



STAR STUFF

Ford Amateur Astronomy Club Newsletter

Star Stuff

This newsletter is published eleven times per year by:

Ford Amateur Astronomy Club
P.O. Box 7527
Dearborn, MI 48121-7527

Officers

President: Liam Finn
Vice President: John McGill
Secretary: Jessica Edwards
Treasurer: Mike Bruno

Departments

Webmaster: Liam Finn
Newsletter: Tim Campbell
Equipment: Dennis Salliotte
Speakers: Sandra Macika

Club Information

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, except for the combined November/December meeting which meets on the first Thursday of December – at Henry Ford College Administration Services and Conference Center in Dearborn.

President's Corner

by Liam Finn

Another Success Story

With another year almost over we held our final Beginners' Night at Maybury State Park in Northville on Saturday October 13th. Many astronomers arrived around 6pm. Sandra Macika brought her meteorites, which was a big success (as always) with the public prior to the skies darkening. By sunset we had 16 astronomers — a few of which were not club members. We have estimated 170 members of the public attended and were lucky to find a clear sky early in the evening which eventually turned into a light haze covering the whole sky. Jupiter, Saturn and a beautiful crescent moon kept everyone entertained and once again the members of the FAAC closed out our public observing season with another amazing success.

School Outreach Event

We have a school outreach event in November, possible Friday November 9th. I'm still awaiting on verification from the school, but I think it will go ahead — weather permitting. This is for the Spiritus Santus Academy in Plymouth. We had originally scheduled this for October 5th but the weather did not cooperate.

No November Meeting. Next Meeting December 6th

There is no November meeting. We combine the November and December meeting to a single meeting the first Thursday in December. Please don't turn up at Henry Ford College in November. You will be alone.

Club Information

Refer to our website for a map and directions:

www.fordastronomyclub.com

Observing

The FAAC primary observing location is Spring Mill Pond located within the Island Lake State Recreation Area near Brighton, Michigan. The Club maintains an after-hours permit. Contact the club for information on how to enter or exit the park in the event that the main gate is locked.

The club also has use of a private observing site near Gregory Michigan. See the FAAC Yahoo Group for more information.

Inquiries can be directed to info@fordastronomyclub.com

Membership

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in amateur astronomy. The FAAC is an affiliate of the Ford Employees Recreation Association (FERA).

Fees

Annual - New Members: \$30
Annual - Renewals: \$25
(\$30 if not renewed by Jan 31)

Benefits

Membership includes the Star Stuff newsletter, discounts on

Equipment Auction

The Board has done a review on the club equipment and its utilization over the years and based on that usage has decided to sell off the equipment that is rarely used. We have decided to first offer the club members' first refusal by doing a silent auction of the underutilized equipment at the December 6th meeting. Items are listed on the following table:

FAAC Club Equipment Auction Items

Item	Market Value	Starting Bid
4" Dob (Harold Thomason's donation)	\$50.00	\$25.00
DVD Player	\$15.00	\$7.50
Tri-Fold Presentation Boards	\$20.00	\$10.00
Equipment Etching Tool	\$15.00	\$7.50
TK3 Celestron 130 Newtonian Goto	\$130.00	\$65.00
TK4 Celestron 90mm refractor Manual	\$75.00	\$37.50
BK3 15x70 Binos w/monopod	\$200.00	\$100.00
BK4 20x80 Bios alt/az goto mount	\$275.00	\$137.50
BK5 25x70 Bios w/Tripod adapter	\$70.00	\$35.00
TA Sky Atlas 2000.0 (w/o Companion Guide)	\$35.00	\$17.50
TA Orion telescope binoviewer	\$100.00	\$50.00
C1 Celestron NexImage Solar System Imager	\$50.00	\$25.00
C3 Orion Starshoot Deep Space Video Camera (NTSC)	\$150.00	\$75.00
C4 Meade Electronic Eyepiece w/3.5" Monitor	\$75.00	\$37.50
C5 Orion Starshoot Deep Space Video Camera II	\$325.00	\$162.50
CA1 Rigel 1 System Spectroscope	\$150.00	\$75.00
CA4 Orion Starshoot LCD-DVR 2.5" LCD Screen	\$100.00	\$50.00
BK1 Orion BT-100 Bino Telescope w/Accy's	\$750.00	\$375.00

magazines, discounts at selected area equipment retailers, and after-hours access to the Island Lake observing site and private observing sites.

Astronomy or Sky & Telescope magazine discounts are available by contacting the FAAC club treasurer at treasurer@fordastronomyclub.com for the discount form. The form should be sent to the respective publisher with your subscription request and payment. Do not send money directly to FAAC.

The FAAC has a pool of equipment including telescopes, cameras, and other gear used for outreach. Much of the gear can be borrowed for personal use in the interest of furthering your knowledge and experience in astronomy.

Please see the equipment list for further information.

Club Wear

Club logo-wear (embroidered with club logo) can be ordered directly through LLBeanBusiness.com

See the Yahoo Group for ordering information and instructions on how to request the correct logo.

Communication

The FAAC uses Yahoo Groups for our email distribution list (both formal and informal discussion.)

Observing nights & locations (scheduled and unscheduled as weather permits), equipment

An auction sheet will be available at the club meeting. It will list the beginning bid and the bid increment for each bid. The bid increment will vary based on the equipment price.

We have assessed the present value of each item and then set the starting bid at 50% of the present value. Below is the list of equipment that will be auctioned. Please review the list to see what you may be interested in bidding on.

Sirius Award

The Sirius Award is awarded to a member of the club who has gone above and beyond to help with any and all aspects of the club to make it successful, be that through outreach, volunteering at events, being an officer in the club or being a good ambassador for the FAAC and astronomy.

If you have someone in mind please send your nominations to president@fordastronomyclub.com. Please include the person's name and a list of the reasons why you think they deserve this award. This is your one time a year that you can recognize an outstanding member of the club.

All submissions need to be in by the January club meeting. Once the nominations are closed the officers of the club will meet and review the submissions.

Please note that existing officers for 2018 and elected officers for 2019 cannot be included as well as anyone who has received the award in the past. If any of these members are nominated the nomination will be ignored

Get your thinking caps on and help the club recognize an outstanding member.

Open 2019 Officer Position

We have one officer position that will be open for 2019, Jessica Edwards, our secretary, is term limited and can no longer be club secretary. We have a search committee searching for possible nominees but if any club member is interested in running for the club secretary position please feel free to attend our elections in January and submit your name. If only one

questions, events, outreaches, etc. are normally discussed via this list.

Join by visiting groups.yahoo.com/fordastronomyclub to request membership.

Articles & Submissions

Your submissions to Star Stuff are welcome! Send your story and/or images to the editor at: starstuff@fordastronomyclub.com

Observatory

The FAAC maintains and operates the Hector J Robinson Observatory (HJRO) at Lincoln Park Schools.

The observatory houses a 14" Celestron C14 Schmidt Cassegrain Telescope as well as other instruments and can be used by club members.

The observatory is adjacent to the athletic field situated between the Lincoln Park Middle School and High School buildings near

1701 Champaign Rd.
Lincoln Park, MI 48146

The school system has designated four "key-holders" within the club who have the ability to open the observatory.

Call (313) 444-5850 to learn when the observatory is opening (or request an opening).

person is interested then there will be no need for a ballot at the election but if there are more than one person interested then a ballot will be held.

Any member of the club can run for any of the officer positions so even though the Secretary position will be open, any club member can run for the other officer positions in the club.

Secretary's Report

by Jessica Edwards

27 September General Meeting

Member Observations and What's Up

Several members attended the Farmington Community Stargazers event this past month. While the evening started clear, clouds prevented observing later into the night. A member was able to attend the Orion parachute test in Yuma, Arizona. The estimates on attendance of Astronomy at the Beach were reported at 1000 for Friday night and 4000 Saturday night. The planets continue to put on a good show with Mars, Venus, and Jupiter visible in the evening, Uranus is at opposition. Comet 21P is near Sirius and M50.

Main Talk – The South Pole and its Telescopes – Jerry Dunifer

A trek to the South Pole is not for the faint of heart or shallow of pocket. Those that do make it can see the millimeter and submillimeter telescopes that study the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation. A third instrument takes up a cubic kilometer of ice below the pole. Ice Cube is a neutrino Observatory. An array of Digital Optical Modules detect when a neutrino interacts with the ice and generates optic shock waves. Similar to how jets create sonic booms, interacting neutrinos generate Cherenkov Radiation. This is radiation generated when a charged particle passes through a medium at a speed greater than the speed of light in that medium. Atmospheric neutrinos, those that originate in our solar system, have been detected as well as neutrinos from extragalactic sources. One likely candidate for the source of these neutrinos is are blazars. These are super massive black holes that are actively feeding on surrounding matter.

Planetarium

FAAC members are volunteer operators for the Hammond Planetarium at Henry Ford College.

Planetarium shows are free and open to the public.

Four seasonal planetarium shows are offered per year with the stars and constellations of the current season as well as a multi-media presentation featuring select planets.

Public planetarium shows are normally offered each Wednesday at 7:30pm and every 2nd Saturday at 3:00pm – however there are some exceptions. Please see the planetarium schedule for specific times. It is posted here:

fordastronomyclub.com/hfc-planetarium

Social Media

The FAAC has several social media accounts. Members are encouraged to join and follow them.

Facebook

facebook.com/FordAstronomyClub

Twitter

twitter.com/Ford_Astro

MeetUp

meetup.com/Ford-Amateur-Astronomy-Club

Upcoming Club Meeting Topics & Speakers

Meeting	Speaker	Topic
October 25th	Dr. David Cinabro Dept. of Physics & Astronomy Wayne State University	The Zowada Observatory - Robotic observatory located in Southwest New Mexico.

Equipment

The FAAC maintain an equipment pool of telescopes, binoculars, cameras, and other equipment used for special events. Much of this equipment is available to members.

Each piece of equipment is either stored by a club volunteer who offers to be the caretaker of the item, or by the person who last borrowed the item.

Most equipment can be borrowed for one-month durations. At the end of the month, the borrower can extend the loan if no other members have requested it.

Some items are reserved for special events use and are not normally available to be borrowed.

If you are interested in borrowing an item, please contact either the current holder of the equipment, or contact the club equipment manager, Dennis Salliotte, at equipment@fordastronomyclub.com

Note: Items in **RED** text are scheduled to be auctioned at the December club meeting. See President's Corner article on "*Equipment Auction*" on page 2 for details.

Item	Held by	Item	Held by
Telescopes		Eye Pieces	
4" Dobsonian (Harold's donation)	George Korody	EPK1 Eyepieces, Filters & Accessories	Liam Finn
TK1 Coronado Personal Solar Telescope (Doublestack) w/Meade Autostar Goto Mount	John McGill	Binoculars	
TK3 Celestron 130mm Newtonian w/goto mount	Liam Finn	BK3 15x70 Binoculars w/monopod mount	Bob MacFarland
TK4 Celestron 90mm Refractor w/manual mount	Liam Finn	BK4 20x80 Binoculars w/alt-az goto mount	Sandra Macika
TK5 4.5" Reflector on Fitz GEM mount	Bob MacFarland	BK5 25x70 Binoculars w/tripod adapter	Tim Dey
TK6 8" Orion XT8i Dobsonian	Jed & Jacob Datema	Display Items	
TK7 TPO 8" f/4 Newtownian Astrograph (OTA Only - no mount)	Jim Barnes	Astronomy Event Sign (3' x 6')	Gordon Hansen
Presentation Tools		Astronomy Event Signs 18x24" (x8)	Liam Finn
Projector (older)	Jim Frisbie	PVC Display Board - Folding	Sandra Macika
Projector (newer)	Gordon Hansen	Banner - Small (24" x 32")	George Korody
Projection Screen 8'	John McGill	Banner - Medium (24" x 72")	Sandra Macika
Projection Screen 6'	Liam Finn	Banner - Large (32" x 16')	George Korody
Bullhorn	George Korody	Tri-Fold Presentation Boards	Don Klaser
Speaker System w/Wireless Mic	Liam Finn	Other	
DVD Player	Jim Frisbie	Canopy (10' x 10')	Liam Finn
Demonstration Tools		Pop Cooler	Hayden Barrett
Weigh on Planets Scale	George Korody	Equipment Etching Tool	Greg Ozimek
Lunar Phase Kit	Bob MacFarland	TA Sky Quality Meter	Liam Finn
100' Scale Model Solar System Kit	Bob MacFarland	TA Sky Atlas 2000.0	Tim Dey
		TA Orion Telescope Binoviewer	Liam Finn

Item	Held by
Imaging Cameras	
C1 Celestron NexImage Solar System Imager model #93712	Gordon Hansen
C2 Meade Deep Sky Imager Pro III w/Autostar Suite	Gordon Hansen
C3 Orion StarShoot Deep Space Video Camera NTSC #52185 w/video capture device #52178	Gordon Hansen
C4 Meade Electronic Eyepiece w/video cable for monitor or TV w/3.5" video monitor	Gordon Hansen
C5 Orion StarShoot Deep Space Video Camera II #52195 and Orion StarShoot iPhone Control for Deep Space Video Camera II #52195	Gordon Hansen
C6 Canon 60Da Astrophotography DSLR and accessories	Tim Dey
Other Imaging Equipment	
CA1 Rigel Systems Spectrascope	Gordon Hansen
CA2 Celestron 1.25" to T-Adapter (male) #93625	Tim Dey
CA3 Canon EOS Deluxe Astrophoto kit for Canon EOS mount, T-thread adapter and variable 1.25" extender	Tim Dey
CA4 Orion StarShoot LCD-DVR #58125 2.5" LCD screen	Gordon Hansen
CA5 Celestron Canon EOS T-ring adapter #93419	Tim Dey
Special Event Items - Not available for Loan Out	
BK1 Orion BT-100 Binocular telescope w/hard case, Orion VersaGo h.d. manual Alt/Az mount w/ Vixen dovetail head and Vixen style binocular holder bracket	Ken Anderson
BK2 Zhumell 25x100 Binoculars, hard case, & Zhumell TRH-16 tripod w/soft fabric bag	Sandar Macika
TAK1 Night Vision Image Intensifier for telescopes (2" barrel size)	George Korody