



★ STAR STUFF ★

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Nov-Dec 2003
Volume 12 Number 11



Editor: Jim Frisbie

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wring out the old, bring in the new ...

Another year in the FAAC draws to a close. And it's a good one we've had, indeed, in 2003, from awarding the usual FAAC Scholarships, to anticipating Mars' historic approach, to capturing the recent Lunar Eclipse in spectacular images. And there is really no way to properly acknowledge all the fine contributions made by our club members in this limited space, but we'll try, at least, to hit most of the highlights.

Year 2003 began with some changes in regime - Don Nakic returned as president, but newcomers Gordon Hansen as Treasurer, Secretary Don Klaser, and myself as Vice-President were added. Jim Frisbie continues to excel in his important post, as well, that of editor of the Star Stuff newsletter.

FAAC membership increased as we welcomed some exciting new members. Newcomer Chuck Jones, for example, showed off his mobile observatory, and then later, generously put his Kendrick's Astronomer's observatory tent up for auction as a club fundraiser in July. Newcomer Gary Strumolo showed his sketches and planet drawing techniques.

The FAAC General Meetings, held monthly throughout the year, provide both new challenges, and opportunities, with new activities and initiatives pondered and planned. Individual members are asked to step forward with presentations of interest and technical expertise, and continually respond with presentations and technical discussions - and this year was no different. Greg Burnett, Gary Strumolo, John Kirchhoff, and Jeff Thrush, to name just a few, came to the fore.

One early initiative, championed by Don Nakic - raise funds for club equipment - is coming to fruition, initially, in the form of a projector. As the year ends, the projector purchase has come to pass.

FAAC activities began in January; the FAAC, ignoring the obvious ice-cold and snow of the entrenched Michigan winter, again took part in the annual Ice-Days. The day-long affair was held at Lake Erie MetroPark, on the 18th. Bob McFarland, Bob Fitzgerald, and George Korody took the lead for the FAAC's star-gazing role in the event.

On January 31 to February 3, the FAAC was proudly represented at the three-day CCD / Astrophotography Workshop at Fish Lake (near Lapeer, Michigan). Clay Kessler brought his practical expertise in film hypering and developing. Jim Frisbie offered insight on using a digicam for astrophotography, and Jeff Thrush provided pointers on basic CCD imaging, and choosing the right CCD camera. If you want to learn about astrophotography, and you didn't attend this, you missed a good one.

Speaking of astrophotos, George Korody continued his quest in promoting the Special Interest Group for Astrophotography, an idea whose time had definitely come. The SIG, open to all comers, first met in November of 2002, and continued to meet and progress in 2003.

On March 15th the FAAC had its annual dinner, coordinated by Mike Bruno, and featuring some outstanding member astrophotos, as collected and presented by Al Bates.

The Messier Marathon came around March 29, with many meeting at Lake Hudson, and other spots, with plans of completing the all-nighter. Clouds overcame the eyepieces, unfortunately, before midnight arrived, sending us home to perhaps enjoy a cozier, if less eventful night.

Tom Blaszak initiated a first-time FAAC opportunity at the new Lyon Oaks facility, on April 12. Tom was assisted by Bob McFarland.

Greg Burnett was presented in April with the 2002 FERA Club Contributor of the Year Award for his unending outreach and educational efforts within and beyond the FAAC – way to go Greg! Also in April, we awarded the annual FAAC scholarships; this year, we found three especially-deserving students for the \$300 awards. Don Sommers, John Schroer, and Gordon Hansen researched the applications, and three rose to the top - Karen Jennifer Kudelko of Mercy High School, Mimi Tran Nguyen of Sterling Heights High, and Sarah Elizabeth Pulis from Wixom Christian School.

May 10 brought Astronomy Day – an event that naturally beckons FAAC participation. Many of us staked out the Detroit Science Center, armed with 'scopes and filters, helping FAAC member and DSC honcho John Schroer on the clear, sunny day. We even caught a glimpse of a daytime Venus.

Later many of us gathered for star-gazing late into the night, or presented Astronomy 101 for the Farmington YMCA Indian Guide Program during their Spring campout, in Fenton. Briefly, the Indian Guide Program is a parent and son program that is similar to the Boy Scouts, but with more parent-child interaction. Bob Fitzgerald came out of doctor's care to position his binoculars during the day at DSC, and then assisted again later at the YMCA at night. Kudos to Bob.

The FAAC promoted Lunar eclipse viewings in mid-May at Lake Erie, spearheaded by Bob Fitzgerald, George Korody, and Bob MacFarland.

June 7th was the first of the Beginner's Nights – spearheaded by John Kirchhoff – at the Island Lake site. A second was held July 5th, and yet a third on August 9.

Doug Bock hosted his annual Summer Solstice party around the June 28 weekend. George Korody brought his big telescope and special mount setup for the occasion. Doug also invites members periodically to his Boon dark sky site, near Cadillac, Mich. (and where would the FAAC be without its place in cyberspace on the Boonhill website – hosted by Doug Bock!).

Our planetary neighbor strolled along for an historic close-up on August 27, so club members set out to capture retinal, filmic, and digital images of the red planet the few weeks before and after. Harry Juday lent his backyard for a special Mars viewing session on the 27th.

September was big. For starters, the FAAC continued its support of the Dark Sky Preserve near Lake Hudson, donating \$100.00 towards manufacture installation of the site plaque; names of the financial contributors are listed on the plaque.

September also featured the GLAAC Star Party – September 5 and 6 - which was somehow granted perfectly clear, warm weather by the astronomy gods. The result was "astronomical" attendance – thousands and thousands came to gaze at the stars, check out the many telescopes, and see the presentations like comet making, astrophotography, and Astronomy 101.

Then some FAAC members, notably Clay Kessler, for one, helped champion a meeting of tents and telescopes at the Great Lakes Star Gaze, on September 26, in Gladwin, Michigan.

Ken Anderson headed up a nearly year-long coordination of the annual FAAC Island Lake Star Party on October 4, which featured clear skies, and icy temperatures, to go with the presentations and telescope pointing.

November brought another of the FAAC's Lunar eclipse viewings at Lake Erie, as well as the DSC, and we had more than a few members display some magnificent photos. Tony Licata had some geese lend a poetic hand, which got him published on the Spaceweather.com web site. And one of John Kirchhoff's photos was even featured on the local news.

Gordon Hansen led a group of FAAC members in another education outreach – this time at St. Stanislaus Kostka Elementary School in Wyandotte, Nov. 18. Greg Burnett gave his Astronomy 101 lecture, and John Schroer provided the portable planetarium, courtesy of the DSC. Bob Fitzgerald was at the ready, as well, with his binocular setup. And for their unheralded support all year, special thanks go to Gordon Hansen and others who bring along the pizza and pop for our meetings every month.

Finally, let us not forget this newsletter. Jim Frisbie does a yeoman's work all year long as the editor, and has had help from member's articles – including some from the likes of Gary Strumolo, Greg Burnett, Gordon Hansen, Clay Kessler, Jeff Thrush, Tony Licata, and Jim Frisbie himself. And then, too, Clay even got some of his photography work published in a national magazine (newsletter notoriety is nice, but...).

If there is anything we forgot to mention – please let us know for mention in the next edition. In the meantime, thanks all, for a VERY good year. Let's see if we can top this in 2004!

Dale Ochelak, V.P.
for Don Nakic

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

<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@comcast.net

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

Officers:

President	Don Nakic
Vice President	Dale Ochalek
Secretary	Don Klaser
Treasurer	Gordon Hansen

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 Ford Motor Credit Building off Mercury Drive near Michigan Ave. in Dearborn.

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: \$30; Renewal: \$ 25 (before Jan 31 of each year); \$15 for new members after July 1.
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.

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FOR SALE: Meade ETX 125 Spotting Scope, RA finder, Dew Shield, 26mm plossl. Like new. \$575 OBO; GOTO Computer. JMI Micromax computer with encoders and with cables. \$375 OBO; Astele Lomo 60mm Spotting Scope. Dew shield, case, 25mm plossl. Eyepiece interchangeable. 1/4 X 20 Thread. \$175 OBO People interested may either send an e-Mail to TBLASZAK@Ford.com or call 313.323.9842.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2003 FAAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING By Don Klaser

The meeting was called to order by George Korody at 5:05 p.m. After introductions, several members talked about their observing experiences. Bob McFarland gave the treasurer's report in Gordon Hansen's absence; Don Klaser gave the secretary's report.

Old & New Business: Final comments were made on the ISLP. The next meeting of the Astro-Imaging SIG will be held at the Ford Family Learning Ctr. on Rotunda Dr., Tuesday Nov. 25 at 5:00 p.m. The 1st annual FAAC swap meet will be held on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be in the strip mall where Rider's Hobby is located. More info can be found in the newsletter. The observing tent that Chuck Jones was selling to benefit the Club sold on E-Bay for \$ 285.00, which will be added to the equipment fund. Also, the telescope mount design competition for Chuck's observing trailer should be finalized by the December meeting. President Don talked about the availability of the Entertainment & Gold 'C' books as sources of revenue for the club, and asked for STAR STUFF

ideas & suggestions on any topic that would benefit the club. They may be forwarded to Don at dnakic@yahoo.com. Two things that were mentioned were printing a FAAC club calendar & publishing a club history.

Upcoming Events: Astronomy night at St. Stanislaus Kostka school on Tue., Nov. 18 (a presenter for Astronomy 101 is needed). Lunar eclipse events are planned at Lake Erie Metro Park & Detroit Science Center on Sat., Nov. 8. An observing session is being planned for Feb. 14, 2004 at Lyon Oaks Co. Park; several members indicated they would attend and support this event. Pres. Don spoke about the idea of joining the FAAC Star Party with the GLAAC event at Kensington Metro Park, and holding a smaller, non-public FAAC star event at a venue and time to be determined. A motion was made & seconded to move forward with this idea. Motion passed. Clay Kessler talked about the monument being built at Lake Hudson State Park honoring the site as a dark sky preserve.

Jim Frisbie gave the technical discussion on visual acuity. The main program was a DVD called ' The Universe ' that presented amazing images from Hubble & SOHO, provided by Al Bates.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

TREASURERS REPORT OCTOBER 23, 2003

By Gordon Hansen

Bank Accounts

Checking	\$	324.80
Savings	\$	21.69
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$	346.49

Cash Accounts

Cash Account	\$	44.05
TOTAL Cash Accounts	\$	44.05

Asset Accounts

GLAAC	\$	345.00
Projector	\$	374.70
Scholarship	\$	209.13
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$	928.83

OVERALL TOTAL \$ **1,319.37**

FROM THE DESK OF PAT KORODY

Living on Earth is expensive, but every year includes a free trip around the Sun.

LUNAR ECLIPSE – LAKE ERIE METROPARK - NOV. 8th, 2003

By Tony Licata

It was cold for November as I hurried to finish up the yard work. The deep blue sky was a refreshing sight after weeks of gray fall weather. “How can I talk the family into going down to Lake Erie Metropark to watch the eclipse tonight?” I wondered. We were all tired, after cleaning up our leaf-covered yard. So I thought I might just stay home and see it, now that the leaves were down. Never having been to Lake Erie Metropark, I told the kids that if we do go, they should expect a long drive. I wish I hadn’t said that, because that was all it took for them to bail out on me. Knowing the event would start low on the horizon, and may be tough to see from my yard, I made the decision to go it alone.

After a late start I reached the turn on to Jefferson near the park much sooner than I had earlier believed. I noticed the Mexican restaurant the flyer had mentioned. The parking lot was abnormally full. Guessing it wasn’t the regular crowd; I stopped in. My well-fed friends inside were just leaving for the Wetlands Museum. When we arrived, I soon realized why this is such a great winter observing site. We could set up right outside the building. Hot beverages and snacks were waiting for us just inside. The museum itself and friendly staff, had many interesting displays that my kids would have really loved to see, had they grown weary of “astrominy” out in the cold. George Korody, Al Bates, and Mike Rousseau were able to “pipe in” the eclipse images as planned to the heated room adjacent to the observing area. This along with many other interesting videos and presentations, made the whole experience well worth the short drive down river.

There were plenty of scopes on hand to view the eclipse as the moon was rising over the lake. I set up next to Bob Mac Farland and enjoyed the sky tours he was giving to several people. Bob Fitzgerald had his binoculars setup around the corner. Ed Halash was there with his trusty 10’ Dob, among many other club members. All in all, it was a pretty good turnout, with many new and old faces, (some very *old*, but I won’t name names Bob).

The area is sheltered from lake winds with trees. The sights and sounds of the lake were all around us. Many noticed waterfowl off in the distance silhouetted against the darkening lunar image. What a great place this was! What a great celestial show we had as well. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and hope we plan for many an outing here, and next time, I’ll bring the whole family. Hats off to all those who made this a great success!



Tony took this picture from Lake Erie Metropark, Nov. 8th 2003. at 6:10 pm, while the moon was in the penumbra of earth's shadow using a Nikon CP 995 and SW102 f/5 afocally thru 40mm EP.



This composite is the result of Tony's efforts during the eclipse.

THE ECLIPSE AT DSC

By Dale Ochelak

The dedicated FAAC members gathered their scopes and cameras, and mittens, on November 9. Some went to Lake Erie MetroPark. Others of us settled onto the pavement at the Detroit Science Center, to provide a close-up view of the Lunar Eclipse for curious onlookers.

FAAC member and DSC planetarium chief John Schroer managed the event at DSC, offering free planetarium presentations indoors, and hot chocolate and coffee, while those of us outside bore up under the frosty temps in the parking lot, and guided our scopes toward the coming spectacle.

At around 6:15pm or so, the full moon began to edge into the penumbral shadows, announcing the beginning of the night sky theatrics. The scopes all found their places, and a few hundred of the curious public passed among us during the event, peering into eyepieces of Ray Fowler's C-5, my ETX, or the DCS's 10" dob parked there. Don Klaser was also on hand, taking pictures with a telephoto lens and camera.

Just before the penultimate moment of total eclipse, a camera crew from Fox 2 news pulled in, and began posing questions to representative members of the telescope brigade, and grabbing footage of the scene. Later in the evening, you may have seen our short spot on the news.

The view of the lunar eclipse was clear and beautiful. The larger aperture scopes seemed to offer more of the characteristic warm red color. As the lunar event proceeded, at about 8:30pm, some of us took the opportunity to absorb some warmth indoors, along with John Shroer's planetarium presentation on the current sky and eclipse situation.

After that, most of the public interest seemed to wane like a crescent moon to new, vanishing in the city's crisp night air. Most of us packed it in and headed out, as a moon escaped the shroud of our shadow.

TOTALITY

By John Kirchhoff



STAR STUFF



STARDUST

by Patrick L. Barry and Dr. Tony Phillips

Philosophers have long sought to "see a world in a grain of sand," as William Blake famously put it. Now scientists are attempting to see the solar system in a grain of dust-comet dust, that is.

If successful, NASA's Stardust probe will be the first ever to carry matter from a comet back to Earth for examination by scientists. It would also be the first time that any material has been deliberately returned to Earth from beyond the orbit of the Moon.

And one wouldn't merely wax poetic to say that in those tiny grains of comet dust, one could find clues to the origin of our world and perhaps to the beginning of life itself.

Comets are like frozen time capsules from the time when our solar system formed. Drifting in the cold outer solar system for billions of years, these asteroid-sized "dirty snowballs" have undergone little change relative to the more dynamic planets. Looking at comets is a bit like studying the bowl of leftover batter to understand how a wedding cake came to be.

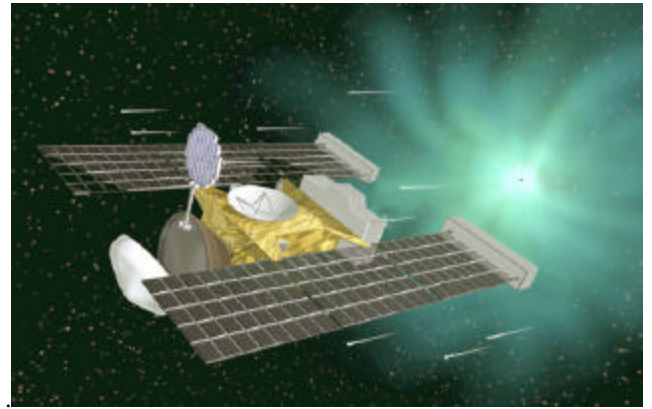
Indeed, evidence suggests that comets may have played a role in the emergence of life on our planet. The steady bombardment of the young Earth by icy comets over millions of years could have brought the water that made our brown planet blue. And comets contain complex carbon compounds that might be the building blocks for life.

Launched in 1999, Stardust will rendezvous with comet Wild 2 (pronounced "Vilt" after its Swiss discoverer) on January 2, 2004. As it passes through the cloud of gas and dust escaping from the comet, Stardust will use a material called aerogel to capture grains from the comet as they zip by at 13,000 mph. Aerogel is a foam-like solid so tenuous that it's hardly even there: 99 percent of its volume is just air. The ethereal lightness of aerogel minimizes damage to the grains as they're caught.

Wild 2 orbited the sun beyond Jupiter until 1974, when it was nudged by Jupiter's gravity into a Sun-approaching orbit-within reach of probes from Earth. Since then the comet has passed by the Sun only five times, so its ice and dust ought to be relatively unaltered by solar radiation. Some of this pristine "stuff" will be onboard Stardust when it returns to Earth in 2006, little dusty clues to life's big mysteries.

To learn more about Stardust, see the mission website at stardust.jpl.nasa.gov. Kids can play a fun trivia game about comets at spaceplace.nasa.gov/stardust

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



NASA's Stardust mission will capture dust from comet Wild 2 and bring them back to Earth for study.

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by Gordon Hansen

November 18, 2003

The FAAC presented *Astronomy 101* to the children and parents of St. Kostka Elementary School in Wyandotte. Mrs. Mary Kruso, an active member of their parent's group, initially contacted Jim Wright who got the ball rolling at a Club meeting several months ago.

The plan as usual was to do the *101* presentation in-doors and then set up some scopes for the kids (and their parents!) in the parking lot. Unfortunately, Michigan weather once again "cooperated" and it rained all evening. Despite the setback, the indoor segment of the program was a complete success (see the thank you note below). Attending from the Club were:

Greg and Vicky Burnett
Bob Fitzgerald
Dennis Lipski
Bob MacFarland
John Schroer
and yours truly.

Greg did his usual great job presenting the slides. The kids from 1st through 8th grade were riveted to the presentation. Bob Fitzgerald then gave a brief presentation on the use of binoculars (did you expect anything else?!) Bob MacFarland, Dennis Lipski and I then followed up with a explanation of our scopes – a Dob, Refractor, and a Schmidt-Cassegrain.

John Schroer once again came with the portable planetarium from the Detroit Science Center. So despite the rain drops outside, the kids did get to look at some stars. I estimated somewhere around 75 kids and parents were there, so, John put on his show 4 or 5 times (sorry John, I wasn't counting.)

Once again, thanks to all who showed up and made this event a success!

November 19, 2003

Ford Amateur Astronomy Club
Mr. Gordon Hansen
P.O. Box 7527
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-7527

Dear Mr. Hansen:

On behalf of St. Stanislaus Kostka School, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for your recent visit to our school. The students and parents really enjoyed the slide presentation and planetarium demonstration held this past week. It was very educational and entertaining and will be remembered by all for a long time to come.

The slide show presentation from Mr. Greg Burnett was excellent and of course the kids (and parents) loved the planetarium demonstration by Mr. John Schroer of the Detroit Science Center. Although the weather did not cooperate, the large telescopes that were on display amazed our students and I am sure that item will be appearing on most of the children's Christmas list.

As we spoke about in our recent phone conversation, if your Club is available in the Spring (before the daylight savings time change), we would love to host you again. In hopes to actually look through the telescopes and apply what you have taught us this past week.

Again, thank you so much for your generous gift of time and talents to help enlighten our students about the stars.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Mary Kruso
2470 - 23rd Street
Wyandotte, MI 48192

CC: Mr. Gary Jones, Principle
St. Stanislaus Kostka School

discussion topics and for their work in preparing their presentation materials. There were never a shortage of comments and questions from the group, which certainly lead to lively interaction. We always seemed to run out of time before we ran out of discussion material.

I learned a lot from the presenters and group members to help improve my astronomical imaging techniques; but then there was a large void to fill. I noticed during the year how members' imaging techniques improved. This was recently apparent at the Lake Erie Metropark lunar eclipse event where live video was piped from a telescope into the museum building, where it was displayed on a TV monitor. Also, some member's images were displayed on an Internet WEB site with worldwide access.

Congratulations to all for a job well done. I look forward to more exciting and educational imaging discussion meetings in the coming year. Best wishes to everyone during the upcoming holiday period.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME ! FAAC Welcomes:

John Kulakowski

ENTERTAINMENT AND GOLD C BOOKS FOR SALE By Don Nakic

I received twenty Entertainment books (\$30 each) and ten Gold C books (\$10 each) from FERA. These books provide an easy means to raise money for FAAC. The sale of these books alone can raise \$65 for our club. In addition to raising money, they can save you money. My Gold C book alone saved me over \$30! To sell one, all you have to do is place a flyer outside your office or place of business. They simply sell themselves. If you are interested in some to sell or buy let me know via e-mail (dnakic@yahoo.com) or get with me at the next general meeting. Hurry, they will be going fast!

A REMINDER! Election of FAAC officers for 2004 will be held at the meeting on the January 22, 2004. Please think about who you would like to nominate for office next year.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR FAAC MEMBERSHIP! By Gordon Hansen

STAR STUFF

PLEIADES By Jeevak Badve

Pleiades is also called as "Sapta Rishi" - the seven saints in India .It also known by one more prominent name : "Krttika"

This group of stars also has been associated with Agni, the god of fire. Alcyone/Alcor (g) amongst them is called ambA (meaning `mother') or arundhati (meaning related to `not obstructing')

One more interesting detail is that , the cluster formed approximately 50-60 million years ago, i.e. actually quite young. If the dinosaurs had glanced into the night sky they would have not seen the Pleiades because they had not yet formed. (The dinosaurs died out approximately 65 million years ago).

ASTRONOMICAL IMAGING S.I.G. By George Korody

Due to the upcoming busy holiday period the Astronomical Imaging S.I.G. will not meet again until mid to late January 2004. The exact date and time will be determined after January 1st. S.I.G. members will be notified via E-mail.

There was a total of 12 two-hour meetings during the last year. I would like to thank all those who volunteered to lead meeting
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Avoid the year-end rush and send your check in today to:

FAAC
P.O. Box 7527
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-7527

Renewal fees for 2004 are only \$25 or sign up for a Life Membership for \$150 and never have to worry about paying dues again.

Please include any updates to your address (snail mail or email), phone numbers, etc.

**December 4, 2003
General Membership Meeting
5:00 pm to 6:55 pm
Agenda**

- Introductions	Don Nakic	25 min
- Reports: Treasurer's Secretary's	Gordon Hansen Don Klaser	10 min
- Old/New Business	Don Nakic	25 min
- Upcoming Events	Don Nakic	10 min
- Technical Discussion	Gary Sturmolo	15 min
- Your Christmas List	John Kirchhoff	30 min

ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR

November 2003

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

Nov 23	New Moon 5:59 pm
Nov 25	Moon near Venus - evening
Nov 30	First Quarter Moon 12:16 pm

December 2003

Dec 1	Moon near Mars - evenings
Dec 8	Full Moon 3:37 pm Long Night Moon
Dec 10	Moon near Saturn - morning
Dec 14	Peak of Geminid Meteor Shower
Dec 15	Moon near Jupiter - morning
Dec 16	Last Quarter Moon 12:42 pm
Dec 22	Solstice 2:04 am
Dec 23	New Moon 4:43 am
Dec 25	Moon near Venus - dusk
Dec 30	First Quarter Moon 5:03 am
Dec 31	Saturn at Opposition - up all night long

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

2004 ASTRONOMY CALENDARS

Club Price: \$10 (Retail Price: \$11.95)

There are a limited number of these calendars available.

First come - - first served!

Place your order by emailing to ghhansen@comcast.net



FAAC CALENDAR

Activity	Date	Time
- General Meeting	Dec 4	5 pm
- FAAC Board Mtg	Jan 8	5 pm
- Lake Erie Ice Daze	Jan 17	
- General Meeting	Jan 22	5 pm
- FAAC Swap Meet	Jan 25	8 am
- FAAC Banquet	Mar 6	
- GLACC Star Party	May 21,22	

T-SHIRT INVENTORY REDUCTION!

The Club has a large supply of T-Shirts from this year's and previous Island Lake Star Parties. Now is your chance to get yours at special prices!



2003 Shirts - Now only \$10
Sizes Available:
XXL, XL, L, S

Past Year's Shirts - \$5.00 !!

Sizes: XXL, XL, L, M, S

For pickup at the next Club Meeting: email you order to ghhansen@comcast.net

or mail your order including a check for payment to: FAAC, P.O.Box 7527, Dearborn, MI 48183



RIDER'S
HOBBY SHOPS

First Annual FAAC

ASTRONOMY SWAP MEET

Co-Hosted by the
Ford Amateur Astronomy Club
& **Rider's Hobby – Livonia**

Sunday, January 25th, 2004 - 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

EARN CASH BY SELLING YOUR OLD:

- Telescopes - Eyepieces - Cameras - Binoculars
- Mounts - Tripods - Software - Publications
- Accessories (You may even find something you want to buy!)

Admission: \$4.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door. Tables: \$12.00 in advance or as Available at the door \$15.00 (one admission ticket included). Doors open at 7:00am for setup. Complimentary Coffee & Donuts provided by Rider's Hobby.

Please make checks payable to FAAC for advance registration and table reservations. Send payment to Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, P.O. Box 7527, Dearborn, MI 48121-7527

The Swap Meet will be held at 30943 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan, in the Livonia Plaza (Kroger) Shopping Center, on the south side of Five Mile, just east of Merriman, near Rider's Hobby

For More Information: Contact Jim via email: w8tu@comcast.net
or call (734) 453-1422

**Ford Amateur Astronomy Club
Star Stuff Newsletter
P.O. Box 7527
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Thanks to everyone for making 2003 our best year ever! We appreciate the support you have given us and look forward to serving our astrobuddies even better in 2004!

John Kirchhoff and Dan Wellbaum