



# STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 17, Number 3

March 2008

## In This Issue

### Page One

- Tracking Wildlife from Space
- President's Corner

### Inside Stuff

- 4 Meeting Minutes
- 6 Astro Imaging SIG
- 7 Next Meeting Agenda
- 7 Treasurer's Report
- 7 Items for Sale
- 7 2008 FAAC Calendar of Events
- 8 Beginner's Nights 2008
- 9 FAAC Dinner Banquet - 2008



## Tracking Wildlife from Space

Patrick L. Barry

It's 10 o'clock, and do you know where your Oriental Honey Buzzard is?

Tracking the whereabouts of birds and other migrating wildlife across thousands of miles of land, air, and sea is no easy feat. Yet to protect the habitats of endangered species, scientists need to know where these roving animals go during their seasonal travels.

Rather than chasing these animals around the globe, a growing number of scientists are leveraging the bird's-eye view of orbiting satellites to easily monitor animals' movements anywhere in the world.

The system piggybacks on weather satellites called Polar Operational Environmental Satellites, which are operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as well as a European satellite called MetOp. Sensors aboard these satellites pick up signals beamed from portable transmitters on the Earth's surface, 850 kilometers below. NOAA began the project—Argos—in cooperation with NASA and the French space agency (CNES) in 1974. At that time, scientists placed these transmitters primarily on buoys and balloons to study the oceans and atmosphere. As electronics shrank and new satellites' sensors became more sensitive, the transmitters became small and light enough by the 1990s that scientists could mount them safely on animals. Yes, even on birds like the Oriental Honey Buzzard.

*...continued on page 3*

---

## FAAC Reaches Out at Hillside

**President's Corner**

Doug Bauer, FAAC President

On March 13th, several FAAC members went to the Hillside Elementary School in Farmington Hills for an outreach program set up by Don Klaser. This outreach program was a part of the school's science fair and they had all of the students' science fair projects on display. There were more than 400 students and parents in attendance. Don brought the inflatable planetarium from the Detroit Science Center and gave planetarium

*...continued on page 2*

# STAR STUFF

MARCH 2008 - VOL. 17 - No. 3

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

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

PRESIDENT:	Doug Bauer
VICE PRESIDENT:	Gordon Hansen
SECRETARY:	Ken Anderson
TREASURER:	Steve Flessa
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Dale Ochalek

## CLUB INFORMATION

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC) meets on the fourth Thursday each month, except for the combined November/December meeting on the first Thursday of December – at Henry Ford Community College, Administrative Services and Conference Center in Dearborn. Refer to our website for a map and directions ([www.boonhill.net/faac](http://www.boonhill.net/faac)).

The FAAC observes at Spring Mill Pond within the Island Lake State Recreation Area near Brighton, Michigan. The club maintains an after-hours permit, and observes on Friday and Saturday nights, and nights before holidays, weather permitting. The FAAC also has use Richmond Airport, Unadilla, given prior permission, and Lake Erie MetroPark. See the FAAC Yahoo Group\* for more information.

Observing schedules and additional info are available on our website, or via the FAAC Yahoo Group.\* Or call the **FAAC Hotline**, for info, and leave a message, or ask questions: **248-207-2075**. Or send email inquiries to [fordastronomy@comcast.net](mailto:fordastronomy@comcast.net).

Membership in the FAAC is open to anyone with an interest in amateur astronomy. The FAAC is an affiliate of the Ford Employees Recreation Association (F.E.R.A.). Membership fees:

Annual – New Member:	\$30	(\$15 after July 1)
Annual – Renewal:	\$25	(\$30 after January 31)

Membership includes the *STAR STUFF* newsletter, discounts on magazines, discounts at selected area equipment retailers, and after-hours access to the Island Lake observing site.

## ASTRONOMY or SKY & TELESCOPE MAGAZINE DISCOUNTS

Obtain the required form from the FAAC club treasurer for a \$10 discount. Send the completed form directly to the respective publisher with your subscription request and payment. Do not send any money directly to the FAAC for this.

## STAR STUFF NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Your submissions to *STAR STUFF* are more than welcome! Send your story and/or images to the editor at [dake00k@yahoo.com](mailto:dake00k@yahoo.com). Email text or MS Word is fine. *STAR STUFF* will usually go to press the weekend prior to each general meeting. Submissions received prior to that weekend can be included in that issue.

\* FAAC Members are welcome to join our **FordAstronomyClub** Yahoo! Group. Messages, photos, files, online discussions, and more! URL: [groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub).

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

presentations from 6:00 – 10:00 PM. Bob MacFarland gave our Astronomy 101 Junior presentation three times during the evening in one of the music rooms. Larry Halstead and I set up our telescopes outside on a basketball court and offered views of the Moon, Saturn, Mars and Orion Nebula to hundreds of people.

It is really special when we attend these events and actually have clear skies. Originally I was going to help Bob with one Astronomy 101 presentation. We were going to have the telescopes setup in the room to show people the equipment, and then move the equipment outside for some viewing. We really didn't know how many students would be there. When we found out that there would be hundreds of people, we decided we needed three Astronomy 101 presentations and that it would be better to set the scopes up outside all during the event. That is called dynamic programming!

It worked out very well. I really enjoy showing people (kids and adults) the view through a telescope. Many people have never looked through a telescope and the comments are always very satisfying. "Oh my God!", "You've got to see this!", "Is that real?", "Dad, you've got to see this!", "Look at all of those craters!", "I see aliens!", "Can we see the Apollo Lunar Bases?" ... "This is really c-o-o-l!"

The most interesting are the people that don't want to stop looking. One child about eight years old, just stayed glued, mesmerized to the eyepiece looking at Saturn and then around the scope to see where it was pointing and back to the eyepiece until the people behind him started to get impatient.

Another man mentioned that his in-laws were here visiting from Japan and had never looked through a telescope. They were so thankful for the effort our club made to be there to give them that opportunity.

It is one of our club's missions to provide outreach opportunities and get people interested in Astronomy and science. These events really fulfill this mission.

My personal thanks go out to all of you who organize and participate in these events!

Doug Bauer

Wildlife from Space ... (from page 1)

"Scientists just never had the capability of doing this before," says Christopher O'Connors, Program Manager for Argos at NOAA.

Today, transmitters weigh as little as 1/20th of a pound and require a fraction of a watt of power. The satellites can detect these feeble signals in part because the transmitters broadcast at frequencies between 401 and 403 MHz, a part of the spectrum reserved for environmental uses. That way there's very little interference from other sources of radio noise.

"Argos is being used more and more for animal tracking," O'Connors says. More than 17,000 transmitters are currently being tracked by Argos, and almost 4,000 of them are on wildlife. "The animal research has been the most interesting area in terms of innovative science."

For example, researchers in Japan used Argos to track endangered Grey-faced Buzzards and Oriental Honey Buzzards for thousands of kilometers along the birds' migrations through Japan and Southeast Asia. Scientists have also mapped the movements of loggerhead sea turtles off the west coast of Africa. Other studies have documented migrations of wood storks, Malaysian elephants, porcupine caribou, right whales, and walruses, to name a few.

Argos data is available online at [www.argos-system.org](http://www.argos-system.org), so every evening scientists can check the whereabouts of all their herds, schools, and flocks. Kids can learn about some of these endangered species and play a memory game with them at:

[spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/poes\\_tracking](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/poes_tracking).

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

*The ARGOS program tracks the whereabouts of endangered migrating animals via miniature transmitters on the animals and the POES satellites in orbit.*



## February 28 Meeting Minutes

Ken Anderson

Attendance: 32+

Ken Anderson started the FAAC meeting at 5:35 pm in the HFCC Tech Ghafari conference room with introductions, and pizza and pop. We welcomed new member Art Parent who enjoys observing, and first time guest Sandra Macikia who owns a 14.5" telescope. Ken observed some of O'Meara's "Hidden Treasures" in Lepus and Orion. Observations regarding the February 20 lunar eclipse are listed at the end of the minutes in the events portion.

New club president, Doug Bauer led the business portion. Ken Anderson gave the Secretary's Report, and January minutes were accepted and approved, with one correction pointed out from Jim Frisbie and Harold Thomason; our club never purchased a laptop. Ken then re-read the proposed Article 2 Membership "Section 3.5 Misuse of Laser Pointer" amendment word-for-word from page 4 of our January 2008 Star Stuff newsletter. We were able to vote today since today's attendance of 32 members exceeded the required quorum of 17 members (at least half the average attendance of the last three meetings ( $>17 = 0.5 \times (31 + 34 + 36) / 3$ ). The new amendment was approved with 25-26 in favor vs. three opposed. After the vote the three who opposed were asked to voluntarily state their reasons, which they did. Outgoing treasurer Gordon Hanson said his final Treasurer's Report will be in the newsletter; and we received \$630 from swap meet admissions, sold \$164 in club apparel, and had over \$350 of expenses. Just before the meeting old and new presidents and treasures transferred over the club account at DFCU. New Treasurer Steve Flessa will give next month's Treasurer's report.

Lastly, Doug and Gordon reminded everyone they still had some seats remaining for the FAAC Club Banquet March 29 (see flyer page in this newsletter).

Harold Thomason gave the Equipment Manager's Report accounting for everything. Our club also owns a 10x10-ft. canopy, laptop projector (excluding laptop), screen, sound system, bullhorn, and sky quality meter. Frank Ancona previously mentioned, we may be receiving an 8" Blue SCT (Diva Mac) and eyepiece donation; but Harold has not heard or seen anything official. 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.

Ken Anderson, John Schroer, Greg Ozimek, Bob MacFarland, Erik Webster and Doug Bock have agreed to be on the FAAC club telescope committee. Anyone else with experience with dob(s) 22" or greater, or having people skills getting donations or negotiating land use deals would be greatly appreciated. We are potentially seeking a large (30" or greater) semi-permanent but transportable short focal length dobsonian, which could be relocated for star parties. A short focal length would increase safety and reduce the requirements for a tall ladder, at the additional expense of a Tele Vue Paracorr. Webster Telescopes has agreed to provide free labor if our club purchases the raw materials for a 36" or larger "worthy" Webster telescope. The Big Dob yahoo group site also recommended having tracking to speed up guest throughput of the same object (vs. having to constantly refind the object climbing up a ladder between guests); however one supplier said this upgrade may cost an additional \$4-5 thousand). John Schroer suggested we may be able to get a large dob donated to us. This committee would also seek land to house/store the telescope and the primary observing site. The goal would be club members would only need to bring eyepieces and key, to open up, and start observing. Gordon Hanson advised us our club only has \$5000, some of which is allocated to GLAAC, etc. Our Richmond fee is only \$300 to their club picnic, since we do not have anything permanent at their airfield.

The group then left for the Tech Talk and Main Presentation in the HFCC Science Building Planetarium. Dennis Salliotte prepared the planetarium before we arrived.

Ken Anderson gave the Tech Talk, describing the Spitz A3P Planetarium hardware. The star ball consists of over 1400 holes plus lenses and color gel filters for brighter stars. A film is used over some holes to simulate nebular objects (M31, M44) and the Milky Way Galaxy. The 75-watt Xenon arc lamp provides the light for naked-eye "prime sky." The geocentric Earth projector projects a silhouette of Earth's surface continents with the equatorial coordinate system as viewed from the center of the Earth outward to the sky. The five naked-eye planet (and one unused moon) projectors shoot a beam of light to the planet analog and gear system with mirror reflecting the planets to appear close to their

*...continued on page 5*

## Minutes ... (from page 4)

positions on the dome (this is the part which requires the most calibration maintenance, since it is off from last year).

Ken demonstrated the projection orrery which shows the motion of naked eye planets around the sun. It can be used to demonstrate Kepler's laws of planetary motion, by showing orbital speed vs. distance from the sun; Ken also likes to use it to demonstrate significant current astronomical events like opposition and max elongation. The meridian projector splits the east-west sky with the 0-90 degree meridian going from northern to southern horizon through the zenith. This may also separate a.m. times from p.m. The ecliptic projectors show the path of the Sun, and the months it will be there (usually the opposite season we are showing in the night sky), and marks the zodiac constellations. The coordinate projector shows a partial Earth equatorial coordinate system with horizontal latitude circles of declination and vertical longitude lines of right ascension.

After the Tech Talk, Ken led the Main Presentation, the "Fall Sky" planetarium show (created by HFCC's Mike Lapresto). At the end of the show slides were shown of Mars and Saturn, the current visible planets in the sky. Ken and other club members shared facts about both planets. The meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm.

In club events:

George and Pat Korody, Gordon Hansen, Doug Bauer plus many other club members attended the Winter Star Party in the Florida Keys this past February, and were able to see Omega Centauri among other southern objects. More club members are encouraged to attend next year.

The 5th Annual Astronomy Expo and Swap meet took place February 16 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, with indoor planetarium, solar observing with Ken's Coronado Max Scope 40mm, plus raffle door prizes from Televue, Edmonds Scientific, Sky & Telescope, and Astronomy magazines. There were six presentations including Fred Adams of University of Michigan, Dr Karen Bjorkman from University of Toledo, and Gordon Hansen's Astronomy 101. The event was promoted on WDET-FM and WTVS (channel 56), and in the Detroit Free Press. Gordon Hansen said we received \$630 from 124 swap meet admissions, 17 tables, and two vendors. We sold \$164 of club apparel. Our club expenses were over \$350. Thanks to sponsors Rider's of

Livonia and the Great Red Spot, and to Tom Blaszk for leading and making it a success!

The "Total Eclipse of the Moon" event (February 20) had two sites which FAAC supported:

Marshlands Museum in Lake Erie Metropark 7:30-11 pm. Gordon Hansen reported 30 attended, six with 10-12" telescopes, and two with binoculars.

The Detroit Science Center hosted observing from their parking lot, and had a big projection inside on the wall (where it was warmer) and they could remotely observe from Adler (with 800 others) and Cranbrook (650 others plus Channel 7, WXYZ-TV). John Schroer gave DSC Planetarium lunar eclipse shows and Cafeteria remained open for the 450 guests who participated. Ken Anderson brought both his 17.5" dob and 25x100 binoculars (which three boy scouts helped manually track). Don Klaser, Diane Worth, and Jeff from the Warren Astronomical Society all brought their telescopes. Channel 4 WDIV-TV was present, filming for the local news.

Although not part of any formal club observing sessions, Ed Halash observed with his 25x100 binoculars in Florida, and Randy and Pam Smith took a really nice series of lunar eclipse astro-images (edited from a total of 117) with their Williams Optics and Olympus SLR from their home in Canton.

Messier Marathon March 8 (alternative date April 5) was planned for Lake Hudson (due to cloudy weather before midnight, we will pursue the alternate date). John Kirchoff will bring his trailer for participants to warm up and take a rest break mid-evening.

Hillside Elementary Outreach – Farmington Hills (near 11 Mile Rd. and Drake) is scheduled for March 13, 5:30-9 pm. Seeking volunteers to bring telescopes for the event. DSC will be there with their portable planetarium. For information contact Don Klaser.

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next one March 13) at 5:30 pm at HFCC Rosenau conference room, with the Tony Licata discussing "Processing Techniques."

FAAC meetings are every fourth Thursday of each month (next one March 27) normally at HFCC, in the HFCC Rosenau conference room. Main Presentation will be Gary Strumollo's "Saturn Serenade." George Korody will lead the Tech Talk "Computer Planetarium Software" using The Sky V6. The FAAC Board meeting is the first Thursday

*..continued on page 6*

## Minutes ... (from page 5)

of each month (March 6, 5 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn, MI. Doug Bauer had samples of the proposed club badge. 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.

The FAAC Library in HFCC Science Center, conference room 109 may be opened one hour before FAAC meeting. Gary Stahl recommends a courtesy e-mail a day before the meeting.

FAAC Club Banquet at Station 885, 885 Starkweather (3 blocks north of Plymouth Rd, east of downtown), Plymouth, March 29, 6pm – Doug Bauer. \$30 per person. Please pay Treasurer Steve Flessa or contact Doug Bauer (dougbauer@comcast.net, 313-828-7385) in advance. Speaker is Todd Flescher from the DSC. See announcement page in this newsletter.

George and Pat are seeking small item contributions/donations for raffle. A few tickets are still left (sold 57 out of 64). Dress is business casual (club shirt optional), suits are okay.

(P.S. George says Pat's shoulder operation was successful, but he does miss the good cooking. We all wish Pat a speedy recovery!)

Lights Out America is March 29, 8-9 pm, and will demonstrate the effect of light pollution (enjoy the Milkyway!), and energy waste and potential energy savings. Everyone is requested to turn off outside lighting between 8-9.

Every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm from April to June, FAAC's Dennis Salliotte, Bob Clubb, and Ken Anderson will present the new "Spring Sky" show in the HFCC planetarium. Shows are free and first-come, first-serve. Doors open around 7:15 pm and close promptly at 7:30 pm. Sometimes, Ken brings his binoculars to show highlights outside in the parking lot. FAAC members will see this performance at February's meeting. Bob Clubb has created a FAAC/HFCC Planetarium webpage. Dr. Jacobs and Mike Lapresto have created a Tour of the Solar System at the HFCC campus.

Beginner's Night dates are on Saturdays (nearest the first quarter moon) - May 10 (Astronomy Day), June 7, July 12, August 9, October 4 - at both Lake Erie MetroPark (Marshlands Museum) and Island Lake State Park (Spring Mill Pond).

Gordon Hansen has submitted annual permits for Lake Erie MetroPark. Ken Anderson will submit annual permit for Island Lake State Park.

Astronomy Day May 10 features DSC Solar Observing, a Photo Contest for Deep Sky, and Lunar/Planetary photos.

Astronomy at the Beach (AATB) is September 5-6, Kensington MetroPark. Kensington is seeking recommendations for a new pavilion (next year), acknowledging that the GLAAC AATB brings in more people than any other single event at the park. Next GLAAC planning meeting date is at the Nature Center, date TBD at 1 pm. Contact Bob MacFarland or Bob FitzGerald for details.

This year's Great Lake Star Gaze is September 25-28, at River Valley RV site, Gladwin, MI. The next Dark Sky workshop will be September 29-October 5 at River Valley in Gladwin, MI (immediately following the Star Gaze, so we can keep equipment set up!).

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009) celebrating the 400th year of the telescope (Galileo's). American Astronomy Society and Astronomical League are celebrating "International Year of the Telescope." Astronomy Day will be advertised more, and we may get additional support for our AATB. DSC, Cranbrook, FAAC, and GLAAC 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.

Gordon Hansen has sweatshirts, shirts, hats, and patches available for purchase from Diane Worth's last order. Gordon has new small logo on chest stenciled \$10 T-shirts and \$20 sweatshirts, which were available for the SESMA/FAAC picnic.

The 2008 Astronomy calendars are available for \$7. Also, Greg Ozimek ordered 10 Royal Canadian Beginner Guides to get the bulk discount, as yet undetermined. Handbooks are now in. Please contact Steve Flessa if interested.

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.

---

## SIG - Astro Imaging

The next SIG meeting is Thursday, April 10, HFCC in Dearborn, in the Administrative Services and Conference Bldg. (same as FAAC General meeting). Drive up to the faculty lot gate; it opens allowing parking closer to the site. Topic TBD.

## Meeting Agenda - March 28

5:30 pm Opening/Introduction/Member Observing

**Tech Talk: Home Planetarium Software (TheSky 6)** – George Korody

**Presentation: Saturn Serenade** – Gary Strumolo

**Secretary / Treasurer/ Equipment Reports**

**Club Projects/Committees/Member Support**

- Lunar Eclipse Lake Erie Metropark
- Astro-Imaging SIG - Tony Licata
- Club Banquet – Saturday, March 29- Doug Bauer
- Outreach at Proud Lake Recreation Area on
- April 20 – Earth Day (3 – 6 pm Campfire Lunch, 7 – 10 pm Astronomy 101 and observing)
- Dark Sky
- Club Telescope Committee
- Astronomical League Membership

## Treasurer's Report

1/23/2008 Balance

### Bank Accounts

Checking	\$	402.55
Savings	\$	2,646.66
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$	3,049.21

### Cash Accounts

Cash Account	\$	89.94
TOTAL Cash Accounts	\$	89.94

### Investment Accounts

Certificate of Deposit	\$	2,041.51
------------------------	----	----------

### Asset Accounts

Equipment	\$	359.96
Scholarship	\$	463.05
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$	823.01

**OVERALL TOTAL** \$ 6,003.67

### Memo:

GLAAC \$2,015.62

## Items for Sale

**Celestron SCT 6"**, XLT coatings, eyepiece, diagonal, finder, \$485, barely used. Also, wooden heavy duty surveyor tripod and bino mount, \$110, and heated dew shield for a 6" schmidt for \$50. Tom: key\_string\_guy@yahoo.com

## Items for Sale (cont. 'd)

**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.

**Orion XT10 Intelliscope** for sale/trade. With computerized object locator, Orion soft OTA bag, new 2" crayford focuser and 1.25" adapter, Bob's knobs on secondary, custom baffle/cooling fan for primary, 8X50 RACI finder, Telrad base, custom stalk for COL. Two years old, excellent, nice star test. New focuser just installed. \$650/neg. Or get other focuser (Moonlite) CR2 for \$200 more. Willing to trade (for nice APO refractor). Jim Moscheck 313-386-6944, 313-320-9260 cell

## FAAC Events 2008

Bob MacFarland

- March** 29 – All Day Lights Out America  
29 – Annual Club Banquet
- April** 5 – Messier Marathon (Lake Hudson)
- May** 10 – Beginners' Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie MetroPark
- June** 7 – Beginners' Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie MetroPark
- July** 12 – Beginners' Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie MetroPark
- August** 9 – Beginners' Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie MetroPark
- September** 5-6 – Astronomy at the Beach – GLAAC, Kensington Park  
25-28 – Great Lakes Star Gaze, Gladwin  
29-Oct 4 – Astro-Imaging Workshop, Gladwin
- October** 4 – Beginner's Night - Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie MetroPark



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



*The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club,*

*Rider's Hobby Shop of Livonia, and*

*The Detroit Science Center* invite you to

**Beginner's Nights - 2008** now at both

***Lake Erie MetroPark and Island Lake State Recreation Area!***

May 10<sup>th</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, & October 4<sup>th</sup>

from 7:00 pm to Midnight

(Arriving at 7 pm will allow you to get help during daylight)

Do you have a new telescope that you are learning to use? Do you want to see samples of what the night sky has to offer? Consider coming out to *Lake Erie MetroPark* or *Island Lake State Recreation Area* on *Beginner's Night*. These nights are dedicated to providing equipment and observing assistance to new astronomers

*(Weather permitting)* The event will take place on the date indicated regardless of sky conditions, cloudy or clear. *If it is raining, the event will be cancelled.*

The Island Lake site is at the "Spring Mill Pond" parking lot/picnic area, at the *Island Lake State Recreation Area*, on Kensington Road, south of I-96 between South Lyon and Brighton.

The *Lake Erie MetroPark* site is the south end of the "Cove Point" picnic area, at the *Lake Erie Metropark*, on West Jefferson Road, north of Huron River Drive, east of I-75 in Brownstown Twp.

For more info contact **Gordon Hansen** at 734-675-6137 or email Gordon at [fordastronomy@comcast.net](mailto:fordastronomy@comcast.net)

*The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club observes at the Lake Erie MetroPark or the Island Lake site on Friday and Saturday evenings year-round, provided skies are clear. You are welcome to visit the observing site on any weekend, but you must be with a club member to observe after 10 pm. Call 1-248-207-2075 to find out if anyone is going out to the sites on any particular night.*



# FAAC Dinner Banquet 2008

*Saturday, March 29, 2008  
6:00 pm until ?*

## Astro Slide Show – Prizes – Astro-Jeopardy

**LOCATION:** Station 885, located at 885 Starkweather, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, 734-459-0885.

### Dinner Selections:



*10oz. Prime Rib of Beef au Jus with Roasted Potatoes*

or

*Salmon with Rice Pilaf*

or

*Chicken Piccata with Linguini*



*Dinner includes bread, fresh mixed vegetable medley, and a mixed green salad*

*Dessert: Peach Cobbler*



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.

**ADMISSION:** \$30 per person.

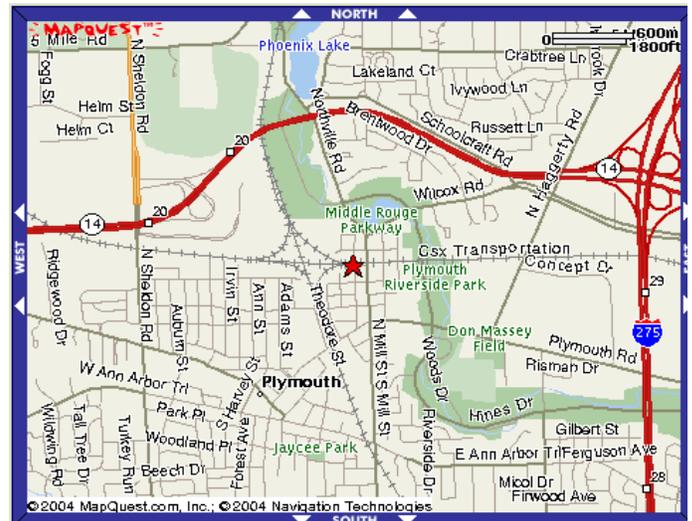
**Cocktails 6:00 pm (cash bar), Dinner 7 pm.**

**Make Checks Payable:** Please pay Steve Flessa at the General Meeting, or contact Doug Bauer via email: DougBauer@comcast.net or call (248) 828-7385.

"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, **Station 885** is located 3 blocks north of Plymouth Road, just east of downtown Plymouth. \* **See STAR on map\***



**For More Information:** Contact Doug Bauer via email: DougBauer@comcast.net or call (248) 828-7385

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



# RIDER'S<sup>®</sup>

## HOBBY SHOPS

**Store Hours:**  
M-F 10am-7pm  
SAT 10am-6pm  
SUN Noon-5pm

**Gen. Manager:** John Kirchhoff  
**Email:** livonia@riders.com  
**http://www.riders.com**

30991 Five Mile Road  
Livonia MI 48154  
Tele: (734) 425-9720  
FAX: (734) 425-2029

Rider's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Spring Open House**

**Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**10am - 6pm**

**Great Storewide Savings... All Day Long!**