



# ★ **STARSTUFF** ★

**The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club**

**January 2001**  
**Volume 10 Number 1**



Editor: Michael J. Bruno

**^^— Club Officer Elections at the January 25 Meeting / FAAC Diner Party February 10 —^^**

## **IN THIS ISSUE...**

### **CONTENTS...**

**Christmas Eclipse 2000**  
**FAAC Diner Party**  
**Membership Dues are Now Due**  
**Magazine Discounts**  
**See What?**

### **DEPARTMENTS...**

**Advertisements**  
**Product Review - Losmandy GM-8**  
**Astro FAAC's**  
**NASA Notes**  
**the clubspOt**  
**Announcements - \*Nominations\***  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**Next General Meeting**  
**2000/01 FAAC Events Calendar**

## **Christmas Eclipse of 2000** **December 25, 2000**

By Al Bates

Starting with Christmas Eve I thought to myself, "if the sky is clear and the sun shines I will attempt to observe the Christmas solar eclipse." When I awoke Christmas day the sun beams were shining brightly into my bedroom. That was all I needed to begin my journey to the garage. Before I headed out I had to fine some winter gear that was necessary to withstand the cold weather we've been experiencing. I got suited up and made my way to the garage slipping and a sliding on the layers of ice that had accumulated over the last few days. I started viewing with the binoculars with some mylar I found for solar observing. After taking a look or two I found the altitude of the sun to be around 20 degrees with 5 or 6 sun spots. I decided it was time to get out the 5" scope. Before I could do that, I had to removed a few layers of dust that had accumulated but did manage to get it setup.

At around 11:00 a.m. I saw the first view of the moon creeping across the sun. About 11:40 a.m. I observed the first of three large sun spots starting to be covered. At 12:55 p.m. all three spots were covered and just missed a forth spot. At maximum, (around 12:30 p.m., 55 or 60% eclipse) as I was viewing, a jet airplane zipped across the uncovered sun leaving a smoke trail. WOW! I observed until the end around 2:00 p.m. and as I packed it up I thought "what an extra special gift to receive on Christmas day."

## **FAAC Dinner Party**

The annual dinner party is scheduled for February 10 at Kiernan's Steak House in Dearborn. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. This is a nice time of the year for all the members to get together since there is not much observing going on with all the clouds and cold weather. Old and new members are all welcome and bring a guest along so they have a chance to meet the other members of the club.

The dinner menu and prices have not been set as of yet. It is partially dependent on the amount of people attending, if we have over 40 people we will receive a banquet discount. Anyway, the menu will have a chicken and meat selection and range from about \$16-\$24.

If you would like to attend please respond to Sue Fowler, she can be reached at 313-274-7151 or call the hotline and leave a message. The final count is due February 3 so please respond by then to let us know if you can make it. Hope to see you all there.

Savings acct. balance 1695.69

Also, the Scholarship fund has a balance of 988.83.  
There are currently 122 club members.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The next club meeting is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>, due to the holiday. Also, as a reminder this is the last club meeting of the year.

Anyone needing to renew their S&T subscription can obtain the club discount letter from the Treasurer.

If anyone is not receiving the Astronomy League Newsletter please notify the Treasurer so that you can be added to the mailing list.

A request was put forth on how to contact other club members. It is a club policy not to publish personal information of it's members. If there is someone you would like to contact you may ask a club officer to contact the person to return a call. Other options are to utilize the Bulletin Board system on the club web-page or to leave a message on the hotline of your request and an officer will contact you.

There is a general request for feedback regarding the ILSP. Things Gone Right and Things Gone Wrong. Again you may bring this feedback to the next meeting or utilize the Bulletin Board System on the web and send it to the FAAC Board.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to report.

### **MAIN PROGRAM**

The main program of the night was Ask The Astronomer.

### **FAAC Meeting Minutes - December 7**

By John Kmieciak

President Daniel J. Kmieciak opened the meeting at 5:07pm. Scotty Fahs "the pizza guy" wasn't here at the beginning of the meeting. He arrived to the joy of everyone around 5:15.

Treasurer Mike Bruno began the Roundtable at 5:08  
Al Bates announced that he retired as of tonight (12/07/2000)! Congratulations, Al!

The Lake Erie Ice Daze is on Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. Contact Bob MacFarland for more information

Scotty Fahs got his Lunar Certificate from the AL. Congratulations, Scotty!  
Gibraltar Schools want to do an astronomy program. The club can determine the date, Write to Bob MacFarland for more information or to volunteer.

Tentative date for ILSP 9 is Sept. 22. Other dates will be discussed at the first meeting on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer reported the following,  
Checking \$358.95  
Savings \$1900.69

Of that money \$772.83 is in the Scholarship fund.  
There are currently 125 club members.

### **MAIN PROGRAM**

Greg Burnett gave an informative presentation on the Islamic calendar. George Korody supplied a video on meteors, asteroids and comets. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

### **Next General Meeting**

The next meeting of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club will be held on **Thursday, January 25**, at 5:00pm in conference room 1491 in the Ford Credit building in Dearborn.

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 there is a manned security desk. Identify yourself, and say you are attending a Ford club meeting, and the guard 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. II

## **2000/01 Ford Amateur Astronomy Club Calendar of Events and Activities**

Jan 25                      General Membership Meeting and  
Club Election

Feb 10                      FAAC Diner Party

Check for updates:  
on the FAAC hotline (313) 390-5456  
Ford Intranet: [www.be.ford.com/astro/faac.html](http://www.be.ford.com/astro/faac.html)  
or the Internet: [www.boonhill.net/faac](http://www.boonhill.net/faac)