



STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

January 1999
Volume 8 Number 1



DON'T MISS THE F.A.A.C. ANNUAL DINNER PARTY COMING UP JANUARY 30

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THIRD ANNUAL FAAC DINNER

Mark your calendar for our Third Annual FAAC Dinner Party, which will be held on Saturday, January 30, 1999. The informal party will be held at Leon's in Wixom. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM with a buffet dinner at 7:30 PM, followed by presentations, surprises, and gab. The cost is \$15 per person. A cash bar will be available (no BYO).

Don't miss this gala event. All FAAC members and their families are welcome. Have a night out and socialize with your friends. Be prepared for the unexpected.

Please advise your attendance to any Board Member as soon as possible, but no later than Monday, January 24, and turn in your dinner moneys no later than Thursday, January 28. By the way, January 28 is the first General Membership Meeting of the new year.

Leon's is located at 29710 Wixom Road, which is across the road from the north end of the Ford Assembly Plant, just north of I-96. Here are a couple of pics from last year's party...



You'll have to come this year to find out what it's all about!! You can see more pics from last year's party at http://www.bockwall.com/NCO/photo_log/FAAC_Party_1998/ ☆

FAAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All FAAC memberships (except lifers) expire December 31. Renewal are due by January 31. Dues are \$20 per year if remitted before January 31. After that date, your name will be removed from the roster, and a new membership application will be required to renew your membership. Renewal submitted after January 31 will require \$25 dues. Renew your membership promptly! ☆

NOTHING BUT THE FAACs

by George Korody

Comet Halley Has Arrived!

Halley Sophia Kissel arrived on earth at 7:16 PM (UHT) on December 13, 1998. Halley's arrival was expected, and she arrived at a weight of 8 lbs. 5 oz and a length of 20.5 inches. (Note: Future study requires that object particulars be carefully recorded.) The proud parents are Johanna and Gery Kissel.

Annual FAAC Dinner Party

It is a fact that the Third Annual FAAC Dinner Party is being held on Saturday, January 30, 1999. You don't want to miss this fun filled event. We need to know ASAP that you will be attending. Just contact George Korody or any other Board Member and let us know that you plan to attend. Then, turn in your money (\$15 per person) to cover the costs to any of the above not later than the next General Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 28, 1999. Full details can be found elsewhere herein, or in the December 1998 newsletter. ☆

"To me old age is always fifteen years older than I am." -- Bernard Baruch

STAR STUFF

is a monthly publication of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, an affiliate club of the Ford Employee Recreation Association.

STAR STUFF

P.O. Box 7527
Dearborn MI 48121-7527

Your submissions to STAR STUFF are welcome. Please write to the address above or contact the editor...

Greg Burnett
gburnett@ford.com
(313) 84-53586

Ford Amateur Astronomy Club**Officers:**

President	Greg Burnett
Vice President	George Korody
Secretary	David Beard
Treasurer	Ray Fowler

General Meetings:

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club holds regular general meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month (except the combined November/December meeting held the first Thursday of December) at 5:00 PM in conference room 1491 in the Ford Credit building in Dearborn, Michigan.

Observing:

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club observes at Spring Mill Pond within the Island Lake State Recreation Area near Brighton, Michigan. The club maintains a permit for after-hours access. Weather permitting, the club observes on Friday nights, Saturday nights, and nights before holidays.

Hotline:

Observing schedules and additional club information is available by calling the Observing Hotline at (313) 390-5456.

Club Membership:

Membership in the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club is open to Ford employees and non-employees. Write or call for an application.

Annual Individual or Family	\$ 20
Lifetime membership	\$100

Membership include a subscription to the STAR STUFF newsletter, discounts on ASTRONOMY and SKY & TELESCOPE magazines, after-hours access to the observing site, and discounts at selected area equipment retailers.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have an email address but are not receiving meeting announcements via email, notify the club president (manager of the email distribution list) of your address. Also be sure to advise the club of any changes in your address. ☆

FROM THE EDITOR

by Greg Burnett

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is enjoying the snow. As I write, there is over a foot on the ground, with more to come. Perhaps by the time you read this some will have melted away. We are, of course, almost a month past the winter solstice, so the days are getting longer and Spring is right around the corner!

This is my first attempt at editing a newsletter, and I thought I would tell you what I have in mind. Most of you read one of both of the major astronomy magazines, so you get your scientific and technical news from those sources. You won't find much of that in STAR STUFF. And you all read the newspaper or watch TV, so if an asteroid is about to hit Earth, don't wait for the next issue of STAR STUFF before deciding what to do. It won't be much help.

What you will find in STAR STUFF is news about your club; information that cannot be had elsewhere: who's observing what, where; who's taking pics, and how; what's going on with star parties and events. I think that's what a club newsletter is for. Let me know what you think. ☆

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear STAR STUFF:

I'm rather new to astronomy but love to build things and would like to construct a small Dobsonian telescope. I am hoping that maybe a member of the FAAC might have some bargain equipment and/or books that I could buy or borrow. Also any suggestions for kits, plans or retailers would be greatly appreciated. So would you please post or fwd this to the membership?

Thanks
Grant Compton
grant_compton@hotmail.com
Profs: GCOMPTON x-89271 ☆

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

by George Korody



Eagle Nebula (M-16) CCD photograph taken by George Korody on 6-27-98. George took this 60 second unguided photograph from the NCO location with his 10" f/10 LX-200 reduced to f/6.3, and SBIG ST-6 CCD camera. Only the brightness and contrast were adjusted using CCDSoft to enhance details.

ON THE WEB

Thanks to Gery Kissel...

This is the URL of a page that predicts satellite passes. It may help some of our ace astro-photographers in preventing satellite tracks on those great photos. Or someone else may enjoy viewing some of our closer neighbors. --Gery
<http://www2.gsoc.dlr.de/scripts/satvis/satvis.asp>

The Space Sciences Laboratory at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center sponsors this web site. The mission of Space Sciences at Marshall is to plan, coordinate, direct, and conduct original and supporting theoretical, experimental, and observational research in a number of research areas, including astrophysics, microgravity science, and Earth science.
<http://science.nasa.gov/> ☆

MAGAZINE DISCOUNTS

Do not send money to FAAC for SKY & TELESCOPE or ASTRONOMY magazine subscriptions. We now have a form that you send in with your subscription directly to the publisher to receive a \$10 discount. Pick up a form at the next meeting, or contact a club officer. ☆

ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale: Mint condition enlarging Lenses. Rodenstock Rodagon 50mm f2.8 \$139. Rodenstock Rodagon 80mm f2.8 \$189. David Lee. Work 734-266-9708 Home 734-944-1022

Wanted: Co-expeditioner for Texas Star Party. Leave Friday 7 May arrive back 17 May. Driving in Ford Club Wagon towing 34' travel trailer. Lots of room for stuff. David Lee. Work 734-266-9708 Home 734-944-1022

For Sale: TeleVue 27mm Panoptic eyepiece. Perfect condition, in box. Purchased new at '98 TSP for \$313. Asking \$275. Greg Burnett. (313) 84-53586 gburnett@ford.com ☆

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club will be held on Thursday, January 28, at 5:00p in conference room 1491 in the Ford Credit building in Dearborn.

This is an important meeting, as we will be electing officers for the coming year. Be sure to attend. The program for the meeting has not yet been determined, but

as always, pizza and pop will be provided.

The Ford Credit building is the low building immediately northeast of (but not attached to) Ford World Headquarters. The building is secured with a card entry system. The easiest way to enter for meetings is to park in the lot east of the building and enter thru the lower east or lower northeast doors. At 5:00p no one seems to have much trouble entering, because many people are leaving about that time. At the lower east door you can dial 911 on the security phone and say you are there to attend a Ford club meeting, and security will admit you. The meeting room is on the lower floor, on the east side of the building, about mid-way along the north-south corridor. Usually, signs will be posted to direct you to the room. ☆

CLUB ELECTIONS COMING UP!

As specified in our club constitution (copies available on request), we will hold an election of officers at the upcoming January meeting. If you would like to support your club in the capacity of an officer or as an "appointee" come to the January meeting and make your desires known!!

We will be electing a club President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer for 1999. In addition, there are a number of appointed positions that allow the club workload to be shared, including program chairperson, membership chairperson, observing chairperson, and more!

The only specific requirements are as follows: the President must be a current full-time Ford employee (either hourly or salaried) or retiree. The Treasurer must be a current full-time Ford employee.

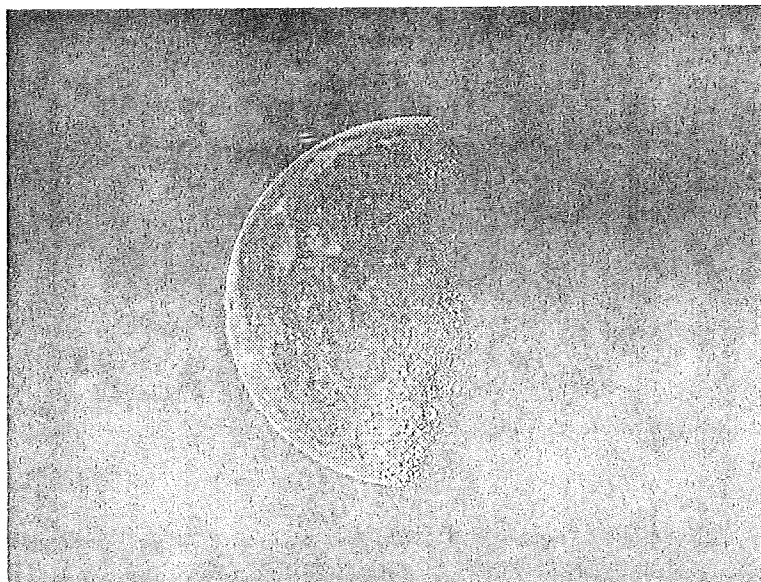
Support your club! We need your help to continue to be a thriving club! ☆

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

STAR STUFF wants your articles, announcements, letters, etc. MS-Word format is preferred, but the editor will work with anything you submit.

Pretty simple instructions, huh? Submit your contributions today!! The deadline to be included in a particular issue is the Monday following the general meeting.

See, there's still plenty of room for your stuff... ☆



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