



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

Meeting and Elections 2019

The Elections are at this month's meeting. There is one chair that will be opening as it is term limited, for which we will be seeking a new Secretary. The existing officers that have yet to reach their term limits are willing to remain in their positions. The nominating committee has been busy searching for someone to take on the Secretary responsibilities.

If you would like to run for any of the officer positions, you need to be present at the club meeting in January and you can nominate yourself. Your nomination needs to be seconded. You must be at the January meeting to be considered.

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.

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. So far I have received three nominations submissions. 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.

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

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

Busy Year Ahead

The year has just started and we are already busy. We have had one event cancelled in Jan due to weather. Our next Public event is at Kent Lake Beach in Island Lake. This is the Lantern Light and Star Light event on Saturday 9th of February.

Weather permitting I hope to see many of you there. If the weather does not cooperate we will do some science presentations inside the training room at Kent Lake.

We have had many new members from last year and hope to increase our membership again this year with fresh new members who share our passion for astronomy. Remember each of you are ambassadors for our club and each of you have always and will continue to be the example of what an amazing astronomy club should look like. Keep up the fantastic work my fellow FAAC Ambassadors.

Clear Skies and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

Secretary's Report

by Jessica Edwards

November-December General Meeting

As the year ended, the club met for a social gathering and silent auction. The inventory of the Club's equipment was analyzed and items that have not been used for a period of time were placed up for members to bid on. Almost everything up for sale was sold. Members also enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and desserts while talking to each other about all things astronomy related. Pictures taken by club members were also displayed for all to enjoy.

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 treaasurer@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

NASA Night Sky Article

Editor's note: The NASA-contributed article is not available this month. This may be due to the shutdown.

The article has traditionally been available by the 15th of each month, but lately they have been arriving nearer to the end of each month. Unfortunately this misses the publishing deadline.

Many of these articles are timely news articles which refer to an event only a few weeks away. Unfortunately this means that if they miss the publishing deadline, they can't be run the following month as the events would have already occurred.

Astronomy at the Beach Needs your Help!

by Tim Campbell

The first GLAAC meeting of 2019 is Sunday, January 27th from 6-8pm.

These are online meetings via a web-conferencing system called "Bluejeans". You can participate via the web at this URL:

<https://bluejeans.com/864376269>

Meeting ID: 864-376-269

The January meeting will include officer elections. GLAAC has five officer positions which include president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and communications.

Two officers have announced they do not intend to seek re-election. Three will seek re-election but may switch positions. Consider all positions open if you are interested. All members in good standing from any affiliated club are eligible to run.

GLAAC could also use volunteer help during the planning process. Some of these tasks are very simple (e.g. help setup tables or chairs, help placing signage, etc.)

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).

Scheduled Club Events

Month	Date	Sunset	Location
Feb	9th Lantern Light & Star Light	5:57pm 5:00pm Walk 7:00pm Observing	Island Lake Kent Lake Beach
April	12th	8:11pm 7:00pm Setup	Spiritus Sanctus Academy Outreach
April	13th	8:12pm	Island Lake Spring Mill Pond
April	14th Indoor Exhibit	12noon-1:30pm	Michigan Outdoor Adventure Center
May	11th Int'l Astronomy Day	8:43pm	Island Lake Spring Mill Pond
June	8th	9:07pm	Island Lake Spring Mill Pond
July	6th	9:12pm	Island Lake Spring Mill Pond
August	10th FAAC Club Picnic Meteors & S'mores	8:41pm	Island Lake Spring Mill Pond
September	TBD Astronomy at the Beach		Island Lake Kent Lake Beach
October	5th Int'l Astronomy Day	7:08pm	Mayberry State Park?
November	11th Mercury Transit	7:20am-1pm	TBD

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
January 24th	Dr. Dale Partin Adjunct Prof. of Astronomy at Macomb Community College	Measuring the Speed of Light

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 were auctioned and sold at the December club meeting.

Item	Held by	Item	Held by
Telescopes		Eye Pieces	
4" Dobsonian (Harold's donation)	SOLD	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	SOLD	BK3 15x70 Binoculars w/monopod mount	SOLD
TK4 Celestron 90mm Refractor w/manual mount	SOLD	BK4 20x80 Binoculars w/alt-az goto mount	SOLD
TK5 4.5" Reflector on Fitz GEM mount	Bob MacFarland	BK5 25x70 Binoculars w/tripod adapter	SOLD
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	George Korody
Speaker System w/Wireless Mic	Liam Finn	Other	
DVD Player	Dennis Salliotte	Canopy (10' x 10')	Liam Finn
Demonstration Tools		Pop Cooler	Hayden Barrett
Weigh on Planets Scale	George Korody	Equipment Etching Tool	SOLD
Lunar Phase Kit	Bob MacFarland	TA Sky Quality Meter	Liam Finn
100' Scale Model Solar System Kit	Bob MacFarland	TA Sky Atlas 2000.0	SOLD
NSN Meteorite (Outreach) kit	Sandra Macika	TA Orion Telescope Binoviewer	SOLD

Item	Held by
Imaging Cameras	
C1 Celestron NexImage Solar System Imager model #93712	SOLD
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	SOLD
C4 Meade Electronic Eyepiece w/video cable for monitor or TV w/3.5" video monitor	SOLD
C5 Orion StarShoot Deep Space Video Camera II #52195 and Orion StarShoot iPhone Control for Deep Space Video Camera II #52195	SOLD
C6 Canon 60Da Astrophotography DSLR and accessories	Tim Dey
Other Imaging Equipment	
CA1 Rigel Systems Spectroscope	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	SOLD
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	SOLD
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

Classifieds

StarStuff will run classified advertisements for club members. Each classified advertisement will be run in up to two consecutive editions of the StarStuff Newsletter. Submit your listing to starstuff@fordastronomyclub.com

Gary Gibson

Unitron 128 kit	\$650	Excellent
Unitron 115 kit	\$350	Great
Shrine Manon kit (60x700)	\$150	Excellent
Homemade 4¼" f/13 reflector on GEM	\$300	Excellent
Meade 395 90x1000 OTA	\$100	Good
Sears 4420 kit 50x600	\$75	Excellent
Tasco 9TE-5 kit	\$75	Excellent
Tasco 12TE kit	\$100	Great
Tasco 14TE kit	\$100	Excellent
10" f/7 homemade reflector on Meade RG mount	\$850	VGC
Unitron Unihex with caps	\$120	VGC

All items require local pick-up only (Southgate, MI). I do not want to ship these items.

Contact Gary Gibson at Garyth50@aol.com