venus , and the Moon; and Thursday January 1, 2009 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. The HFCC and UM-D facilities are about a quarter mile apart, close enough to walk, but most will drive.

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next one October 9) at 5:30 pm. Until the end of the year meetings will be held in the HFCC Hackett Room (NOT the normal HFCC's Admin building Rosenau conference room)! Topic TBD.

Cincinnati Observatory September 13 1-10 pm has oldest refractor (1845) 16" Alvin Clark Refractor. Dinner and lecture with the author of the "Bad Astronomer."

Edison Boat Club Outreach is September 20 at 7 pm. Contact Gordon Hansen. We expect between 60-70 people (kids and adults) to attend. Bring your scope and let's show off the sky! Edison Boat Club is located at 100 Lycast in Detroit, near Conner and Jefferson.

FAAC meetings are every fourth Thursday of each month, with the next one 9/25/08 in the HFCC Hackett Conference Room (NOT the normally at HFCC Rosenau conference room)! Main Presentation is "Lowell Observatory" by Kevin Medon. The Tech Talk will be "iPhone / Touch Planetarium Software" by Gary Strumolo.

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Minutes ... (from page 7)

The FAAC Board meeting is the first Thursday of each month (October 2, 5 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn.

The FAAC Library and DVD collection is in HFCC Science Building Room 109. 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 Doug Bauer and V.P. Gordon Hansen are backup key holders for returning books.

Great Lake Star Gaze, September 25-28, Gladwin, put on by the Sunset Astronomical Society with numerous presentations, prizes, and dark skies! \$45 est. for pre-registration.

FAAC Astrophotography SIG's Dark Sky Workshop will be September 28 to October 5 at River Valley "on the hill" in Gladwin (immediately following the Star Gaze so we can keep tent/equipment set up on the hill!). This site has porta-potty, coffee, and generator on hill. Regular restrooms and a shower at bottom of hill. 1-1.5 hour presentation each day by Tony Licata, Gordon Hanson, John Kirchhoff, or Clay Kessler.

Advance registration (before Aug 28th) is \$15, otherwise \$20; plus \$5 for night on the hill. If you are attending the Star Gaze there is no reason to move! Stay put and enjoy more nights of dark skies. You don't need to be an imager - all are welcome. For more details please see the flyer page in this newsletter.

Last Beginner's Night of the year will be at both Lake Erie Metropark (Marshlands Museum) and Island Lake State Park (Spring Mill Pond), Saturday October 4 starting at dusk. Bring your telescope/binoculars, or look through others. Events are posted in the Park Bulletin board, Metropark Quarterly Newsletter, Ford World, and astromichigan.org

Cranbrook Astronomy Lectures will kick off October 17 at 7:30 pm with Dr. Paul Goldsmith presenting "Molecular Clouds and Star Formation." Advance reservation are recommended (starting after Labor Day) to get the reduced \$8 astronomy club price. Maximum of 200 seats are available.

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 GLAAC plan to bring more astronomy to the general public. Set up telescopes in your local community/neighborhood. Eric Rasmussen will be planning events at U o M (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 \$11, and you will be able to see Saturn and Jupiter with it. John is pre-ordering 100 of these telescopes. 2009 IYA Activities:

January 1, 6-8 pm U of M Dearborn Observatory
 January 10, Winter Observing (site TBD)
 March 28 8:30-9:30 pm World at Night (shut off your lights and enjoy the Milky Way!)
 May 2 Astronomy Day
 Florida Key Winter Star Party February 26.
 Astronomy Expo/Swap March 7

FAAC Club wares with embroidered five color club logo can be ordered up to August 15 through Diane Worth (prices are estimates heard by the secretary, and there may be additional cost for shipping): Ottoman "Official" Club Short Sleeve Shirt (black or white) \$37, Bill Blass Long Sleeve Dress Shirt (blue) \$42, Casual Club (blue) \$35, Hat \$19, patch \$9, Blanket nylon 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 is ordering 15 2009 Royal Canadian Handbooks for \$18.45 each (a \$14 savings over individual prices). 2009 Astronomy calendars for \$7 are sold out.

The FAAC is seeking 2007 speakers for both 30-60 minute Main Presentations, and 15-20 minute Tech Talks. Contact Doug Bauer at dougbauer@comcast.net or call 313-828-7385.

Meeting Agenda - Sept. 25

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

(For map see:

http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus_maps.pdf)

Opening/Introduction/Member Observing

Presentation: The Lowell Observatory – Kevin Medon

Tech Talk: The iPhone/iTouch Planetarium Software – Gary Strumolo

Club Business/Secretary/Treasurer/Equipment Reports

Club Projects/Committees/Member Support

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

* **Note:** The FAAC general meeting will be held in the Hackett room on September 25, and December 4, 2008. The SIG meetings will use the Hackett room on August 14, October 9, November 13, 2008, and February 12, 2009.

Vollbrecht Planetarium Shows Free (for FAAC)

FREE admission (\$56 value) is offered for FAAC members to any, and all, lecture/star shows this Fall in the 70-seat Southfield Vollbrecht Planetarium, 11900 Filmore, Southfield.

Senior astronomer and FAAC member Mike Best will wax eloquently from 7-8:30 p.m. each Friday starting November 14.

There will be handouts and door prizes. Non-members \$7, families \$21, by cash or checks made out to City of Southfield. Get lecture topics and a map at astromichigan.org under the 'EVENTS' tab. Call (734) 459-BEST for more information.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flessa

Account	9/21/2008 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking	\$ 1,393.87
Savings	\$ 2,472.28
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$ 3,866.15
Cash Account	
Cash	\$ 158.50
TOTAL Cash Account	\$ 158.50
Investment Accounts	
CD 1	\$ 1,062.60
CD 2	\$ 1,022.86
TOTAL Investment Accounts	\$ 2,085.46
Asset Accounts	
Equipment	\$ 772.96
Scholarship	\$ 340.05
TOTAL	\$ 1,113.01
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 7,223.12
Memo:	
GLAAC	\$1801.52

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 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 October 9, HFCC Hackett CR. Topics invited.

Don't forget! The Dark Sky Workshop 2008 is Sunday Sep 28th through Oct. 5th, at River Valley RV Camp, in Gladwin.

See the information on page 11.

Items for Sale

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

Crestliner mount (on wheels) available. Scope made by Nelson Lewis of Detroit Astronomical Society in 1962. Purchased 1981. Selling telescope for \$325.

Mount for \$200.

Contact Harold Thomason 313-584-7465

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

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 is \$425 or OBO.

The second item is a heated dew shield for a 6" Schmidt or Maksutov. It secures to the tube with the Velcro. This has been used once. Asking \$45.

Contact Tom Blaszak, key_string_guy@yahoo.com

Richmond Airfield Usage

Doug Bauer

I would like to remind everyone that our use of the SEMSA Airfield is restricted to only FAAC members and their accompanied guests.

We have been granted this access at the generous discretion of the SEMSA club, who own the property.

Jim Barnes, the president of SEMSA, send me a note that they have had non-FAAC members setting up telescopes at the Richmond Airfield. If you are using the site please bring your FAAC Name Tag or Membership card. If you find people with telescopes at the Richmond Airfield who are not FAAC Members or accompanied by a FAAC Member or a SEMSA member, inform them that they are trespassing on private property and ask that they leave. If you know of people who may be using the site on their own, please inform them

that they are not to use it unless they are a member of SEMSA or FAAC.

We will be sending Jim Barnes our current list of member names, so that they can check on people they see at their site. They will also inform people who are not FAAC or SEMSA member that they are trespassing and must leave and not return.

SEMSA has been very generous in allowing us to use the site, so let's make sure that no one is abusing their generosity, to ensure that we continue to be allowed to use it.

Also, if you go to Richmond Airfield, please remember to send a note on the Yahoo group to indicate that you used the site within 48 hours of your visit. If you have any problems with telling the whole Yahoo Group that you were there, please send a note me (DougBauer@Comcast.Net). As a condition of use we need to provide SEMSA with a monthly report of all who use the site.

AATB 2008 Expresses Thanks

Bob MacFarland

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Astronomy at the Beach event! You are to be congratulated for your piece of the action! Kensington Metropark authorities estimated that some 4,400 persons attended the event over Friday and Saturday nights. The combination of an excellently prepared facility by the Kensington Metropark team, the event planners, the financial sponsorship, our webmasters, the club and vender tables, the very informative presentations given by a host of talented speakers, the Portable Planetarium shows by the Detroit Science Center, the children's Scavenger Hunt and all of the club member field observing equipment and expertise made this a terrific event for everyone. Also, special appreciation goes out to Cathy Hurt of CO-OP Services Credit Union for funding for the signage to the new Maple Beach location. Without them, it's anyone's guess as to what our attendance might have been.

This year's event was financially underwritten by: the Astronomy Club at EMU; CO-OP Services Credit Union; Cranbrook Institute of Science; Detroit Science Center; Ford Amateur Astronomy Club; Huron-Clinton Kensington Metropark; Rider's Hobby Shops; Seven Ponds Astronomy Club; University Lowbrow Astronomers; and Warren Astronomical Society. Thank you all for your support!



2nd Annual

DARK SKY WORKSHOP

Hosted by
Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC)

Sunday, September 28-Sunday October 5, 2008

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

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

WORKSHOP:

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

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Nightly: Observing and imaging on the hill, under magnitude 6.5 skies.

Daytime: 1-1½ hour presentations: imaging techniques, equipment, software, etc.

Daily group processing sessions to learn techniques from others.

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

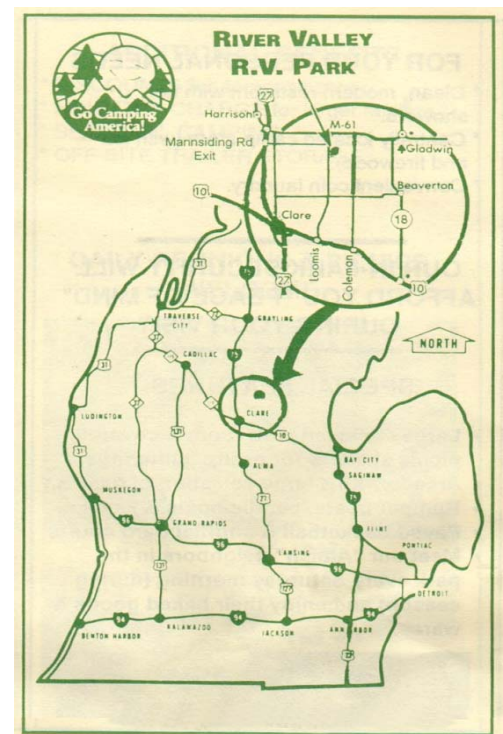
- **Tent Camping** (on observing hill) - **\$5.00 / night**
- **RV Site** (water & elec.) - **\$25.00 per night** (Please book and pay for your RV site directly with the campground)

Advanced registration ended August 28. Please send fees (payable to FAAC at address indicated below, if time permits) or contact one of those listed at bottom of page. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail, and number of guests: Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, P.O. Box 7527, Dearborn, MI 48121-7527

Please note: Our event immediately follows the Great Lakes Star Gaze.

Star Party etiquette would be appreciated! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

*Registration fee includes coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cookies available each evening.



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

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

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