



# 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

## 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*

### Rescheduling Beginners' Night

With our weather being what it is this year and the lack of successful beginner nights, there has been a call to reschedule or set alternate dates for beginner nights.

Our June 23rd Beginner night was cancelled because of rain and we have rescheduled it to June 30th which will be a full moon weekend but we can observe planets in a full moon and we will have three to observe on the 30th

### July Beginners' Night

Our July beginner's night is on the 21st and this is a week before the Mars Opposition. I hope that Mother Nature is kind to us and grants us clear skies or we will have to nominate an astronomer to sacrifice to the Sky Gods.

### Sidewalk Astronomy

On June 16th I decided to setup in Downtown Wixom to do a little Sidewalk Astronomy. With the questionable weather have had so far this year part of this evening was for me to get out under the stars and part of it was to share views of Jupiter and the crescent moon with the public,

I decided to bring my Dob as it is a fast setup and no alignment needed so it is easier to get observing. It is also faster to slew to objects as it is 100% manual.

*continued on page 2*

## Club Information

Refer to our website for a map and directions:

[www.fordastronomyclub.com](http://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](mailto: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 magazines, discounts at selected area equipment retailers, and

# Hector J Robinson Observatory Update

*by Greg Knekleian*

## Observatory Spring Cleaning

Tim Campbell and Tim Dey cleaned up the place and fixed a model that went missing from the Losmandy Titan mount. There were very few times we were open last month mostly due to weather and schedule restrictions.

## Solar Observing for Lincoln Park Students

No middle school student solar viewing never happened this spring. This because the athletic track had many coats of urethane paint sprayed on the track. That process took more than a month. The track looks almost like a roller skating rink now with the thick blue surface.

## Meteorites

I've been adding a few more meteorites to my collection. For those interested in buying lunar meteorites at a good price word in the collecting community is most of the 2017 200 lbs of Algerian mega find of lunar meteorites have been sold out. This means the prices of lunar meteorites may increase again. Early 2018 was a good time to buy lunar meteorites at a bargain.

*continued on page 4*

### *President's Corner (cont'd from page 1)*

I called into the Wixom Police station to let them know I would be in the area and what I would be doing. Best to inform them than have three police cars converge on you and then have to explain yourself.

I setup around 8:30pm near the City offices as there is a nice fountain, grassy area and people like to sit by the lit fountain in the warm summer evenings.

I was hoping for more foot traffic but I imagine the temps in the 80's and high humidity kept some from wandering out around town.

*continued on page 3*

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](mailto: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](http://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 questions, events, outreaches, etc. are normally discussed via this list.

## *President's Corner (cont'd from page 2)*

In total I got about 40 people come by and look through my scope. The crescent moon in the western sky just south of Venus and Jupiter directly south. I got many "No Way's" "WOW" and "That's Amazing's" from pretty much everyone that observed with me. People of all ages from 5 to 80 enjoyed the views.

Most people never looked through a scope and none ever saw a planet before so in one step they not only saw the moon like never before but two planets.

Lots of basic and some not so basic questions which makes it even more fun as spreading our knowledge and experience with the public is one of the main reasons why we do public outreach.

I highly encourage all members of the club to share your knowledge and experience with the people in your town or city and on nights when the club does not have any events, grab your scope, head downtown and share our views of the night sky by doing some Sidewalk Astronomy.

## Heads Up for August Meteors and S'Mores

I just want to give you a heads up for our club picnic on August 11th and on the same day we have the Meteors and S'Mores event at Island Lake.

Due to the overwhelming numbers we had last year we decided to combine our beginners night, Meteors and S'Mores and our club picnic into one event. It is a new moon so a great night for Meteors and a great night for Observing.

Due to the overwhelming number of the public that attended last year the park has decided to first fill Spring Mill Pond and when full, send people to Kent Lake Beach.

We do open our Picnic to other clubs and I think we need to have some of them volunteer to setup their scopes at Kent Lake Beach to facilitate the attendees that will be directed there. If any of our club members want to head to Kent Lake Beach with their scopes after the Picnic please let me know.

Join by visiting [groups.yahoo.com/fordastronomyclub](http://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](mailto: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).

## Observatory Update (cont'd from page 2)

More on various meteorites in other future columns.

## Saturn & Mars

Saturn and Mars are getting closer to opposition this year. Unfortunately Mars is experiencing a global dust storm. Mars may show few details to most astronomers until the storm clears and it may take a few months for that to happen.

## Grab n' Go?

I tested a quick grab and go setup at home with a medium sized video tripod that I normally use for solar rigs. This worked out okay for a fast setup even with the c9.25. I looked at Jupiter and Saturn with that setup. A Celestron c9.25 is too heavy for a mount of this size. Below is a photo from the six minute setup using the goto mount.

I don't recommend using an undersized alt azimuth mount for a telescope of this size. It's far too dangerous and balancing the mount can take some time for targets.

(Scope setup time about 8 minutes. Tear down time with all equipment taken inside the house took six minutes.)



## Planetarium

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Several 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](http://fordastronomyclub.com/hfc-planetarium)

## Social Media

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

### Facebook

[facebook.com/FordAstronomyClub](https://facebook.com/FordAstronomyClub)

### Twitter

[twitter.com/Ford\\_Astro](https://twitter.com/Ford_Astro)

### MeetUp

[meetup.com/Ford-Amateur-Astronomy-Club](https://meetup.com/Ford-Amateur-Astronomy-Club)

# Secretary's Report

*by Jessica Edwards*

## 24 May General Meeting

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### Member Observations and What's Up

Several ISS transits of both the Sun and Moon will be visible from the area this month. The Summer Solstice will be on the 21st of June. The planets are putting on a good show this time of year with many close encounters with the moon.

### Main Talk - Space-Time - Tim Campbell

In the beginning, people thought that light had an infinite speed. There was no way to measure something that traveled so fast. As measurements and Theories advanced, it was discovered that there is a speed limit to the Universe, the speed of light. This causes some interesting phenomena as it relates to events that are observed from different frames of reference. The end result is that we live in a four dimensional space, three dimensions of space and one of time, and that they cannot be separated and do not obey the laws of Euclidean Geometry. In other words, space-time is not flat, it is curved. Our everyday lived experiences mean that we rarely see any of the time dilation and length contraction that happen as speed approach that of light, but we do interact with them every day. If the effects of space-time curvature are not accounted for, our GPS technology would be worthless.

## 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](mailto:equipment@fordastronomyclub.com)

Item	Held by	Item	Held by
<b>Telescopes</b>		<b>Eye Pieces</b>	
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	<b>Binoculars</b>	
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 *Caretakership is available	<b>Display Items</b>	
TK7 TPO 8" f/4 Newtownian Astrograph (OTA Only - no mount)	Jim Barnes	Astronomy Event Sign (3' x 6')	Gordon Hansen
<b>Presentation Tools</b>		Astronomy Event Signs 18x24" (x8)	Liam Finn
Projector (older)	Jim Frisbie	PVC Display Board - Folding	Sandra Macika
Projector (newer)	Mike Bruno	Banner - Small (24" x 32")	George Korody
Projection Screen 8'	Liam Finn	Banner - Medium (24" x 72")	Sandra Macika
Projection Screen 6'	John McGill	Banner - Large (32" x 16')	George Korody
Bullhorn	George Korody	Tri-Fold Presentation Boards	Don Klaser
Speaker System w/Wireless Mic	Liam Finn	Tri-Fold Poster Board (Club Photos)	George Korody
DVD Player	Jim Frisbie	<b>Other</b>	
<b>Demonstration Tools</b>		Canopy (10' x 10')	Liam Finn
Weigh on Planets Scale	George Korody	Pop Cooler	Hayden Barrett
Lunar Phase Kit	Bob MacFarland	Equipment Etching Tool	Greg Ozimek
100' Scale Model Solar System Kit	Bob MacFarland	TA Sky Quality Meter	Liam Finn
		TA Sky Atlas 2000.0	Tim Dey
		TA Orion Telescope Binoviewer	Liam Finn

Item	Held by
<b>Imaging Cameras</b>	
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	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
<b>Other Imaging Equipment</b>	
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
<b>Special Event Items - Not available for Loan Out</b>	
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

## Scheduled Observing Nights

Month	Date	Sunset	Location
July	21st	8:28pm	Island Lake Spring Mill Pond
August	18th FAAC Club Picnic	8:28pm	Island Lake Spring Mill Pond
September	14th & 15th Astronomy at the Beach	7:43pm 7:41pm	Island Lake Kent Lake Beach
October	13th	6:63pm	Mayberry State Park



# Classifieds

## Deep-Sky Observing Outfit

Go from 0-to-60 in 2.9 with this COMPLETE Deep-Sky Observing Outfit.

All you will need to bring are the mosquitos. Altho older in calendar terms (c. 2005) this entire outfit is essentially BRAND NEW and UNUSED. The telescope has not seen first light.

*(Approx. today's replacement cost of each item in parens)*

ORION "SkyQuest XT10" IntelliScope 10-inch f/4.7 (F.L. 1200mm) Dobsonian Reflector (\$900)

- 2-inch focuser with 1-1/4" adapter
- ORION 9x50 straight-thru finder scope
- Bronze-finished metal tube
- ORION Zipper case (midnight blue - for optical tube only) (\$120)

ORION IntelliScope Computerized Object Locator (#7880) (incl w/scope)

- "Push-To" over 14,000 objects
- In original box with instructions

ORION Cooling Fan Kit (#7814) (\$30)

- Includes dedicated battery pack
- In original box with instructions

KENDRICK Dew Remover System (12 volt) (\$266)

- Controller Model VI (#2001)
- 1.25" Heater Element (#2005)
- 5" Heater Element (#2009)

ORION LaserMate Deluxe Collimator (#5690) (\$70)

- In original box with instructions

ORION Full-Aperture Solar Filter (\$170)

Eyepieces:

- ORION "Sirius" fully coated 10mm Plossl 1-1/4 in box (incl w/ scope)
- ORION "Sirius" fully coated 25mm Plossl 1-1/4 in box (incl w/ scope)
- MEADE Series 4000 multi-coated SUPER PLOSSL 9.7mm 1-1/4 in case (\$25)
- CELESTRON "Ultima SV Series" Fully Multi-Coated 2x Barlow 1-1/4 (#93506) (\$70)

ORION "E Z Finder" illuminated 1x finder scope (\$20)

CELESTRON "Light Pollution Reduction" (LPR) filter for 1-1/4 eyepieces in box with instructions (\$55)

CELESTRON Night Vision LED Flashlight (\$10)

MEADE "ETX" zipper accessory bag (\$35)

(Total \$1771)

Asking \$995 for the lot & prefer NOT to split it up.

Please contact Greg Burnett

email: [skyfog@att.net](mailto:skyfog@att.net)

## Dobstuff Telescope

16 inch -- 1.5 inch thick -- F4.5 mirror

Built in September 2011 from a Meade Equatorial Starfinder

- 6 point all aluminum mirror cell
- 2-speed 2-inch Moonlite Focuser with 1.25-inch adapter
- Destiny curved 3 vane Spider
- 3.1 inch Coulter Secondary

This is a Push-To Telescope with Homemade Digital Setting Circles (DSC) using a Tungsten T3 Palm Pilot. Paperwork, history of mirror, sketches, drawings, etc. all in a 3-ring binder...

Pictures on request.

Have over \$2100 invested...Please Make Offer...

Rick Arzadon - N8XI

6056 Hipp

Taylor, MI 48180

email: [n8xi@juno.com](mailto:n8xi@juno.com)

Home: 313-561-4839

Cell: 313-244-6602