



STARSTUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

June 2002

Volume 11 Number 6



Editor: Jim Frisbie

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

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<http://www.boonhill.net/faac>

Submissions to STAR STUFF are welcome Please write to the address above or contact the editor:

Jim Frisbie
via tele #: 734-453-1422
or email: w8tu@peoplepc.com

Dead line is the 15th of each month for the following month of publication.

Officers:

President	Don Nakic
Vice President	Ken Anderson
Secretary	Don Klaser
Treasurer	Mike Bruno

General Meetings:

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club holds regular general meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month (except the combined November/December meeting held the first Thursday of December) at 5:00 PM at the Family Service and Learning Center, 18501 Rotunda, Dearborn, MI 48124.

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.

Club Information:

Observing schedules and additional Club information is available by calling the Observing Hotline at: (313) 390-5456 or via the Ford Intranet: www.be.ford.com/astro/faac.html or the public Internet: www.boonhill.net/faac.

Club Membership:

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

Annual - New Member: \$25; Renewal: \$ 20 (before Jan 31 of each year)


Lifetime - \$ 150

Membership includes:

A subscription to the STAR STUFF newsletter and the quarterly newsletter the REFLECTOR published by the Astronomical League.

Discounts on ASTRONOMY and SKY & TELESCOPE magazines, after-hours access to the observing site and discounts at selected area equipment retailers.

Magazine Discounts:

Do not send money to FAAC for SKY & TELESCOPE or ASTRONOMY magazine subscriptions. We 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. 

MINUTES OF THE MAY 23, 2002

FAAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Don Klaser

The meeting was called to order by President Don at 5:00pm. Don introduced us to our new meeting site at the Ford Family Service and Learning Center. There were no new members in attendance, so the floor was opened up to anyone with a story to share. Mike Bruno gave the Treasurers Report. Don Klaser gave the Secretary's Report. Several members gave their impressions and observations about the recently held "Astronomy on the Beach" at Kensington Metro Park; the comments were very positive, except for the weather. Gordon & Janice gave a report on the Scholarship Program. Three awards will be given out at \$300 each. The recipients will be at our June meeting to accept their award. A motion was made to establish a club directory on-line that would include the person's picture and a short biography with astronomy interests. The motion was seconded and passed. Dale Ochalek volunteered to head-up this project. Our 10th Anniversary Picnic will be held at Doug Bock's house in conjunction with his Solstice Party. He asked to have a club member head up this event. A motion was made and seconded to fund this event, covering the cost of the tent and port-a-john. Ed Halash gave a presentation on his trip to and attendance at the Texas Star Party. Following Ed's slide show, John Kirchhoff from Rider's Hobby in Livonia gave a review on new equipment from Meade.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Don Nakic

When I acquired my first car one of the things I felt I had to do was to personalize it, i.e. accessorize it. I feel this spirit transcends to my telescope. I know this based on the amount of time it is now taking me to setup the telescope at some remote site.

When I acquired my Meade 8" LX200 four years ago all I had was a simple planisphere, a make-shift red illuminated flashlight, and a few astronomy books. That was the extent of it. As time past I learned that my interest lie in digital astrophotography. As a result, I started to accessorize my scope with a digital camera, a equatorial wedge, an

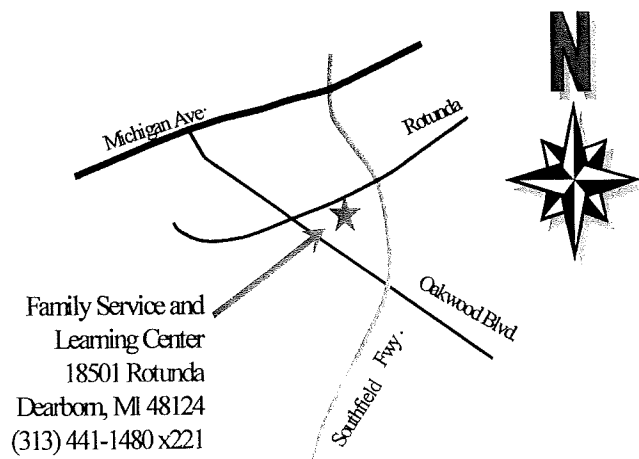
illuminated reticle, dew shield, and flip mirror to name a few. Currently, I'm at a state where I built-up a multitude of accessories to improving my imaging capability. Now I'm at a point of taking my interest to a higher level and to more remote locations. I now acquired a tent, sleeping bag, and some rudimentary camping gear. With this I can venture to darker sites without having to worry about driving home in a sleep deprived state. In addition, I'm working with more FAAC members to improve my digital image processing techniques.

When it comes to acquiring new accessories, there are paths that I pursue and recommend. One method is to browse reviews published in astronomy books, periodicals, and in credible websites. Another method is to visit local hobby stores, such as Riders, for insightful demonstrations. But my favorite source of information comes through star parties, observing nights, and at our FAAC club meetings. This is the best method for me to learn about new gadgets first hand on how they work, their capabilities (and limitations), where to purchase them, and recommended brands. And if someone didn't have the item, chances are they know someone who has it along with their experiences. I can site many accessories that I purchased as a result of this method.

Looking back on my first car I recall the significant amount of buyer remorse with each new accessory. I remember worrying about getting full use of the item especially on a vehicle that I would eventually part with in due time. With my telescope, I barely recall such a feeling. I know this is a hobby that I only intend to grow. The only problem I have is getting my wife to support my occasional buying sprees. One expensive solution she likes is for her to buy something of equal value. By this method it will be a very long time before I acquire a new scope!

FAAC General Meeting Location!

The FAAC General Meetings will be held at The Family Service and Learning Center located on Rotunda. Below is the address and map to the facilities.



OBSERVATIONS

by Greg Burnett

[This article was first published in Star Stuff, the newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, in March, 2000.]

As I write, a beeswax candle burns at the corner of my desk. I get them from a fellow in Colorado who makes them by hand. They are, you know, pure Colorado sunshine! Over the course of a season, thousands upon thousands of honeybees make millions upon millions of sorties through field and forest, gathering nectar and pollen to sustain themselves and to build their hives. Through an almost magical process, the details of which being known only to bees and beekeepers, the nectar and pollen are transformed into honey and beeswax. The honey is used for food, by both the bees and us humans (and an occasional bear!). The wax is used by the bees as building material. In combination with a hard, gluey substance called propolis, the bees construct the honeycombs they use to store food and to brood their young. By a simple subterfuge, the beekeeper prevents eggs from being laid in certain sections of the hive, so they are filled only with honey. In the Fall, this honey is harvested for use on our biscuits and waffles. But the bees do not go wanting. Given adequate space, they make and store far more honey than they can use, and the ever-prudent beekeeper leaves them sufficient stores for the Winter. Next Spring, empty sections will again be added to the hive and the bees will dutifully fill them with new honeycomb. When the honey has been extracted from the comb, the remaining beeswax is put to a variety of uses, not the least of which is candle making.

Beeswax is a complicated mixture of esters, fatty acids, alcohols, and complex hydrocarbons. It represents stored energy, captured from the Sun by flowering plants and collected by the bees. Solid sunshine! Paraffin, on the other hand, is not as complex as beeswax. This ubiquitous ingredient in "common" candles is refined from petroleum. It does not have the aromatic character of honey-scented beeswax, but paraffin is old...very old. Some of the petroleum from which it is made is the remains of plants and animals that were alive as much as 500 million years ago. When you burn a beeswax candle, you are releasing sunshine from only a few months ago, at most a couple of years. You may actually have shared a sunny afternoon with the bees gathering that sunshine for the candle you are enjoying this evening. But, light a common paraffin candle, and you are releasing energy that has been bound up in the wax for eons—ancient sunshine as old as light from the stars.

Young or old, it is sunshine none-the-less. There are few sources of energy of any kind that we do not owe ultimately to the Sun, and none that are not due to the energies of our star or some other nameless star that came and went long ago. Always, at the end of the thread, we find the stars.

BINOCULAR CHALLENGE

By Bob FitzGerald

"Not deep the Poet sees, but wide."

Resignation

This is not a contest--it's a challenge. It's not about how many Messiers can be seen in an hour, to what magnitudes one can view faint nebulae, what number of receding galaxies can be chalked up, or how well you split the Double Double. It's about getting a new look at the visual data base that is the subject of our hobby by utilizing a pair of binoculars that someone in your family probably already owns. I guarantee that you won't see any deeper into space than you already have or log any new faint fuzzies. But you will acquire a different perspective, another (a three-dimensional) view of the sky to add to your telescopic experiences. And, after all, isn't that what amateur astronomy is all about, increasing one's catalog of enjoyment?

A few rules: If you started out in astronomy years ago learning your way around the sky with binos, or if while out observing you routinely pick up a pair as an adjunct to your primary equipment, or just to vary the vista, you are not eligible - you already know what awaits. But if you're either a novice at stargazing, or an old hand looking to see what possible satisfaction there can be in a low-powered ("there's no shape to the Sombrero!"), sometimes awkward (it can be a neck strain looking at M13), non-computerized ("you mean I have to find *omicron* Ceti myself?") view of the universe, I urge you to accept the challenge. The worst that can happen is that the experience will confirm your suspicion that the author is too careful with his money (my son says "cheap") to make the outlay for a scope, or that he's unable to deal with inverted or reversed images.

In order to make this comparison with scope viewing fair, you'll need to level the observing pad with a few items you might not normally use: a chair (be comfortable--this is going to take a while); a good star chart (down to mag 8 will do nicely); a mount for your binos so you can easily pan, and to leave them in place while you refer to the chart (duct-taping them to the top of your scope is fine, but no GO-TOs; and a small piece of clear plastic with a circular cutout that matches your chart to the field of view of your binos--for star-hopping your way across the sky (don't rely on a finger to keep your place unless you have a third hand to hold your red flashlight or coffee). If all this seems to involve more effort than you want to invest, don't quit just yet. You are welcome to use my equipment--for an entire

evening if you want: that's how strongly I feel about this.

Well, if you've gotten this far, the star-hopping bit didn't scare you off and you're not heavy into astrophotography where understandably you have to reserve as much time as possible for exposures. So we're ready to go from where we are to where we want to be. No problem at all if we want to view the Double Cluster or the Horse and Rider: we simply view it naked-eye and then raise the binos to our line of sight. Or if the goal is familiar to us but a little less conspicuous, say *mu* Cephei or IC 4665, we will aim at the known area and scan slightly. But if our target is still less obvious, like V Hydrae (a nice carbon whose color is still discernible at Island Lake in spite of the increasing light pollution) or Nodus Secundus, we'll probably find it helpful to start with the *lucida* and walk our way from there.

One of the first things you might notice as you slide both your binos and your plastic circle five-plus or so degrees at a time toward your destination is the number of interesting asterisms you encounter, nearly perfect geometric figures--diamonds, squares, triangles, etc. Funny, they aren't as much in evidence on the chart. I suspect that the actual difference between, say, mag 6 and mag 7 stars is not as pronounced as is the size of the black dots on Tirion; or perhaps it's because the view through the eyepieces does not contain the peripheral distractions that intrude on your vision while studying the chart.

If you're using anything between 7 X 50s and 10 X 70s, the range of my experience, you'll probably see more stars than are plotted on Sky Atlas 2000 (which goes to mag 8) or similar charts. This is where the plastic circle is indispensable in enabling you to isolate, and exclude as signposts, those visible objects fainter than your chart's smallest dot. (In star hopping, more is not better. The closer your stellar view matches your chart the more beneficial. If there's something in your FOV not on the chart and dimmer than what you think your optics' capabilities are, you're having a good night. If it's brighter, you've probably discovered a comet or a killer asteroid is rushing toward you.)

So much for walking your way around the sky, which you probably knew anyway. Don't be offended: I'm not talking down to you. Remember, this is being written for those who haven't done it before.

As to which objects to hop to, I wouldn't spend too much time on the globulars unless you're just learning the sky and the constellations, as I still am: M4 is great for testing sky conditions and the performance of your glasses, but even M13 will be a disappointment if you're used to viewing it in a scope.

So will the planets. Titan and the Galilean moons will be there, but no rings, red spot or polar ice caps. But the redeeming feature will be the joy of the hunt and the relative ease with which you'll find Uranus and Neptune. They're in Capricornus this year and will be the star-like objects not on

your chart. The skies are relatively barren in that area when you're only seeing down to mag 8, and the planets will be easy to spot. So much so that I'm given to speculating that at least Uranus would have been discovered long before it was had binoculars been being used in the search: the ecliptic through Gemini (where it was found) does not exactly resemble the Scutum starcloud. Perhaps Herschel was just looking too deep. (Or perhaps it's just easier to find with a star chart from Sky & Telescope.)

Some nebulae like M8 and M42 which are naked eye anyway will be greatly enhanced by binos, but I cringe with incredulity at claims of someone's having snared the Ring from our polluted skies with a pair of 9 X 63s.

Variable star observing is interesting because the FOV is large enough to contain several fixed stars of known magnitude for comparison purposes. Unfortunately, Michigan seldom gives us weather consistently good enough without a star's having gone from minimum to maximum times in between viewing opportunities.

I find splitting doubles is a great way to continually push my Fujinons beyond what I thought were their limiting capabilities. Perhaps I'm learning something as I go along-- certainly neither the skies nor my eyes are getting better. But don't be fooled as I was: Albireo was a disappointment because the *comes* was so overpowered by the primary. Stick with doubles of similar magnitude (such as h2530 in Sextans or Struve 1347 in Hydra) and then see how close you can push the separation envelope.

Galaxies are few and far between for binocular users, but definitely try for NGC 253 in Sculptor.

If you enjoy, as I do, attempting to discern colors in stars, binos will aid your chances. While obviously not as good light gatherers as an 11-inch Dob, the wide field offers the advantage of including more objects, and color perception is enhanced by the contrast viewed among stars. It's subtle (we're not speaking of the Rigels and Aldeberans here), but it's there. Try it with RY Draconis and some of the other carbon stars which radiate a lot of energy in the red end of the spectrum and you'll find you can differentiate the oranges, crimsons, garnets and other shadings. To really appreciate these carbons, delve a little (if you don't already know) into their whys and wherefores. (I don't mean to imply that this inquiry is limited to binocular users: it's simply that in the case of carbons the wide field permits a lot of magnitude and color comparisons) A few nights' reading while waiting for the skies to clear or the full moon to pass didn't make me an astrophysicist but it did provide the basis to attempt an understanding of why these red giants are what they are; how they got that way; how their fusion process differs from the hydrogen-to-helium cycle of main sequence stars; why photons are produced, eventually reaching the eye; why they occupy their own niche on an HR diagram; and why their ruddy color is so apparent to us. Each of these questions, of course, posed its own challenge of

acquiring a smattering of ignorance about spectral classes; magnitude vs luminosity; how temperature relates to color and how that color is perceived by us; and since many (most?) carbons are variables, how types of variables differ from each other. (In fact, with homework you can even - at least in the privacy of your own den - question the wisdom of the experts: David Levy implies that R Leporis is most striking at maximum, while Robert Burnham quotes sources stating that for the same star the color pales with an increase in magnitude. It's something you can check out for yourself.) And while I haven't yet figured out why it takes 200,000 years for those photons I spoke of to reach the stellar surface (at light speed?) and why there are no green stars (actually, not as perceived by us), the background study does permit one to bring to the eyepieces that 50% that our Astronomy 101 mentor rightfully claims complements our observing.

Far and away the most interesting viewing for me is among the asterisms and open clusters. Some nights hours can be spent just roaming both star clouds and the seemingly barren patches of sky letting the interesting patterns bring themselves to the eyes without seeking them out, maybe occasionally checking the chart to see if someone has put a name or number to some striking pattern such as Kemble's Cascade. There's a perfect upper case J in Auriga southeast of Capella, and enough coronets (coronae to the purists among you) to crown every 19th century royal personage. Many open clusters are of the point-and-view variety while some are dimmer, smaller, and require star-hopping to find. Not all will match the Beehive, Pleiades, or M7 in beauty, but each has something to offer. While many of those bearing catalog numbers will be beyond the light-gathering abilities of your instrument, except for the Hyades each that you locate will fit nicely into your viewing field (after all, we're talking ten full moon-widths) and, like Matthew Arnold's Poet, while you might not see deep into the night sky, your vision will be wide.

FAAC SCHOLARSHIP 2002

Janice Kessler and Gordon Hansen reviewed applications and selected three recipients. Each will receive a \$300 award from FAAC. Following are the names, a brief biography, and their essay.

Brandee Williams

Graduating: Stevenson High School

GPA: 3.4

Activities: Student Council, Varsity Track and Field, and Spanish Club

Awards: Graduating Cum Laud, Who's Who in American High School Students award, and Michigan Merit Award

Attending: Michigan State University

Major: Pre-Med

The inspiration of my life: science.

Prior to my adolescent years I have been intrigued and fascinated by the concepts and theories of science. My life long goal is to extend my study of science and go abroad into a field of medicine: Neurology. My personal reasons for pursuing the continuous progression of science is very engaging. It seems as though I have found a hidden hunger for knowledge and a thirst for success. My compassion and interest in the science field has caused me to believe that science is a gateway into the unknown universe; and a passage leading to the most complex of questions, that are in need of answers.

With ambition, imagination, and a longing for knowledge the human race has allowed science to become a major aspect of our existence. Science provides the basis for all of our modern technology. Airplanes, communication satellites, television, automobiles, and plastics are only a few of the scientific and technological inventions that have transformed human lifestyles. Research by nuclear physicists have led to the development of nuclear energy as a source of power. Agricultural output has increased with the development of better varieties of plants and highly effective fertilizers. The development of antibiotics and other new drugs have helped control many infectious diseases. Studies in anatomy and physiology have led to amazing new surgical procedures and techniques that will benefit in the saving and preserving of millions of lives. I think that science impacts mankind in such a way that causes us to explore and create a variety of ways to better our lives and the world.

I have set my goals to the highest degree. I would especially like to accomplish my life long dream: becoming a renowned neurosurgeon. There are many obstacles and hardships that can set back a persons' goals. I have the determination to succeed, and I do not settle for failure. Striving for excellence is the key to success, and anything else is insignificant.

Christopher Schauman

Graduating: Livonia Franklin High School

GPA: 3.9

Activities: National Honor Society, Student Congress, Franklin Players, Student Council, Cross Country and Track

Awards: Honor Roll — All Semesters

Attending: University of Michigan - Dearborn

Major: Mechanical Engineering

FAAC Science Scholarship

There are many reasons for me to pursue the science field. First of all, I am very interested in science. I always have been. It is a subject that comes very easy to me. I am just fascinated in learning the way that things work. I do not just mean machines and technology when I say "the way things work" either. I am interested in all forms of science from the laws of physics to the replication of a DNA molecule. I really enjoy learning the concepts in the science field. It is interesting to me to discover why things are the way that they are.

Science is constantly impacting mankind. Every new discovery gives us humans a bit more knowledge about the world around us. For example, the entire population's idea of the Earth was changed drastically when we found out that the globe was spherical shaped. Thus, with every new finding we as humans are changed. On the opposite end of the spectrum, science provides us with fantasy. Science fiction has been entertaining people for centuries. In my opinion, science fiction also provides us for some hope of what tomorrow could be like.

For myself, the one thing that I want Out of my education in a science field is that I want to reach my full potential. I want to learn as much as I can, experience as much as possible, and help many people. I would like to understand the world around me, and find ways to make it better. I know that I could do all these things and more if I get a good education. Knowledge is the key to success!

Kristina Nyland

Graduating: Churchill High School

GPA: 4.3

Activities: Marching Band, National Honor Society,
Students Against Drunk Driving, Spanish Club, Jazz Band,
Student Council

Awards: Michigan Merit Award, Detroit News Outstanding
Graduate Program, Commended Student for the 2002 Merit
Program

Attending: University of Michigan

Major: Physics and Astronomy

FAAC Science Scholarship Award Application Essay

Why do we put forth the effort to question nature, to study its intricacies, and to attempt to understand the laws that govern the universe? The answer is simple: it is this pursuit of knowledge, this love of science that distinguishes the human race from all else on this planet. People have been wondering about the cosmos since the beginning of history. The quest began with metaphysical explanations of the unknown and has, over time, seen many triumphs as the mysteries of the universe continue to unravel. Decades, centuries, millennia, and more may pass but I believe that as long as there are people alive, the advancement of science will always move forward.

Although all areas of science are fascinating in their own right, it is the stars that have drawn me in. Each night the sky is clear I find myself gazing at the beauty above. It is such a humbling experience to see countless stars and to know that the one star responsible for giving life to the earth is really just a tiny speck in a universe of incomprehensible size. It is this realization - the realization that there is so much more to the universe than my own backyard - that has driven me to be a part of the effort to study the depths of space and to teach others about the secrets which it holds.

I honestly cannot envision myself as doing anything else in life. Though I may not be as rich in material things as I could be, the happiness I will experience will be worth more in the end. I may only be eighteen years old, but from what I have seen it is better to live the life of which you dream than to dream of the life that could have been.

Constellations for the Beginner

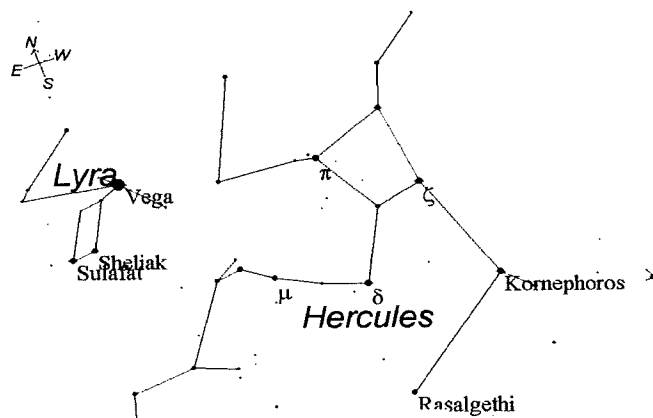
July — Lyra and Hercules

By Janice A. Kessler

Lyra can be seen at the zenith during the month of July and Hercules is just to west of it. Vega is quite bright one of the

stars and usually easily spotted. Vega is also considered one stars of the “Summer Triangle.” Their major stars are:

Constellation	Star #	Star Letter	Name	Mag
Lyra	3	α	Vega	.03
Lyra	14	γ	Sulafat	3.24
Lyra	10	β	Sheliak	3.45
Hercules	27	β	Kornephoros	2.77
Hercules	64	α	Rasalgethi	3.48
Hercules	67	π	pi Herculis	3.16
Hercules	65	δ	delta Herculis	3.14
Hercules	86	μ	mu Herculis	3.42
Hercules	40	ζ	zeta Herculis	2.81



All maps and facts are courtesy of Chris Marriott and SkyMap Pro 4.0.

All maps were designed to be viewed from Southeastern Michigan at Midnight around the 15th of each month. If you are at another location or viewing at another time, you may not be able to see this constellation.

FAAC June 27, 2002 General Membership Meeting 5:00 to 6:30 pm Agenda

- Introductions	Don Nakic	20 min
- Reports: Treasurer's Secretary's	Mike Bruno Don Klaser	5 min
- Old/New Business	Don Nakic	15 min
- Upcoming Events	Don Nakic	5 min
- Technical Discussion	Greg Burnett	15 min
- TBD	-	30 min

CLUB CALENDAR

Activity	Date	Time	Contact
- General Meeting	June 27	5pm	
- FAAC Board Mtg	July 11	5pm	
- General Meeting	July 25	5pm	
- FAAC Board Mtg	Aug 8	5pm	
- General Meeting	Aug 22	5pm	
- FAAC Board Mtg	Sep 12	5pm	
- Island Lake Star Party	Sep 14	-	-
- GLACC Star Party	-	-	-
- General Meeting	Sep 26	5pm	
- FAAC Board Mtg	Oct 10	5pm	
- General Meeting	Oct 24	5pm	
- FAAC Board Mtg	Nov 14	5pm	
- General Meeting	Dec 5	5pm	
- Lake Erie Ice Days	-	-	-

July 10 New Moon 6:26 am
 Venus passes closest to Regulus this evening. Venus 1.1° above Regulus.
 July 12 Moon near Venus & Regulus (12 & 13 dusk)
 July 16 Moon near Spica (dusk)
 July 17 First Quarter 12:47 am
 July 19 Moon near Antares (19 & 20 dusk)
 July 24 Full Moon 5:07 am (*Buck Moon*)

This information was obtained from the
 Henry J. Buhl, Jr. Planetarium in Pittsburgh, PA.

POSITION FILLED! - JOB POSTING The New Detroit Science Center

John Schroer has advised the part time position advertised in May - Star Stuff has been filled by Scotty Fahs, FAAC Club Member. Congratulations to Scotty!

WINNER! - NAME THAT CONSTELLATION

CONGRATULATIONS!
 To
 Dan Kmiecik

Winner of May
 Star Stuff's
 Name That Constellation!

The correct answer was: URSA MINOR

ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR 2002

July

All times are Eastern Standard Time or Eastern Daylight Saving Time, whichever applies.

July 1 During July, Venus is the only evening planet, visible low in W at dusk. Saturn begins to reappear in morning sky low in ENE before sunrise. For rest of month, Saturn climbs higher in sky each morning.
 July 2 Last Quarter 1:19 pm
 Mercury visible next few mornings. Mercury passes closest to Saturn today. Saturn 0.3° left of brighter Mercury. Use binoculars to spot pair 45 to 30 minutes before sunrise about 5° above ENE horizon.
 July 3 Watch Venus approach Regulus over next several days low in W at dusk. Today Regulus 7.5° upper left of Venus.
 July 7 Moon 4° above red Aldebaran (dawn)
 July 8 Moon near Saturn (dawn)



The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club
Presents:

THE TENTH ANNUAL



Saturday September 14th 2002
6 PM – ??

This event will be held rain or shine – cloudy or clear!!



Our Sponsors:

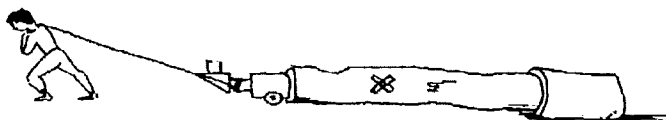
RIDER'S
HOBBY SHOPS

THE BETTER HOBBY PEOPLE



Event Listing:

- ♦ **Telescopes of all kinds** – these are available to look at and look through . Have questions? Just ask!
- ♦ **Presentations and Demonstrations by local Technical Experts.** These are designed to answer your questions about equipment and observing techniques and help you to get the most from your telescope.
- ♦ **Astronomical Equipment** – educational material, books and star charts will be on display and made available by our sponsors.
- ♦ **PRIZES!!!** - There will be door prize drawings for telescopes and other items.
- ♦ **Observing Tour for Children** – Kids who register will be given an observing list. Marked telescopes will be on the field for the challenge. A certificate of achievement, and a gift from the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, will be awarded to all who complete the observing list!



Your Telescope is Welcome!!

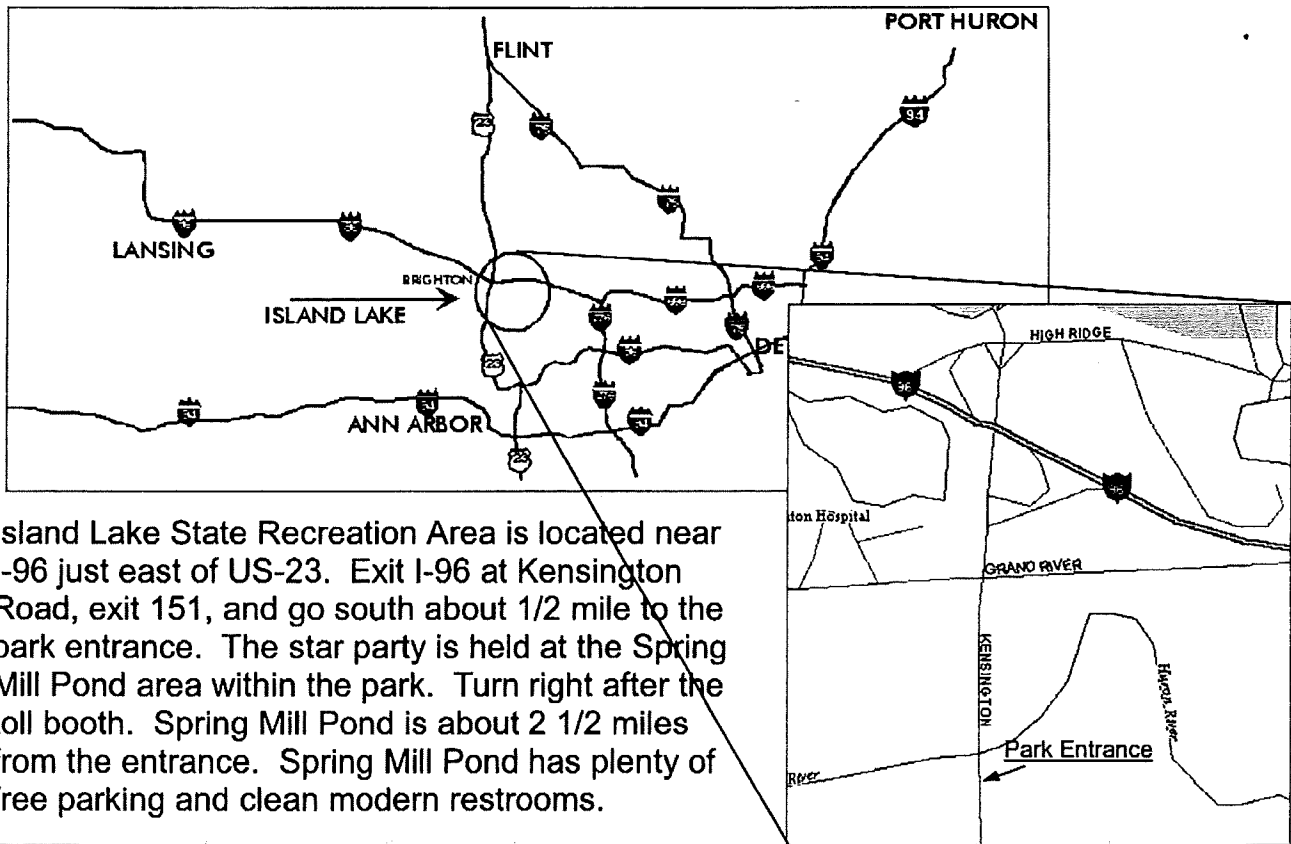
If you have questions about your equipment this is the perfect opportunity to get the helpful advice you need. Limited AC power and plenty of space is available. Please arrive before dark to allow for set-up time.

No telescope? No Problem! There will be lots to look through – just bring your curiosity!

Admission is Free* and Children are Welcome!

* You need a State Park Vehicle Permit if you don't have one – a daily permit is \$4.00





Island Lake State Recreation Area is located near I-96 just east of US-23. Exit I-96 at Kensington Road, exit 151, and go south about 1/2 mile to the park entrance. The star party is held at the Spring Mill Pond area within the park. Turn right after the toll booth. Spring Mill Pond is about 2 1/2 miles from the entrance. Spring Mill Pond has plenty of free parking and clean modern restrooms.



Please Remember – Clear Autumn nights can get very cool. Bring warm clothes. And don't forget the State "Bird" - bring mosquito repellant.

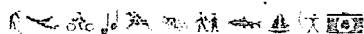
It is polite to cover your flashlight with a red filter so as to avoid spoiling anyone's night vision.



Comet Ikeya-Zhang - By Clayton Kessler



**Ford Employees
Recreation Association**



The Island Lake Star Party is an ideal outing for Scout Troops and Class Trips. We strive to provide an atmosphere where presentations are educational and FUN. Don't forget – Spring Mill Pond is our regular observing site. Members are there most clear Friday and Saturday evenings. Call our Observing Hotline at (313) 390-5456 to confirm an observing weekend and join us! Check out our Web site at <http://www.boonhill.net/faac/>. E-mail faac1992@hotmail.com

CCD Image of Saturn by George Korody, CCD Image of Jupiter by Doug Bock, Northern Cross Observatory



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN

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Dearborn, Michigan 48128-1491
(313) 593-5277 Fax (313) 593-4937

16 May 2002

Ford Amateur Astronomy Club
P.O. Box 7527
Dearborn, MI 48121-7527

Dear Club Members,

We are writing to thank those of you who attended our star party on Friday, 3 May 2002, for helping to make it a great success. Attendance at the event was estimated to have been about eighty people, and we were very gratified by the response of the community to our open invitation to join in the observing session. The participation by the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club helped to make the event memorable for all who attended by providing instrumentation that complemented our own and by sharing its enthusiasm for and knowledge of astronomy. We received several very positive comments about the contributions of your members to this event.

It is our hope that the University of Michigan-Dearborn Astronomy Group and the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club will be able to work together on future projects, and we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in our next star party, scheduled for Friday, 8 November 2002. In the meantime, please let us know if we may be of service to your group in any way. We would be delighted to reciprocate for your recent efforts on our behalf. Thank you again for your help.

With best wishes for clear skies and good seeing, we remain

Yours sincerely,

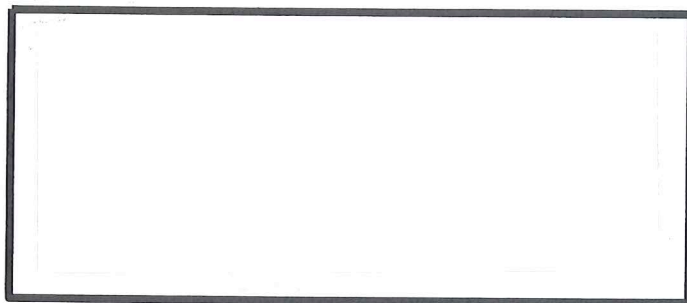
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Professor of Physics

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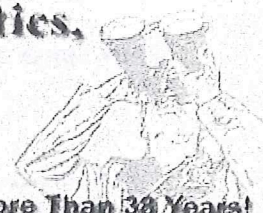
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