



STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 17, Number 7

July 2008

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Death of a Supergiant

By all outward appearances, the red supergiant appeared normal. But below the surface, hidden from probing eyes, its core had already collapsed into an ultra-dense neutron star, sending a shock wave racing outward from the star's center at around 50 million kilometers per hour.

The shock wave superheated the plasma in its path to almost a million degrees Kelvin, causing the star to emit high-energy ultraviolet (UV) radiation. About six hours later, the shock wave reached the star's surface, causing it to explode in a Type IIP supernova named SNLS-04D2dc.

Long before the explosion's visible light was detected by telescopes on Earth, NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX) space telescope captured the earlier pulse of UV light — scientists' first glimpse of a star entering its death throes.

"This UV light has traveled through the star at the moment of its death but before it was blown apart," explains Kevin Schawinski, the University of Oxford astrophysicist who led the observation. "So this light encodes some information about the state of the star the moment it died."

And that's exactly why astronomers are so excited. Observing the beautiful nebula left behind by a supernova doesn't reveal much about what the star was like before it exploded; most of the evidence has been obliterated. Information encoded in these UV "pre-flashes" could offer scientists an unprecedented window into the innards of stars on the verge of exploding.

In this case, Schawinski and his colleagues calculated that just before its death, the star was 500 to 1000 times larger in diameter than our sun,

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Ford Amateur Astronomy Outreach

President's Corner

Doug Bauer, FAAC President

Many of you have participated in various FAAC outreach programs. This year we have had several already.

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STAR STUFF

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FORD AMATEUR ASTRONOMY CLUB
P.O. Box 7527
Dearborn MI 48121-7527

PRESIDENT:	Doug Bauer
VICE PRESIDENT:	Gordon Hansen
SECRETARY:	Ken Anderson
TREASURER:	Steve Flessa
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Dale Ochalek

Club Information:

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC) meets on the fourth Thursday each month, except for the combined November/December meeting on the first Thursday of December – at Henry Ford Community College, Administrative Services and Conference Center in Dearborn. Refer to our website for a map and directions (www.boonhill.net/faac).

The FAAC observes at Spring Mill Pond within the Island Lake State Recreation Area near Brighton, Michigan. The club maintains an after-hours permit, and observes on Friday and Saturday nights, and nights before holidays, weather permitting. The FAAC also has use Richmond Airport, Unadilla, given prior permission, and Lake Erie MetroPark. See the FAAC Yahoo Group* for more information.

Observing schedules and additional info are available on our website, or via the FAAC Yahoo Group.* Or call the **FAAC Hotline**, for info, and leave a message, or ask questions: **248-207-2075**. Or send email inquiries to fordastronomy@comcast.net.

Membership in the FAAC is open to anyone with an interest in amateur astronomy. The FAAC is an affiliate of the Ford Employees Recreation Association (F.E.R.A.). Membership fees:

Annual – New Member:	\$30	(\$15 after July 1)
Annual – Renewal:	\$25	(\$30 after January 31)

Membership includes the *STAR STUFF* newsletter, discounts on magazines, discounts at selected area equipment retailers, and after-hours access to the Island Lake observing site.

Astronomy or Sky & Telescope Magazine Discounts

Obtain the required form from the FAAC club treasurer for a \$10 discount. Send the completed form directly to the respective publisher with your subscription request and payment. Do not send any money directly to the FAAC for this.

Star Stuff Newsletter Submissions

Your submissions to *STAR STUFF* are more than welcome! Send your story and/or images to the editor at dake00k@yahoo.com. Email text or MS Word is fine. *STAR STUFF* will usually go to press the weekend prior to each general meeting. Submissions received prior to that weekend can be included in that issue.

* FAAC Members are welcome to join our **FordAstronomyClub** Yahoo! Group. Messages, photos, files, online discussions, and more! URL: groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub.

President's Corner... (continued from page 1)

Here is a list:

- Monthly Beginner's Nights (at both Island Lake and Lake Erie MetroPark)
- Lunar Eclipse Viewing - Lake Erie and Detroit Science Center
- Barth Elementary school in Romulus
- Lake Erie MetroPark Ice Daze
- Hillside Elementary - Farmington Hills
- Bruyn Lake Campground
- O.W. Holmes Elementary in Detroit
- Garfield Elementary in Livonia
- Innisfree Girl Scout Camp in Howell
- Astronomy Day at several locations
- Henry Ford Community College planetarium programs
- Expo 2008 (Swap Meet)
- Ford Product Development Center

I would like to thank everyone who has come out to participate in these events; and there are many more in the plans:

- Proud Lake Recreation Area (date TBD)
- Edison Boat Club (date TBD)
- Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Meadowbrook Festival (August 2)
- GLAAC Astronomy at the Beach (September 5 and 6)
- Others (TBD)
- Many 2009 International Year of Astronomy events (TBD)

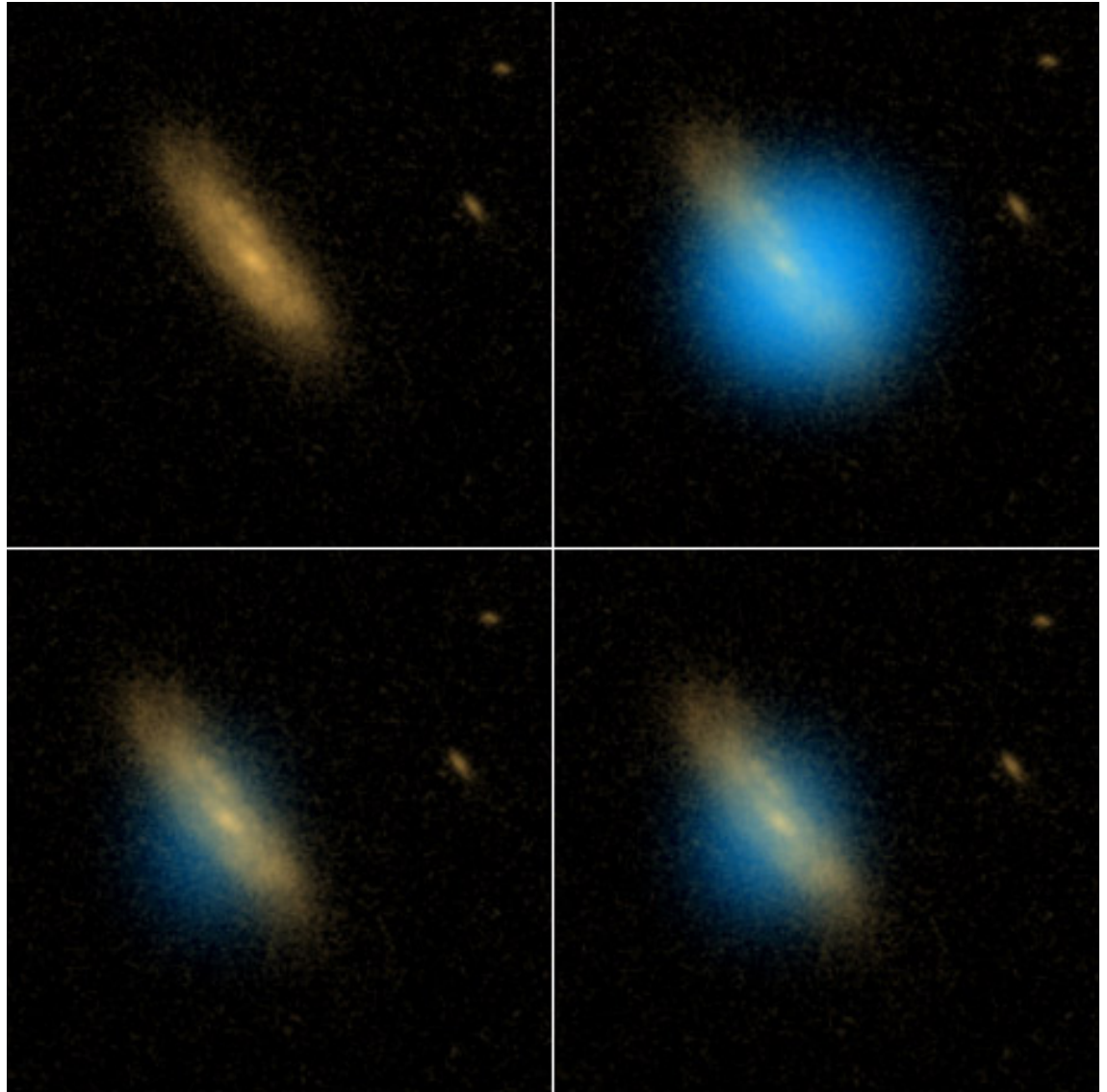
I would like to thank all those who will be participating in these events too!

And encourage those of you who have not been able to participate, to try to make some time to attend at least one of the upcoming events. I think you will enjoy the time you spend with your fellow club members and the excitement of seeing someone look through a telescope for the first time. Sometimes these are young children, but you would be surprised how many adults have never had the opportunity to look through a telescope. The look on their face the first time they see Saturn, Jupiter, or even the moon, is priceless!

As everyone who has participated in these outreach events can attest, it is a lot of fun sharing your hobby and perhaps inspiring someone else to enjoy the wonders of space. Give it a try! Thanks!!!!

Doug Bauer (DougBauer@comcast.net)

Supergiant... (from page 1)



Sequence of images shows supernova start to finish. The top left image shows the galaxy before the supernova. At top right, the bright UV flash called the shock breakout indicates a red supergiant has collapsed. At bottom left, moments later, the flash is mostly gone. As the debris expands, it heats up again and becomes brighter (bottom right). The supernova became 10 times the size of the original over the following few days, thus becoming visible to supernova hunters.

confirming that the star was in fact a red supergiant. "We've been able to tell you the size of a star that died in a galaxy several billion light-years away," Schawinski marvels.

"GALEX has played a very important role in actually seeing this for a few reasons," Schawinski says. First, GALEX is a space telescope, so it can see far-UV light that's blocked by Earth's atmosphere. Also, GALEX is designed to take a broad view of the sky. Its relatively small 20-inch primary mirror gives it a wide, 1.2-degree field of view, making it more likely to catch the UV

flash preceding a supernova. With these advantages, GALEX is uniquely equipped to catch a supernova before it explodes. "Just when we like to see it," Schawinski says.

For more information, visit www.galex.caltech.edu, "Ultraviolet Gives View Inside Real 'Death Star'." Kids can check out how to make a mobile of glittering galaxies at spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/galex_make1.shtml

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

June 26 Meeting Minutes

Ken Anderson

Attendees: 36+

Doug Bauer started the FAAC meeting at 5:30 pm in the HFCC Rosenau conference room with introductions, and then pizza and pop. Doug is seeking a volunteer (to replace himself) to buy and bring the pop to future meetings.

Next month's Tech Talk will be "Show and Tell Your Favorite Sky Chart", so please bring in your favorite chart or book to the July meeting. Last Friday John Schroer, Don Klaser, Lori Poremsky her nephew plus 150 others were at Brown Lake Campground, for Detroit Science Center (DCS)'s "Campout In the Stars" observing the full moon, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter. Tony Licata discussed sinusoidal error with drilling one way. Larry Goodsell talked about his 8 pack AA, 9-volt connector dew heaters and cooling fan, plus another dew heater for his secondary mirror. Harold Thomason was invited to lead an astronomy party for his neighbor looking at Saturn though his 14." Bob Clubb received a certificate for presenting HFCC planetarium shows. One member's grandson received the Science Olympia Reach for the Stars 2nd place at Macomb County for moon phases, deep sky objects, and planet project and display.

Dale Partin from Warren Astronomical Society (WAS) gave the "Hubble Constant: a Historical Perspective" main presentation.

Diane Worth gave the "FAAC Clubwear Fashion Show" Tech Talk, informing club members what embroidered five color club logo items they could order at next meeting (prices are estimates heard by the secretary):

- Ottoman "Official" Club Short Sleeve Shirt (black or white) \$37
- Bill Blass Long Sleeve Dress Shirt (blue) \$42
- Casual Club (blue) \$35
- Hat \$19
- patch \$9
- Blanket nylon and fleece \$33
- Duffle Bag (blue) \$20
- Expandable Brief (blue) \$20
- Chart Bag (black) \$16
- Port Authority Hooded Sweatshirt (black) \$32 no longer avail; XL additional \$3
- Hoodless Sweat Shirt not-embroidered (grey) \$20
- T-shirt not-embroidered (white, grey, blue) \$8

Doug Bauer led the business portion. Ken Anderson gave the Secretary's Report, and May 22 minutes will be put on the website when ready. Gordon Hanson gave Steve Flessa's Treasurer's Report (see detailed report in this newsletter).

Harold Thomason gave the Equipment Manager's Report accounting for everything plus found out we also owned a coffee brewer. Our club also owns a 10x10-ft. canopy, video projector, screen, sound system, bullhorn, sky quality meter, and DVD player, and a coffee brewer. Club members can read the Process and Rules in the July 2007 Star Stuff (at <http://www.boonhill.net/faac/starstuff>) and on our Yahoo website (groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub), if they want to sign out equipment.

Ken Anderson, John Schroer, Greg Ozimek, Sandra Macika, Bob MacFarland, Steve Harvath, Eric Rasmussen, and Erik Webster are on the FAAC club telescope committee. Anyone else with experience with dob(s) 22" or greater, or having people skills getting donations or negotiating land use deals would be greatly appreciated. We are potentially seeking a large (22" to 36" diameter) semi-portable/non-permanent transportable (f3.5 to f4.5) short focal length dobsonian, which could be relocated for star parties, but be used mostly visually at the primary site TBD. A short focal length would increase safety and reduce the requirements for a tall ladder, at the additional expense of requiring a Tele Vue Paracorr coma corrector. Webster Telescopes has agreed to provide free labor if our club purchases the raw materials for a 36" or larger "worthy" Webster telescope. If we select a telescope with eyepiece height greater than 10 feet, the long term would be to get go to and tracking to speed up guest throughput of the same object (vs. having to constantly re-find the object climbing up a ladder between guests); however one supplier said this upgrade may cost an additional \$3-5 thousand. Kevin Denhe of WAS set up tracking Dobzilla with place holders for all accessories and has a large finder scope at the bottom. John Schroer suggested we may be able to get a large dob donated to us (or possibly a small observatory). One member read that one club acquired and relocated an unused 16" government telescope. This committee would also seek land to house/store the telescope and the primary observing site. The goal would be trained club members would only need to bring eyepieces and

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Minutes ... (from page 4)

key, to open up, and start observing. Gordon Hanson advised us our club only has \$5000, some of which is allocated to GLAAC, etc. Our Richmond fee is only \$300 to their club picnic, since we do not have anything permanent at their airfield, and Ed Halash was going to ask them about the possibility of locating our semi-permanent large dobsonian there near the antennas and weather equipment.

The FAAC Telescope Committee will meet the third Thursday of each month (June 19, July 15, and September 21, 5:30 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn, MI. Ken plans to discuss the plan at the August 7 board meeting, and get the club vote for approval at the August 28 club meeting, so we can start advertising for donations at Septembers AATB.

Frank Ancona is the FAAC representative for the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Committee. He convinced Lansing to turn off lights on the capital in the late evening. We wish him the best luck in encouraging our legislature to purchase efficient lighting, saving taxpayers money, and preserving our night sky. Jim Frisbie posted the sky meter light pollution survey forms, and commented the new model with "lump" has a narrower 60-deg. FOV (compared to the original model without lump having 120-deg. FOV). Frank is asking for a light pollution survey to provide data to legislatures and businesses. Michigan does not have light trespass legislation or organization. Send complaints to city councils or town ordinance (not state). Government more concerned about safety and saving money (not really caring about preserving nocturnal natural sky light. Some home ordinance fine violators \$100/day after being notified of light trespass (light shining into personal homes making it difficult to sleep, etc.

John Schroer will be gathering names till July of those interested (currently 15) in joining the Astronomical League. FAAC has agreed to pay \$10 to list the club. FAAC members will have to pay \$7.50 out of pocket to join the Astronomical League on their own (cheaper than \$35 to join individually not affiliated with any club). John will submit names, collect and send in money

The meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm after discussing the below business/club events.

In club events (in chronological order):

Beginner's Night will now be at both Lake Erie MetroPark (Marshlands Museum) and Island Lake State Park (Spring Mill Pond), August 9, and October 4. Bring your telescope/binoculars, or look through others. Events are posted in the Park Bulletin board, MetroPark Quarterly Newsletter, and Ford World.

Astronomy Day May 10 DSC Solar Observing. Photo Contest for Deep Sky, and Lunar/Planetary. 64 people observed from Kensington MetroPark. No official count from Lake Erie or Island Lake. Kevin and Lori observed Saturn and Polaris from Lake Erie MetroPark with their brand new 4" Celestron. They also purchase a solar filter.

Lincoln Park May 12-19 "How to Build a Telescope." Harold Thomason celebrated for 25 years. Harold Thomason was at Lincoln Park Lafayette High School with 7th and 8th graders for 6 days. Two days was devoted to solar observing with hydrogen alpha filters. Randy Kite taught observing and how to build a telescope. They had an observatory with F8-9 9' (85-98") long 12.5" diameter mirror. They also had an 8" telescope. Unfortunately due to not being adequately covered, everything had bird poop on it. Their last observing session was in 2001. Their dome still worked. They still had all their eyepieces. Tim Dey received FAAC board approval to evaluate their state of equipment (Gordon Hansen and Dennis Salliotte), and determine what it would take (time and dollar wise) to restore their equipment. 1964 German Equatorial 11" mirror needs to be recoated. Additional 8" reflector telescope. Volunteers needed to pull mirror and evaluate. Perhaps a corporate sponsor could advertise name on the shed. Urban skies make it only good for bright objects.

Barth Elementary School Outreach (near Romulus) Science Week – May 15 Gordon Hanson Astronomy 101, Dave took about 100 kids through DSC's Star Lab. Frank Ancona talked about light pollution. Jeff Hinline, Sandra Macika, Bob FitzGerald, and Doug Bauer conducted observing for the 3rd graders.

Garfield Elementary School Outreach in Livonia May 20 was supported, as well as Holmes Elementary School Outreach.

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Minutes ... (from page 5)

June 7 was cloudy at Camp Innisfree Girl Scout Camp so Doug Bock, Bob FitzGerald, and Sandra Macika conducted "Show and Tell" of equipment, and Bob MacFarland gave the Astronomy 101 presentation.

June 17 concluded "Spring Sky" show season (shown by FAAC's Dennis Salliotte, Bob Clubb, and Ken Anderson) in the HFCC Science Building Planetarium (room S-126). The "Fall Sky" show will resume when the new school year begins, every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm, in the fall, dates TBD. Shows are free and first come first serve. Doors open around 7:15 pm and close promptly at 7:30 pm. Sometimes, Ken brings his binoculars to treat guest with post show highlights outside in the Science Building parking lot. Bob Clubb has created a FAAC/HFCC Planetarium webpage. Dr. Jacobs and Mike Lapresto have created a Tour of the Solar System on the campus of HFCC. HFCC campus maps can be found at <http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/locations.asp>.

Eric Rasmussen may open the University of Michigan - Dearborn Observatory (3rd floor of UM-D's Science Learning Research Center) on some Tuesday's 8:30-10 pm (if it is clear) immediately after the HFCC planetarium shows on TBD. UM. Please call the UM-D observatory hotline at 313-583-6566 one hour before to confirm inclement weather hasn't cancelled this outdoor observing event. Both HFCC and UM-D facilities are about a quarter mile apart, close enough to walk, but most will drive.

The SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next one July 10) at 5:30 pm. This meeting will be in the HFCC's Admin building Rosenau conference room, topic "Planetary Imaging" by John Kirchhoff.

July 12 SEMSA/FAAC Picnic at Richmond Airfield - Ed Halash said to be there at 3 pm to socialize and eat. FAAC provided \$300 for main food and soft drinks; just bring a side dish (tomatoes, onions, etc). Jupiter will be visible along with the full moon. Glider soaring flights approximately \$60 for light weight (or \$80 for high performance glider). They will have a band and fireworks (away from telescopes).

July 19 Ford Employee and Retiree Truck and Car Show 9 am-1 pm has allowed FAAC to set up solar telescopes at the PDC Atrium outdoor table area,

near (but not on due to safety) the lawn where the cars are. Ken Anderson, Greg Ozimek and Gordon Hanson plan to attend. We are able to set up the club banner on the curved brick wall.

FAAC meetings are every fourth Thursday of each month (next one June 24) normally at HFCC Rosenau conference room. Main Presentation will be "Lick Observatory" by Sandra Macika. The Tech Talk will be "Show and Tell Your Favorite Sky Chart", so please bring in your favorite chart or book to the July meeting. The FAAC Board meeting is the first Thursday of each month (July 3, 5 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn.

The FAAC Library and DVD collection is in HFCC Science Building Room 109. Gary Stahl recommends a courtesy e-mail a day before the meeting. The list of 100+ books and brief descriptions is available at the FAAC Yahoo site; books can be signed out for one month, with extensions allowable. There are still 20 or more books to be cataloged. President Doug Bauer and V.P. Gordon Hansen are backup key holders for returning books.

DSO Concert with Astronomy (Board will decide which one date to go July 26-27 or Aug 1-3 and announce actual date at next meeting). Astronomy during intermission and post concert.

Proud Lake State Park Earth Day June 7 (will be rescheduled to September or August) - Paul Offberger coordinating, Doug Bauer contact, Campfire Lunch 3-6 pm, Astronomy 101, Dark Sky Preservation, Telescope Observing 7-10 pm - Paul Offberger.

Astronomy at the Beach (AATB) September 5-6, Kensington MetroPark. Kensington MetroPark is seeking recommendations for a new pavilion (next year), acknowledging that the AATB brings in more people than any other single event at the park. We need to generate a list of everything we plan to sell and have the list reviewed (due to the light bracelet issue last year with site vendor exclusive rights. Last year we had 70 telescopes and 7,300 attendees. Next GLAAC planning meeting is Sunday TBD at 1 pm at the Nature Center. Contact Bob MacFarland or Bob FitzGerald for details or future meetings.

Great Lake Star Gaze, September 25-26, Gladwin, put on by the Sunset Astronomical Society.

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Minutes ... (from page 6)

FAAC Dark Sky Workshop will be September 29-October 5 at River Valley in Gladwin (immediately following the Star Gaze so we can keep tent/equipment set up on the hill!). This site has porta-potty, coffee, and generator on hill. Regular restrooms and a shower at bottom of hill. 1-1.5 hour presentation each day by Tony Licata, Gordon Hanson, John Kirchhoff, or Clay Kessler. Advance registration (before August 28) is \$15, otherwise \$20; plus \$5 for night on the hill

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009) celebrating 400th year of the (Galileo's) telescope. American Astronomy Society and Astronomical League are celebrating "International Year of the Telescope". All year long, expect speakers. Astronomy Day will be advertised greater, and we may get additional support for our AATB. DSC, Cranbrook, FAAC, and GLAAC plan to bring more astronomy to the general public. Eric Rasmussen will be planning events at University of Michigan (Dearborn and Ann Arbor) and HFCC. U of M will have Saturday Morning Talks. John Schroer passed out several handouts at the board meeting to show national intentions. Plastic replicas of Galileo's telescope with real glass lenses will sell for under \$11, and you will be able to see Saturn and Jupiter with it.

The 2009 FAAC Astronomy Expo and Swap is March 26, same time as Florida Winter Star Party.

Steve Flessa has sweatshirts, shirts, hats, and patches available for purchase from Diane Worth's last order. At the next meeting Diane will discuss interest in a new order from Saginaw for sweatshirts, jackets, shirts, hats, and patches and a possible expansion of items from a new catalog. We also have new small logo on chest stenciled \$10 T-shirts and \$20 sweatshirts. One club member asked if we could also have the large logo stenciled on the back for additional cost in future orders.

The 2008 Astronomy calendars are available for \$7. Steve Flessa reported we have sold out both Royal Canadian Handbooks and Royal Canadian Beginner Guides. Jon Blum passed out free bookmarks "Sleep is for Sissies."

Seeking 2007 speakers for both FAAC 30-60 minute Main Presentations, and 15-20 minute Tech Talks. Contact Doug Bauer at dougbauer@comcast.net or call 313-828-7385.

Meeting Agenda - July 24

5:30 pm HFCC - Rosenau CR - Admin. Services and Conference Center *

(For map see:

http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus_maps.pdf)

Opening/Introduction/Member Observing

Presentation: The Lick Observatory, Sandra Macika

Tech Talk: - Review of Sky Charts, FAAC Members

Club Business/Secretary/Treasurer/Equipment Reports

Club Projects/Committees/Member Support

- **Lincoln Park Observatory Restoration**
- **SEMSA / FAAC Picnic July 12th –recap**
- **Order Clubwear**
- **Dr. Paul F. Goldsmith – Molecular Clouds and Star Formation presentation at Cranbrook, Oct 17, 7:30 pm – \$8, Register after Labor Day**
- **Astro-Imaging SIG**
- **Dark Sky**
- **Club Telescope Committee**
- **Open Discussion**

*** Note:** See Room Change dates below.

Announcing - Room Changes

Doug Bauer

FAAC Members, please take note!

The usual meeting room for general and Astro Imaging SIG meetings at HFCC - Admin. Services and Conference Center, Rosenau Conference Room - was not available for certain dates.

Another room – the Hackett Conference Room - is being made available for those dates for which the Rosenau CR was not available (for map see: http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus_maps.pdf).

The FAAC general meeting will be held in the Hackett room on **September 25**, and **December 4, 2008**.

The SIG meetings will use the Hackett room on **August 14**, and **November 13, 2008**, and **February 12, 2009**.

Otherwise, both SIG and FAAC General meetings will continue to be held in the Rosenau Conference Room.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flessa

Account	7/19/2008 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking	\$1,412.35
Savings	\$1,388.48
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$2,800.83
Cash Accounts	
Cash Account	\$150.00
TOTAL Cash Accounts	\$150.00
Investment Accounts	
Certificate of Deposit 1	\$1,056.61
Certificate of Deposit 2	\$1,022.86
	\$2,079.47
Asset Accounts	
Equipment	\$669.96
Scholarship	\$308.05
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$978.01
OVERALL TOTAL	
Memo:	
GLAAC	\$6,008.31

Note from Treasurer: I thought it might be helpful for the FAAC membership to see where the Club's money goes. So here is an approximate list of non-reimbursed expenses (Jan./July 2008) that come out of the general club funds. The banquet and swap meet expenses are covered by the income from those events, and so are not listed here.

Item(s)	Amount
Sky quality meter	(\$119.99)
Special recognition plaque	(\$98.88)
Newsletter expenses	(\$207.69)
Clear sky clock	
sponsorships	(\$150.00)
Banquet prizes	(\$68.75)
Island lake permit	(\$50.00)
Nametag lanyards	(\$425.93)
DVD player	(\$31.67)
Liability insurance	(\$320.00)
Office supplies	(\$93.05)
Pizza and pop	(\$496.40)
2008 GLAAC contribution	(\$300.00)
Total Expenses	(\$2,362.36)

FAAC Events 2008

Bob MacFarland

August	2 – Telescopes and DSO (tentative) 9 – Beginners' Night, Island Lake Recreation Area, Lake Erie MetroPark
September	5-6 – Astronomy on the Beach – GLAAC, Kensington Park 25-28 – Great Lakes Star Gaze, Gladwin 29-Oct. 4 – Astro-Imaging Workshop, Gladwin
October	4 – Beginner's Night - Island Lake, Lake Erie MetroPark

Items for Sale

Schmidt-Newtonian 10" – F5.35, 1360 mm focal length with 2" focuser, 60 mm guide scope, Thousand Oaks Full aperture solar filter (Mylar). Cooling fan, extra set of "O" rings, Optron Corrector plate.

Crestliner mount (on wheels) available. Scope made by Nelson Lewis of Detroit Astronomical Society in 1962. Purchased 1981. Selling telescope for \$325.

Mount for \$200.

Contact Harold Thomason 313-584-7465

Coulter 10" Dobsonian telescope. \$400.

Contact Bob Stonik, 313-361-4954

VIXEN R130sf Newtonian 130mm telescope on a Vixen Porta Mount, \$350. Includes an eyepiece and a Red Dot Finder. The scope diameter is 130mm (5"), the focal length is about 1050 mm. Porta Mount itself lists for \$399.

There is no case or bag for the legs. Just a great deal on a good scope and a great mount.

Contact Tom Blaszk, key_string_guy@yahoo.com

Astro Imaging SIG

Tony Licata

Gallery Submissions Requested!

If you have any interesting photos, astronomy related or not, please send them to tglicata@aol.com as JPG attachments.

The SIG gallery of images will be viewed during each SIG meeting. A reminder is posted on our Yahoo site periodically for submissions.

All are invited to join us, share and discuss their images. We always have a good time, with lively discussion. Next meeting is August 14, HFCC Hackett CR. Topics invited.

Mark your calendars! The Dark Sky Workshop 2008 is scheduled for Monday Sep 29th through Oct. 5th, at River Valley RV Camp, in Gladwin, MI. A flier and sign up sheet will be forthcoming.

100 Hours of Astronomy

The 100 Hours of Astronomy cornerstone project (100HA) is a round-the-clock, worldwide event with 100 continuous hours of a wide range of public outreach activities including live webcasts, observing events and more. 100HA will take place from April 2-5, 2009, when the Moon goes from first quarter to gibbous, good phases for early evening observing. One of the key goals of 100HA is to have as many people as possible look through a telescope as Galileo did for the first time 400 years ago. Saturn will be the other highlight of early evening observing events.

100HA consists of five main events:

1. An opening event featuring the telescope that Galileo used to make his groundbreaking observations.
2. Activities at science centers, planetariums and science museums including live webcasts, live observations by visitors using remotely-operated telescopes, and enhanced outreach programs including public observing sessions held by amateur astronomy groups.
3. Observing sessions and other educational activities in schools groups held by astronomy clubs and others.
4. 24 hours of live webcasts from research observatories around the world, along with observing events and other outreach activities at participating observatories.

5. 24 hours of sidewalk astronomy – public observing sessions in population centers to bring the opportunity to view the Moon, Saturn and other objects to as many people as possible. The annual International Sidewalk Astronomy Night will be held during this event.

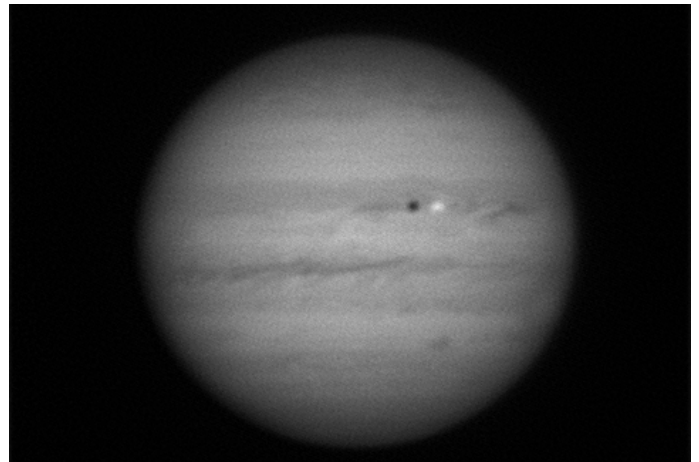
These primary activities will be scheduled so that each supports the other, leading in order from one to the next and culminating in the world's greatest public observing event. A wrap-up will be held at the IAU General Assembly in 2009 to recognize all participants' contributions to this unique global event.

-- submitted by John Schroer

Jupiter July 15

Photos by John Kirchhoff

Jupiter images were taken on the morning of July 15. The mono image was taken in IR light and shows how bright Io is in Infra red (due to all of the volcanic activity?). Color image is RGB.



Ford Amateur Astronomy Club
Star Stuff Newsletter
P.O. Box 7527
Dearborn MI 48121-7527



RIDER'S

HOBBY SHOPS

Store Hours:
M-F 10am-7pm
SAT 10am-6pm
SUN Noon-5pm

Gen. Manager: John Kirchhoff
Email: livonia@riders.com
http://www.riders.com

30991 Five Mile Road
Livonia MI 48154
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FAX: (734) 425-2029

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