



STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 19, Number 8

August 2010

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The Turbulent Tale of a Tiny Galaxy

By Dr. Tony Phillips

Next time you hike in the woods, pause at a babbling stream. Watch carefully how the water flows around rocks. After piling up in curved waves on the upstream side, like the bow wave in front of a motorboat, the water speeds around the rock, spilling into a riotous, turbulent wake downstream. Lightweight leaves or grass blades can get trapped in the wake, swirling round and round in little eddy currents that collect debris.

Astronomers have found something similar happening in the turbulent wake of a tiny galaxy that is plunging into a cluster of 1,500 galaxies in the constellation Virgo. In this case, however, instead of collecting grass and leaves, eddy currents in the little galaxy's tail seem to be gathering gaseous material to make new stars.

"It's a fascinating case of turbulence [rather than gravity] trapping the gas, allowing it to become dense enough to form stars,"

says Janice A. Hester of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

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The 2nd Annual FAAC Multi-Club Picnic

President's Corner

On Saturday, Aug 7th, FAAC held its second annual Multi-Club Picnic. There were between 40 and 50 people who attended, including many significant others and children (not that they aren't significant). It is nice to meet the families of the various club members. We had many members from the other area clubs attend as well. It is interesting to see people's faces in the daylight. Many times we talk to people in the dark as we are observing and never really see them. Sometimes I am better able to identify people by their voice than their face.

We had two grills going cooking hamburgers, hotdogs, salmon patties, and veggie burgers.

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STAR STUFF

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STAR STUFF is published eleven times each year by:

FORD AMATEUR ASTRONOMY CLUB
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VICE PRESIDENT: Chuck Jones
SECRETARY: Lori Poremsky / Kevin Medon
TREASURER: Gordon Hansen
WEBMASTER: Greg Ozimek
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Greg Knekleian

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 Administration 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 a private observing site near Gregory Michigan and Lake Erie Metro Park. 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 Members: \$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 subscriptions 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 pvideo@aol.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 Ford Astronomy Club Yahoo!Group. Messages photos, files, online discussions, and more! URL: groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub.

This months background photos of the moon Page 1 courtesy of John Kirchhoff. See more of John's photos at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33926475@N06/with/4311533997/>

Presidents Corner *(continued from Page 1)*

The hamburgers, hotdogs and salmon burgers were provided at cost by Jim Moscheck from his meat market. Greg Knekleian picked up the meats from Moscheck's Meat Market on the way out to the park. This year Joyce Cushion's grandson, Cody Holoday (age 10), walked up to me as I was setting up the grill and asked if he could grill the burgers. He said he likes to cook and cooks at home, so I turned the duties over to him. He did a get job. Watch out Chef Gordon Ramsay! Lori Poremsky grilled the hotdogs, salmon burgers and veggie burgers on her grill. There were many salads available in the inflatable pool (provided by Lori) filled with ice to keep the salads cool. Lori brought a second pool for the beverages this year. George and Pat Korody again treated everyone to corn on the cob, fresh from their garden. It was really a sweet treat!

Everyone seemed to be having a good time chatting.

At dark, the skies cleared (much different than last year) and we were able to do some observing.

Ken Anderson had developed an observing challenge with a list of many objects to observe and asked that teams of three work together. Each team should include different observing skill levels and different types of scopes. It wasn't really a contest as much as a chance to work together and learn and observe through different equipment. Although there were only about 10 people with telescopes we had a lot of fun finding the objects.

This year I brought my 10 inch LX200 instead of my 16 inch Lightbridge. I had too much stuff for the picnic and couldn't fit the Lightbridge into the van. I had just purchased a SkyFi WiFi connector for my LX 200 which allows you to control the telescope wirelessly with an Apple iTouch or iPhone and the SkyVoyager application.

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In the ultraviolet image on the left, from the Galaxy Evolution Explorer, galaxy IC 3418 leaves a turbulent star forming region in its wake. In the visible light image on the right (from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey), the wake with its new stars is not apparent.



The Turbulent Tale of a Tiny Galaxy

(continued from Page 1)

The tell-tale galaxy, designated IC 3418, is only a hundredth the size of the Milky Way and hardly stands out in visible light images of the busy Virgo Cluster. Astronomers realized it was interesting, however, when they looked at it using NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer satellite. "Ultraviolet images from the Galaxy Evolution Explorer revealed a long tail filled with clusters of massive, young stars," explains Hester.

Galaxies with spectacular tails have been seen before. Usually they are behemoths—large spiral galaxies colliding with one another in the crowded environment of a busy cluster. Tidal forces during the collision pull gas and stars of all ages out of these massive galaxies to form long tails. But in IC 3418, the tail has just young stars. No old stars.

"The lack of older stars was one tip-off that IC 3418's tail isn't tidal," says Hester. "Something else must be responsible for these stars"

Hester and eight coauthors published their findings in the June 10, 2010, issue of The Astrophysical Journal Letters. The team described the following scenario: IC 3418 is speeding toward the center of the Virgo cluster at 1,000 kilometers per second. The space

between cluster galaxies is not empty; it is filled with a gaseous atmosphere of diffuse, hot hydrogen. Thus, like a bicyclist coasting downhill feels wind even on a calm day, IC 3418 experiences "a stiff wind" that sweeps interstellar gas right out of the little galaxy, said Hester—gas that trails far behind its galaxy in a choppy, twisting wake akin to the wake downstream of the rock in the babbling brook. Eddy currents swirling in the turbulent wake trap the gas, allowing it to become dense enough to form stars.

"Astronomers have long debated the importance of gravity vs. turbulence in star formation," Hester noted. "In IC 3418's tail, it's ALL turbulence."

To many astronomers, that's a surprising tale indeed. See other surprising UV images from the Galaxy Evolution Explorer at <http://www.galex.caltech.edu>. Kids (and grownups) can play the challenging new Photon Pileup game at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/galex/photon/>

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

Presidents Corner *(continued from page 2)*

It took me 3 or 4 attempts before I got everything connected correctly and was able to establish a working link between the telescope and my iTouch, but once it was working, it worked great! With a sky map in the palm of my hand, I could select objects and with a tap on the GOTO button on the iTouch screen move the scope to the object. This made finding 34 of the objects on Ken's list very easy. Since the sky at Island Lake has a fair amount of light pollution many of the stars near or above the horizon were not visible, so finding objects in that area without GOTO is really difficult. Luckily, my telescope was very well aligned and when the slewing stopped the objects were always in the eyepiece. I really enjoyed spending time looking at Jupiter with the missing belt. Additionally, I was able to observe: Venus, Mars, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

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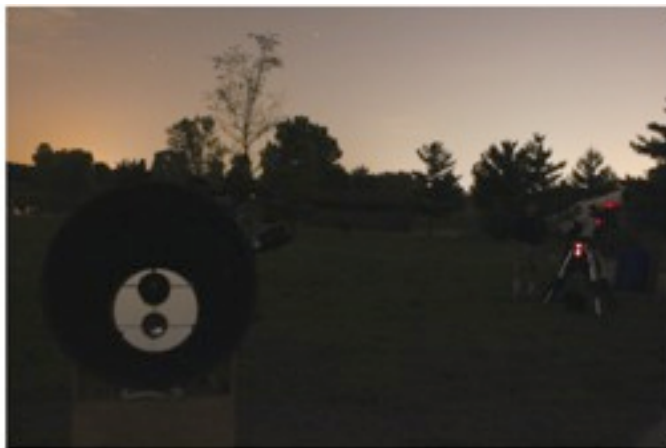
(Above)

Gordon Hanson checks out the view through Steve Harvath's 6 inch "Tak".

Photos From: *(Editor's Canon T1i 3200 ISO 20 second exposures, brightened.)*



Some observers viewing during excellent night viewing Art Art Parent's 10 inch SCT and Milton Antonick's large D&G refractor in photo above.



Ken Anderson's Discovery Dob faces South. Steve Harvath's 6 inch Takahashi refractor in top right provided nice views. Below: Mohammed Mroe's 8 inch Meade SCT showed some really nice high powered views of the Ring Nebula.





Presidents Corner (continued from Page 4)

The skies remained clear even as we packed up around 2:00 AM.

All in all, it was a fun evening. If you weren't able to attend, you missed a good time. I hope you can make it to next year's event.

Special thanks to all who attended and brought things for the picnic! A special thanks to Cody for the fine job grilling the hamburgers!

Doug Bauer

DougBauer@Comcast.Net

Without brightening, you wouldn't see Doug in the above photo, the skies were very dark. Clouds threatened in the north for a short time during the night's observing, but soon moved on.



Above: Sean Swisz checks out a star chart with his 10 inch dob just out of the photo. Island Lake Multi-Club Picnic.



Left: As dinner started to wind down: Astronomers and visitors did a little solar observing through a very nice Hydrogen Alpha rig,
Below: Some broke out binoculars for the nights observing.



Treasurer's Report August 5, 2010

By Gordon Hansen

Bank Accounts	
Checking	\$140.90
Savings	\$1,384.82
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$1,525.72
Cash Account	
Cash	\$101.46
TOTAL Cash Account	\$101.46
Investment Accounts	
CD 1	\$1,050.16
CD 2	\$1,085.98
TOTAL Investment Accounts	\$2,136.14
Asset Accounts	
Equipment	\$1,826.92
Scholarship	\$458.80
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$2,285.72
OVERALL TOTAL	\$6,049.04
Memos	
GLAAC	\$3,392.96
Total All Accounts	9,442.00

Meeting Agenda - August 26th

HFCC –Berry Auditorium - Admin. Services & Conference Center

For map see: http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus_maps.pdf

5:30 PM

Opening/Introduction/Member Observing

Main presentation:

The Origins of Calendar Days

Don Klaser FAAC FAAC

Tech Talk:

The Emerald Observatory

Gary Strumolo FAAC

Club Business/Secretary/Treasurer/ Equipment Report

Club Projects/Committees/Member Support

* Astronomy at the Beach - Friday and Saturday, Sept 10, 11 - 6pm - Midnight.

- Astro-Imaging SIG
- Dark Sky Committee



Astro Imaging SIG

Gordon Hansen

The June meeting was held at HFCC

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

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

Next meeting is September 9. The meeting room location - HFCC Admin. Services and Conference Center (same building), Berry Amphitheater Auditorium.

Topics invited. Pizza served.

FAAC Events 2010

Kevin Medon and Lori Poremsky

Sept 10,11 - Astronomy At The Beach 6PM to Midnight.

Sept 18 - First Annual International Observe the Moon, Hector J Robinson Observatory call 313 477-2574 for details.

Background Photo from Lunt Solar Scope Image taken at the Hector J Robinson Observatory, June 28, 2010

One FAAC members blog

<http://hjiobservatory.blogspot.com/>

A few updates on the observatory, quick articles and photos. I'll try to improve my writing on this blog. Also, I try to keep daily updates on this blog.

Items For Sale

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



Contact John Johnson at jjohnsonpub@yahoo.com

or (248) 515-0014.

MEADE Telescope and Tripod 6 years old - in excellent shape **LXD 75** - Series Schmidt - Cassegrain 8" f/10 SC-8AT (Super Coated, Autostar Guided) - Focal Length 2000 mm Telescope weight = 24 lbs - with MEADE EMC Super Multi-Coatings and with optional Ultra-High Transmission Coating Tripod weight = 45 lbs - Die cast Aluminum German-Type Equatorial Mount with Variable-Height Field Adjustments Autostar Controller guides to 30,223 objects

Includes a Sun Filter, Overnight Protective Cover, Transportation Containers. Contact phone no. 248-851-5053, e-mail

robertboswell@comcast.net

Two Scopes For Sale

Celestron 6" Schmidt Cassegrain w XLT Like new condition. With diagonal and finder.

Tote bag. \$325 Retail \$699

Meade Lightbridge 10" With std accessories. Used one time, includes transport boxes. Going for \$475 Retail \$599 + Ship + Tax Need to raise cash for toys.

Tom Blaszak key_string_guy@yahoo.com

Hector J Robinson Observatory

by Greg Knekleian

I attended a few outings with new members and outreach events. These other events cut down on the number of times the observatory was open.

Hopefully we'll get good weather and the observatory will be open more as the month progresses.

Leo McMaster stopped by before a vacation to pick up some pointers about operating "The Sky" software. The summer has been flying by; I need to contact J.R. Griggs about the door which has still not been replaced. This should happen soon.

Each night out has been a kind of telescope bonanza as I've had a few extra telescopes on hand at the observatory. I took the old blue tube 8 inch Newtonian, off it's "pipe mount" stand. I will disassemble the stand and store it (somewhere). I'm still awaiting news about the replacement Stellacam 3 replacement camera for the observatory.

With so much observing away from the observatory, I found myself burned out a bit from the late hours. Thinking I was about to pass out I checked myself into ER one afternoon to see what was happening. Hospital tests didn't show anything serious. I was apparently suffering from dehydration and fatigue. It's important not to go overboard. A few 4 am observing sessions in a row can start to take their toll.

Ten Unexpected Visitors

One night I was out observing near the observatory, when a bunch of kids suddenly started running all over the track and field. They soon were scrambling up and down the stairs of the bleachers near the observatory. Their uncle was with them.

Their uncle asked if their running in the field interrupted my observing? "No problem, I actually was starting to leave", I replied. They were "backyard camping" nearby and their uncle brought them to the field to let them exercise and "burn off some energy".

The uncle mentioned he was a former student, but never saw the inside the the observatory. I offered to give them a tour. Soon his nephews and their friends were getting a quick tour and a peek at Jupiter through the C-14. There were about ten of them. Not having a lot of time, we only looked at Jupiter. One of the kids commented, "that was the highlight of my day", another followed up with, "that was the highlight of my summer."

The next day, I fell asleep early in the evening and awoke at about 4AM. I hoped to view The Orion Nebula (M42) as it rose early before the sun. I went to the High School site for the low horizon views but discovered low clouds impeded any view of M42. After some bino-observing near the observatory I started to pack up my car. An early morning runner stopped and started chatting. He was an employee of the high school and graduated 20 years ago. He said he never saw the inside of the observatory. So offered to give a quick tour. We looked at M45, Jupiter and the double cluster below Cassiopeia. We even looked at M42 briefly. M42 became visible, but the skyglow from the rising sun obscured most of it's nebulosity.

Something to investigate. The dome motor strained as we rotated toward M42. It gave off a slight burning smell. I turned off the power to insure we didn't have a fire on our hands. The dome motor may require some work in the near future.





First Annual International Observe the Moon Night - September 18, 2010

Submitted by John A Schroer

An exciting new program, International Observe the Moon Night, joins NASA with amateur astronomers across the country and the world. The goal is to bring a greater understanding of the Moon to the public.

Expert presentations from leading researchers and lunar mission leads will be webcasted from NASA locations to enhance the first-hand observations conducted at International Observe the Moon Night events. The website <http://observethemoonnight.org> will feature downloadable materials that participating astronomy clubs and other organizations can use to supplement their events.

The League would like to hear from clubs that participate in this special event.

(Editors Note:

HECTOR J ROBINSON OBSERVATORY

I'm willing to open up the observatory September 18th, 2010 for this moon event. Lunar viewing is a great match for the Lincoln Park Site.

I've recently been doing more lunar observing with my BT-80: identifying features using Moon Atlas on the iPad (see below example.)



Guy Ottewell's 2011 Astronomical Calendar

The 2011 Astronomical Calendar:

Specially priced for League members



The Astronomical League is pleased to announce a special offer for our members from the Universal Workshop, the producers of Guy Ottewell's popular Astronomical Calendar. They are making the 2011 edition of the Astronomical Calendar available at a discounted price. There are plenty of good reasons why it has been published for over thirty years. The 2011 edition will not disappoint!

Packed throughout its 84 pages are monthly sky charts; daily celestial highlights; charts, tables, and explanations of planetary movements; eclipse times and paths; and lunar occultation specifics. There are extensive descriptions of the year's meteor showers and periodic comets, as well. This calendar tells, in clear language, what events occur and when they happen.

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First Annual International Observe the Moon Night

(continued from Page 9)

League members can order this incredible compilation of the year's celestial events for \$19.95, shipping included (standard ground shipping to US addresses, only). Volume discounts, beginning with a minimum of 11 copies, for clubs are available. But, to take advantage of the free shipping offer, you must order by Friday December 31, 2010, and either use the special website, www.Universalworkshop.com/clubs.htm, or call 800-533-5083. The newly edited Astronomical Companion is also available at \$19.95, shipping included — if it is ordered at the same time as the Astronomical Calendar. Universalworkshop.com accepts MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express and PayPal.

NOTE: The web site referenced above does not have information about the 2011 calendar yet. It will be updated around August 25th.

New Club Telescope?

by Gordon Hanson



Was your first scope so unstable that even looking at it caused it to shake?

Was the mount so poorly made that it moved either a whole lot or not at all?

Unfortunately, that's what most newbies to our hobby deal with when they buy their first scope from the corner drug store. How many of those first scopes wind up in basement gathering dust after that first attempt? How many of those buyer's give up on our hobby before they even get started?

Are you aware that our club has a four inch dob available for loan? Harold Thomason rescued this scope from oblivion a couple of years ago and it is a step up from the garden variety department store scope. Its available to all club members to take home and play with. Contact a club officer or post a note on Yahoo if you're interested.

Still four inches of aperture only goes so far. We all suffer from aperture fever so why shouldn't a beginner? The board discussed the proposal to purchase a second club scope in the six to eight inch range. The scope would be outfitted with some common accessories that most of us purchased pretty quickly after we got serious about the hobby

Proposed scope:

Six or eight inch dob

8x40 finder scope

Telrad or red spot finder or . . .

A couple of eyepieces (25mm, 15mm)
and a 2x barlow

What do you think? Post a note on Yahoo or send an email to:

FordAstronomy@comcast.net

From The FAAC Yahoo Group - Observer's Log Posts

Ken Anderson Observing at ILSP FAAC Picnic Sat Aug 7th, 2010 - Ken Anderson

First, Thanks to Doug, Lori, Barb, and all those who helped make the 2nd annual FAAC picnic a big success!

Although it initially did not look like the weather was going to participate fo observing, it did start to clear up in the west and south just before sunset, and was totally clear by the end of the evening. Four teams participated in the 2 hour Sky tour team challenge event which ended at 11:45 PM:

*Doug Bauer(10" Go To)/Steve Flessa(14" not set up)/Brian Thieme(4")-35 objects

*Ken Anderson(17.5")/Steve Harvath (6" Refractor)/Jonathan(binoculars)- 17 objects

*Art Parent(10" Go to)/Milt Antoniac(6" refractor) - 15 objects

*Sean Swisz(10")/Steve Uitti(4"/100mm)/Mo Mroue(8" Go To)- <10 objects

I can't speak for everyone else but Steve and I saw in his 6" TAK, and my 17.5" f4.1 (72"=1828mm focal length) Dob with 10mm 100 AFOV 0.55 TFOV 183x Ethos(or 20mm 100 AFOV 1.09 TFOV 91X Explore Scientific):

Venus, Mars, Jupiter(1 belt), Saturn

Lyra(Double-double, M57)

Cygnus(Alberio)

Vulpecula(M27)

Sagittarius(M8/NGC6530, M17, M18, M22, M24)

Scorpio(M4, M6,M7)

After the contest I observed Uranus in Greg K's binoculars plus Doug B./Art P/Milt A's telescopes, and Neptun in Doug B's telescope w/ Go To.

Plus Stev H/Greg K/and I observe M31/M32/M110, C14(NGC869/884), and M11 with my wider 40mm 70 AFOV (1.53 TFOV 46x), 30mm 82 AFOV (1.35 TFOV 61x), and 20mm 100 AFOV (1.09 TFOV 91x) eyepieces in my 17.5", plus his Tak, and Greg's 80mm bino telescope. We left at 2AM.

(Ken's log continues)

I also observed Mars/Saturn/Venus(but not Mercury) in my 7x32 14.0 TFOV binoculars, and the Milky Way in my 2.3x40 opera glass binoculars.

Plus Venus and Saturn and Mars in my 9x63 5.0 TFOV but believe they were not in the same FOV (competition made it a little rushed ;)).

Howell Outreach Report - Larry Halstead

I am happy to report that the hobby appears to be growing out here in the boonies. Great conditions last night, as Doug and I (Bob, we missed you - hope you're feeling better) joined perhaps 70-100 folks to observe the late August hit parade of stuff to see. Lots of kids, lots of folks with new scopes and questions about how to use them. I told one young man that Jupiter would not come up until 10:30 or so, so he made his parents stay that long. He then climbed the hill behind us to see it peeking over the trees at 10:15, and announced it with some fanfare.

A good time was had by all. Thanks for the help, Doug. It would have been a bit frantic without you.

Perseid shower - Milton French

I went to NCSP to view the shower. I parked in the northernmost lot with baseball and soccer fields. There was no one else there. I viewed the shower from 2:45 AM until it was noticeably light at 5:25 AM. There may have been 50/hour or more although I didn't try for a rate.

The highlight was 2 bright ones near Jupiter.

One went west of Jupiter and it was bright (mag 0) and covered 60 degrees of sky.

Another bright one was north of Jupiter and had a persistent train for about 10 seconds.

I determined the naked eye limiting magnitude using the square of Pegasus to be 5.0 to 5.1.

Somerset Beach Camp Out

by Edward Halash

The weekend of August 6 through 8, my wife and I took part in a camp out with about 20 families from our church. Apart from the usual good fun of camping with a group of friends, sharing food, good times, and stories, I was looking forward to bringing out a telescope. The weather was promising and we enjoyed two great evenings under very dark skies. The location was Somerset Beach Campground. The campground is approximately 15 miles northwest of Lake Hudson, at the far west end of the Irish Hills area.

The campground is associated with the Methodist Church, but I believe it is open to various church groups, like ours, and to the general public. This is the same location recently considered for a FAAC club star party in the past. The benefits of this location, besides being only 75 minutes away from HFCC, are that the group of campers there are pretty respectful of others, and there is no alcohol allowed, so things are pretty tame at night, which is something most of us are looking for in a great evening under the stars. Finally, there are several large open fields, a great restroom and shower facility, and a nearby area for group camping.

For my part, I had the privilege of sharing the night sky with plenty of people of all ages, who were interested and amazed to hear that everything they could see in the sky was part of the Milky Way Galaxy, except for that fuzzy patch in Andromeda, which was a group of 200 to 400 billion stars, our sister galaxy. Polaris is not the brightest star in the sky, but everything in our night sky revolves around it, which is why it is important to learning the stars and understanding how objects in the sky move at night.

Venus is bright but not all that interesting to look at in a telescope - Galileo got into some trouble for noticing its crescent shape. We also looked at Jupiter, seeing three of the four moons. I reassured them that the fourth moon was likely behind Jupiter, and would reappear within a few hours. They got their fill of clusters, and globulars, and nebulae. To cap things off, we all saw a number of pre-peak Perseids, and I helped them understand the difference between Perseids (where they originate in the sky, and that Comet Tuttle was the source) and stray meteors. It was fun to hear them call out, "That was a Perseid!" and "Not that one!"

Later that evening, once everyone else had gone to bed, I watched a bright spec of light emerge from the edge of Jupiter, joining the three others, and a smile broke across my face in the dark.



Morning moon - Early morning Canon t1i handheld photo through one side of a BT-80 binocular refractor, photo by Star Stuff Editor

FAAC General Meeting Minutes July 22, 2010

By Kevin Medon/Lori Poremsky, Secretary

Attendance: 46+

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Bauer at 5:30 p.m.

Members enjoyed pizza while several new members and visitors introduced themselves and were welcomed.

Several members mentioned observing experiences including a visit to Celestron headquarters, Oceanside Photo and Telescope, and Griffith Observatory by Jon Blum.

The main presentation focused on members sharing their personal experiences in how they got started in amateur astronomy.

Doug Bauer mentioned that the FAAC does have a mentoring program. If you are interested in learning about a certain area of astronomy or just need some help in getting started, let Doug Bauer know, and he can pair you with a mentor. Also if you are interested in being a mentor, please let Doug Bauer know.

No tech talk this evening.

Club Business

Secretary's Report – Lori Poremsky noted that we have two new members this month.

97 Regular members

82 Lifetime members

7 Astronomical Clubs and Friends

186 Total

Members who have not yet paid their dues have been removed from the membership list and no longer have club privileges. Motion & second to accept the June minutes; approved.

Treasurer's Report – Gordon Hansen noted that non-paying members have also been removed from the Yahoo group. The complete Treasurers report is in Star Stuff.

Equipment Managers Report – All equipment is accounted for. Doug Bauer has written up procedures on checking out and reserving equipment. The procedures will be outlined in Start Stuff and posted on the Yahoo Group site.

Projects/Committees/Events

The FAAC will be hosting an observing session at Meadow Brook on Friday, July 23rd. The concert that evening is "Italian Classics". Club members participating will meet for dinner at the Red Ox Tavern at 4:30 pm and then over to Meadow Brook for set up at 6:00 pm. Participating so far are Doug & DeeAnn Bauer, Don & Jan Klaser, Vijay and his wife, Gordon & Susan Hansen, and Bob & Holly MacFarland.

Doug Bauer shared that there will be a public outreach event on Saturday, August 14, at the Humbug Marsh Unit in Trenton, Michigan. The theme is Starry, Starry Night. The time is 7:00 p.m. to midnight. All members are encouraged to participate. The Humbug site is run by the US Forestry Service. Free star programs will be offered and numerous telescopes will be set up to view planets, star clusters and galaxies. It should reach 100- 150 people. The Humbug Marsh is a 5,400 acre site on the Detroit River. Beginner's night for the evening of August 14th has been cancelled at Lake Erie Metropark due to this event. The two sites are very close in proximity. Contact Gordon Hansen, if interested in participating.

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FAAC General Meeting Minutes July 22, 2010

(continued from page 13)

Doug Bauer noted that the FAAC Multiclub Picnic will be held at Island Lake State Park on Saturday, August 7th. Doug Bauer is extending invitations to other club members. The club will be providing hotdogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers as well as pop and chips. Club members are asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be an ice pool there to keep salads cold. Observing will take place after the picnic. The club will also be hosting a Team Summer Sky Challenge event during the observing hours. Details can be found on the back of the FAAC General Meeting agenda for June 24th as well as on the Yahoo site. Start Time: about 5:00 pm.

Astronomy at the Beach will take place this year on September 10th and 11th in Kensington Metro Park at Maple Beach from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The guest speaker this year will be Dr. Brad Whitmore, Deputy Director of the Space Science Institute. His talk will be titled "The Legacy of the Hubble Space Telescope".

Gordon Hansen noted that SIG meetings are taking place the 2nd Thursday of every month in the Berry Auditorium of Henry Ford Community College, located in the Administrative Services and Conference Center. The next meeting is Thursday, August 12th at 5:30 p.m.

Frank Ancona noted that there was nothing to report on Dark Sky this month.

Gordon Hansen noted that this evening is the last chance to sign up for the Astronomical League. Dues are \$7.50 for the year.

Open Discussion

Doug Bauer noted that we need someone to help lead our Annual Swap Meet. It is a very profitable event for the club. Last year we made just under \$1,000 in profit. Tom Blaszak has decided to step down from leading the event. He has taken the lead now for quite a few years. Tom has reserved the Saturday, March 12th at the Holy Cross Church Gymnasium in Livonia, MI. Tom has a work plan for the event and is willing to be support to the member or team of members that are willing to take over.

Jim Frisbie noted that Harold Thomason is under the weather with shingles. He will be away for at least another 3 to 6 weeks.

John Schroer mentioned that it may be time for another Ford Club field trip to the Detroit Science Center. This typically would include free admission to the Science Center and entry into the IMAX theatre. John will speak to folks at the Science Center to arrange a date. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

A few members stayed after the meeting to view a JMI video on binocular scopes.

Visit to ER, \$30,000+. Seeing that late night Messier object, priceless

Some things you don't want to hear as a patient in a Hospital ER:

The results of your IQ test just came back, it shows a stroke of genius.

Our stress test is a few runs around the neighbor"hood". If you make it back alive, you pass.

I'm sorry sir, but Astronomy related illnesses are not covered by your insurance policy.

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