



# STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 14, Number 9

September 2005

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## Mission Accomplished! for FAAC Search Team

Ed Halash

FAAC club members had to wonder how long luck would hold out, at the Island Lake observing site, as the night skies got brighter with each new season. So late last year, several members of the FAAC club formed a committee to explore the area for possible alternative sites. Joining the team were Colin Farrell, Bob FitzGerald, Gordon Hansen, George Korody, Tony Licata, Bob MacFarland, and myself.

The new site would hopefully be an alternative both to the Island Lake location, and to the more distant, though very dark, Lake Hudson site.

**Great News! The search is over. As a FAAC Member, you now have a new observing site to use.**

We found Richmond Field - home of the Southeast Michigan Soaring Association (SEMSA). This is a private airfield, where no one will bother you. Owned by SEMSA, the site is dark and flat with low horizons in all directions.

Richmond Field is located between the towns of Gregory and Unadilla, about 10 miles north of Chelsea, Michigan.

*...continued on page 6*

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## Glorious Nights - at the Beach

### President's Corner

Don Klaser, President, FAAC

What a magnificent weekend for amateur astronomy, Sept 9 and 10, at this awesome annual GLAAC event at Kensington Park – Astronomy at the Beach! The weather was superb, the speakers and presentations were interesting and informative, and the turnout was great! Lines of families at every telescope waited to see the wonders of the universe. Questions flowed and answers followed, as people viewed with awe and wonder.

Our special guest speakers were outstanding.

Friday's presentations by John Schroer and Shannon Murphy were informative and entertaining. John's use of radio waves in an acoustical format brought a new dimension to radio astronomy. Shannon's use of Holst's 'The Planets Suite' added a whole new level of appreciation to the Mars Rover Missions.

*...continued on page 2*

# STAR STUFF

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**STAR STUFF** is published eleven times each year by the

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

PRESIDENT:	Don Klaser
VICE PRESIDENT:	Ed Halash
ACTING SECRETARY:	Bob MacFarland
TREASURER:	Gordon Hansen
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Dale Ochalek

## CLUB INFORMATION

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC) holds regular general meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month, except for the combined November/December meeting held on the first Thursday of December. Meetings are held in the Administrative Services and Conference Center building at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. Refer to our website for a map and directions ([www.boonhill.net/faac](http://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.

Observing schedules and additional information are available by calling the FAAC Observing Hotline at 313-390-5456, and on the our website.

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 are as follows:

Annual – New Member:	\$30	(\$15 after July 1)
Annual – Renewal:	\$25	(\$30 after January 31)
Life Membership:	\$150	

Membership includes the *STAR STUFF* newsletter, discounts on ASTRONOMY and SKY & TELESCOPE 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](mailto: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 will be included in that issue.

## President's Corner *(continued from page 1)*

I also want to congratulate all the presenters from our sponsoring organizations who shared their expertise on a variety of topics to inform and entertain all of our visitors.

And lastly, on behalf of the FAAC, a big 'Thank You' to the New Detroit Science Center, Riders Hobby Shops, Kensington Metro Park, FAAC volunteers, and all the GLAAC member clubs, for their tremendous efforts in making this 9th Annual Event such a success !!!

## Space Laboratory Dedication

On Monday, September 12th, I was honored to be in attendance at the dedication of the New Space Laboratory at the New Detroit Science Center. The seven exhibits represent the first phase of an on-going lab being created by the support of Congressman Joe Knollenberg, and by funding from NASA.

Among the exhibits on display are: a solar system distance scale; a glass case with a billion grains of sand that answers the question "How much is a billion?," our place in space; a 3-dimensional display that places our sun in perspective with other stars like Sirius, Alpha Centauri and Vega and a 6 x 11-foot high-definition video screen to show images from Hubble, live NASA launches and images from the International Space Station.

I would urge everyone to make a visit to the DSC and witness this imaginative and exciting display yourself.

## Comments... from the Beach

Bob Polmanter

This is in response to the post in the FAAC Yahoo group requesting comments/photos, etc., about the event.

I am a member of the FAAC who attended both nights of the GLAAC star party at Kensington. I was there with my 18" Obsession "dob" both nights and worked the lines of viewers at my scope like many others did.

As for what I found in the skies, earlier in the evenings I tended to stay on a single object like M11 or M13 while I had long lines at the scope. Later, usually after 10PM or so, after the lines died down, I was able to slew around to other objects to curious visitors, such as M92, M31, M57, M27, and NGC 6826 and 6781. Friday night had the better seeing conditions; the sky was more transparent and the light pollution was less scattered. Saturday night the sky was positively "gray."

*...continued on page 3*

### Comments from the Beach *(continued from page 2)*

I enjoyed this event and hope it can continue to be an annual happening. It did seem that attendance was down significantly from the last (non-rain) event in 2003. I realize that year had huge attendance due to all of the publicity surrounding the Mars closest approach.

I think we should continue to hold the event in September as much as possible, because statistically this is the best month for clear weather during the year. May events are too likely to be clouded out or rained out.



Aurora Saturday (photo - Gordon Hansen)

Anticipating the night sky,  
pleasures and treasures to  
be revealed ...



Kensington Park grounds and Kent Lake (photo - Bob Polmanter)

Surveying the grounds early in  
the evening, at the GLAAC  
Astronomy at the Beach,  
September 9 and 10 ...



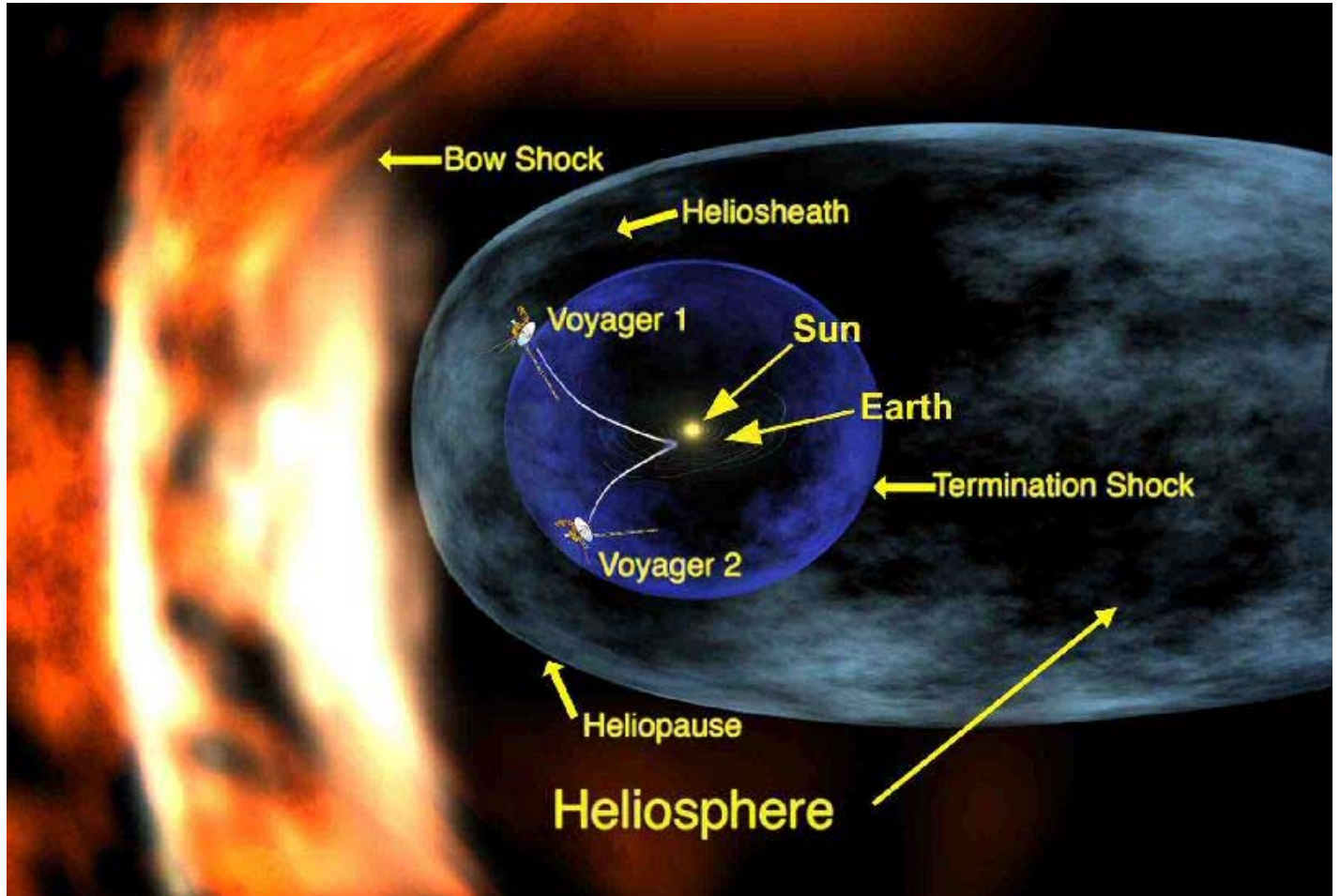
Kensington Park grounds (photo - Bob Polmanter)





## Where No Spacecraft Has Gone Before

Dr. Tony Phillips



*Voyager 1, after 28 years of travel, has reached the heliosheath of our solar system.*

Voyager 1 discovered active volcanoes on Io, found evidence for submerged oceans on Europa, and photographed dark rings around Jupiter itself. Later, the spacecraft buzzed Saturn's moon Titan—alerting astronomers that it was a very strange place indeed! —and flew behind Saturn's rings, seeing what was hidden from Earth.

Beyond Saturn, Neptune and Uranus beckoned, but Voyager 1's planet-tour ended there. Saturn's gravity seized Voyager 1 and slingshot it into deep space. Voyager 1 was heading for the stars—just as NASA had planned.

Now, in 2005, the spacecraft is nine billion miles (96 astronomical units) from the Sun, and it has entered a strange region of space no ship has ever visited before.

Out in the Milky Way, where Voyager 1 is trying to go, the “empty space” between stars is not really empty. It's filled with clouds of gas and dust. The wind from the Sun blows a gigantic bubble in this cloudy “interstellar medium.” All nine planets from Mercury to Pluto fit comfortably inside. The heliosheath is, essentially, the bubble's skin.

“The heliosheath is different from any other place we've been,” says Stone. Near the Sun, the solar wind moves at a million miles per hour. At the heliosheath, the solar wind slows eventually to a dead stop. The slowing wind becomes denser, more turbulent, and its magnetic field—a remnant of the sun's own magnetism—grows stronger. So far from Earth, this turbulent magnetic gas is curiously important to human life.

*...continued on page 5*

## Where No Spacecraft... *(continued from page 4)*

"The heliosheath is a shield against galactic cosmic rays," explains Stone. Subatomic particles blasted in our direction by distant supernovas and black holes are deflected by the heliosheath, protecting the inner solar system from much deadly radiation.

Voyager 1 is exploring this shield for the first time. "We'll remain inside the heliosheath for 8 to 10 years," predicts Stone, "then we'll break through, finally reaching interstellar space."

What's out there? Stay tuned...

For more about the twin Voyager spacecraft, visit [voyager.jpl.nasa.gov](http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov). Kids can learn about Voyager 1 and 2 and their grand tour of the outer planets at: [spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/vgr\\_fact3.shtml](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/vgr_fact3.shtml)

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

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## For Sale

**Meade 10" LXD55 Schmidt Newtonian** telescope Autostar guided, German Equatorial mount, "T"- adapter, Super Plossl 26-mm eyepiece, 1.25" and 2" eyepiece holders, battery pack for 8 "D" cell batteries, 25ft. 110v. power cord. Bought in 2002 for \$1200, will sell for \$1000, or possibly trade for another scope.

E-mail inquiries to: [eddyelectro@talkamerica.net](mailto:eddyelectro@talkamerica.net)

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**Right-Angle Viewfinder** (8x25) for Meade ETX-90 telescope (Meade part # 825). Brand new. Sells at Scopetronix for \$50. My price \$25.

Contact Jon Blum, [Derm1@aol.com](mailto:Derm1@aol.com)  
248-553-4944

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**Meade ETX Spotting Scope**, 5 inch, Paragon Plus tripod, 26mm Super Plössl, 9.5mm Orion Epic, 13mm Orion Superwide Lanthanum. Nearly new, must sell. Could sell individually.

Contact Jack Fournier, 248-219-6222

## Astroimaging SIG

Jim Frisbie

The Astroimaging SIG will meet on Thursday, October 6, 5:30 pm at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn.

The topic for the meeting will be announced later. All Club members and their guests are invited.

We will meet in the Roseneau Conference Rooms at the Administrative Services and Conference Center. (Same room as the FAAC General Meeting). If you approach the Faculty parking lot gate with your car, it should open allowing you to park close to the building.

The Astroimaging SIG would also like to announce the **FAAC Fall Astroimaging Contest**.

Deadline for entries is November 15, for three categories – Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. See **Page 6** for details. FAAC members only may enter.

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## Welcome New Members

Gordon Hansen

The FAAC welcomes the following new members:

- Robert Boswell
- Timothy Dey
- Don Popek
- Bob Stonek

We hope your membership will be rewarding and enjoyable. Let us know how we can help you enjoy amateur astronomy.

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## Lost and Found

George Korody

Some months ago someone turned a telescope eyepiece in to the Park Office at the Island Lake State Recreation Area. The eyepiece was found at our Spring Mill Pond observing site.

No one has yet claimed this eyepiece. If you lost an eyepiece there or know of anyone who has and can identify it, please contact me or any Board Member.



John Kirchhoff



Tony Licata



Jim Frisbie

## Fall Astroimaging Contest

Jim Frisbie

### Contest Rules

1. **Entry Deadline:** November 15, 2005
2. **Entry Levels:** Beginner (<1 year), Intermediate (<3 years), Advanced
3. **Entry Categories:** High Resolution Lunar/ Planetary; Solar; Deep Sky; Other (Aurora, Meteor Shower, Wide Field, Lightning, Night Sky, etc). Images taken between November 16, 2004 and November 15, 2005 are eligible.
4. **Limits:** The contest is limited to FAAC members ONLY!. Each member may submit only one entry per category (maximum 4).
5. **Photo Formats:** Entries may be photos (8"X 10" max), digital or digitized images (1mb jpeg. maximum).
6. **Information:** Please include your name and e-mail address, entry level, entry category, a title for the photo, a brief statement about the photo, where the photo was taken, when it was taken and the equipment used to take it. Each photographer retains copyrights to each image and grants permission for FAAC private and commercial usage with credits.
7. **Submit to:** Please send your submissions to Jim Frisbie, 1050 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170 or via email to: [w8tu@comcast.net](mailto:w8tu@comcast.net)
8. **No Photos Returned:** Photos will not be returned. Please do not send your only copy.
9. **Judging:** All Club Members are invited to vote online in the Yahoo Club Site. Each member has one vote per level & category (12 total). Voting begins November 16 and ends November 26.
10. **Winners:** 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place Winners will be announced and winning pictures will be displayed at the December 1, 2005 FAAC General Meeting. A Rider's \$50 gift certificate will be awarded to the top vote getters in each entry level (Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced).

### Mission Accomplished! *(continued from page 1)*

The Richmond Field address is 19935 Doyle, Gregory, MI., directions to which can be found two ways, using internet access:

- 1 - Enter the address into mapquest.com, or
- 2- Go to the FordAstronomyClub yahoo group, Files section, select "RichmondField-Rules& Location" directory, and select the "DirectionsTo RichmondField" file. This is a Word file with a detailed map with directions.

Complete directions are given in the "RulesForUsingRichmondField" file, under the "RichmondField-Rules&Location" directory

There is a caveat. SEMSA has made an offer to FAAC to use their site free, but under certain conditions, which the FAAC membership has agreed to follow during the regular club meeting on August 25, 2005. They would like 48 hours notice each time before you use the site. You can send a message to the FordAstronomyClub Yahoo group, with your name, the date you are planning to go, and number of people.

For example, I might put "Ed Halash, 9-3-05, 2 people" in the subject line and post the message to the FordAstronomyClub Yahoo group. That's all. If it rains, I don't go.

WE MUST ALL FOLLOW THE RULES OR RISK LOSING THIS SITE. IF YOU DON'T, EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE VERY UNHAPPY WITH YOU!

That said, I encourage you to give Richmond Field a try (see [Richmond Site Rules](#), page 7).



## Richmond Site Rules (SEMSA, FAAC)

Ed Halash

The Southeast Michigan Soaring Association (SEMSA) the governing body for Richmond Field, provides these rules for FAAC members intending to use the Richmond site for astronomical observations:

**Note:** Each visitor must strictly follow all of these rules. Failure to comply could result in the loss of your privilege to use the Richmond Field site, or worse, could result in the loss of the entire FAAC membership's privilege for using the site!

1. The use of Richmond Field by FAAC members/friends would be strictly at the pleasure of SEMSA, and SEMSA may withdraw its permission for continued such use at any time without cause.

2. FAAC would designate one of its members to serve as the communication liaison with SEMSA. Contact information for that individual (name, mailing address, phone number, email address, etc.) should be provided to the SEMSA Board (the FAAC has established a method for doing this, shown below).

3. The FAAC liaison person should notify the SEMSA Board via e-mail at least 48-hours in advance of each date of intended use of Richmond Field for observing sessions, with the notification message ideally to include the approximate number of FAAC club members and guests expected to participate on that date.

4. No public advertising of star parties at Richmond Field is permitted, and no large groups of unaffiliated persons are to be invited to use the field (FAAC club members and their family and friends would be considered "affiliated").

5. Visitors should plan on setting up observing equipment only at times when no flying operations are being conducted at Richmond Field. (The airport does not have a lighted runway, so there would be no flying activity after sunset or before sunrise.)

In addition to the conditions set forth by SEMSA, the following rules have been established by the FAAC club for members using Richmond Field:

1. Leave the site exactly as you have found it, e.g., keep the restroom clean (located in the west most hanger with a white exterior door facing south).

2. Maintain a polite and courteous manner with everyone on site.

3. Leave pets at home

4. Do not use the site within 24 hours of a heavy (one inch or more) rain.

5. Set up just southwest of the west most hanger, near the edge of the mowed field.

6. The first FAAC member on site should greet one of the soaring association members present and discuss any instructions they may have with our use or setup location for the evening.

To indicate you would like to use Richmond Field, follow these instructions:

1. Join the FordAstronomyClub yahoo group. Contact Gordon Hansen for directions. It's simple.

2. Send an email to the FordAstronomyClub email address at [FordAstronomyClub@yahoo.com](mailto:FordAstronomyClub@yahoo.com) at least 48 hours before you expect to use the Richmond site. You must join the yahoo group FordAstronomyClub to send an email to the FordAstronomyClub email address. So do it now. Your message will not be received if you don't join the yahoo group, and we will not be honoring our end of the agreement.

3. In the subject of the email enter "Richmond Field, the date, and number of persons" For example "Richmond Field, 8-27-05, 2 people." If the weather does not cooperate, or something prevents you from coming out, no problem, stay home. No further notification is needed. SEMSA understands the impact of nature on our plans!

Ed Halash and Tony Licata are the FAAC liaison persons, and will forward the number of intended users to the SEMSA liaison person.

## Two Faint Smudges

Ed Halash

After traveling for 35 million years, the tiniest fraction of the combined light from a hundred billion stars entered the earth's atmosphere. The photons slowed down slightly, a fraction of a percent from their top speed for the last 30 microseconds of their trip as they pierced through the remaining 5 miles of the journey through earth's thickening atmosphere. These photons traveled with their siblings, cousins, and neighbors, and were born from stars in two neighbor galaxies, located 35 million light-years away.

Although we contemplate the journey was long, the photons just left home from their relativistic perspective. The greeting these photons received was tremendous. Light from incandescent bulbs and scattered sunlight, trillion and trillion times more powerful, reached out into the atmosphere and overpowered them. To the naked eye, these photons were no longer visible. However, just before reaching the earth's surface, a few of them encountered a 22 inch diameter parabolic surface and bounced back to a flat surface before passing through multiple curved glass surfaces and then continued their journey back into space at a 90 degree angle, off into the direction of Cassiopeia. Except...

Sometimes after passing through the glass surface, an eyeball would stop their travel. The chemical reactions that took place in the retina were so faint that the brain simply did not register the signal coming from the optic nerve. The owner of this hunk of glass would instruct the viewer to look harder, focus the Milky Way stars in the same field of view to pinpoints, to look away from the center of the eyepiece, and to tap on the side of the telescope. "Oh, I see them now," "Wow," "That's amazing," "How far away did you say these galaxies are," "Why is the one called M-51," "This is great."

That night, September 10, 2005, was the GLAAC Star Party at Kensington. Everyone that stood in line eventually saw NGC 5194 (M-51) and NGC 5195. Most of these folks never saw a galaxy before. They had no idea how far away these objects are, or how many stars they contained. Many at first said they couldn't see them, but did see them with some coaching. The water vapor

haze, the moonlight, and artificial light pollution made it almost impossible, but not impossible.

Although they had to stretch their senses to see what was in the eyepiece, they really had to use their heads to appreciate the two faint smudges. Visual astronomy loses much of its lure if one does not wonder about what is seen.

That night I went home tired and a little burned out by the thought that at least 90 minutes of the night was spent with my telescope pointed at a very familiar object, seen much better under different circumstances. I wanted to show them brighter objects, things with more "wow factor." But they all wanted to see a galaxy. From the comments and thanks I received, they were not disappointed. They had inquisitive minds. It is a hopeful thought.

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## FAAC General Meeting Agenda

**September 22, 2005 (5:30 pm)**

### Opening/Introductions

**Tech Discussion** - Leviathon of Parsons Town  
(Gary Strumolo)

**Presentation** – Astrophotography (Clay Kessler)

### Club Business Items

- Secretary / Minutes (Bob MacFarland)
- Treasurer's Report (Gordon Hansen)

### Club Projects / Committees / Member support

- Mars Observing events (Don Klaser)
- Star Stuff Editor (Dale Ochalek)
- New Space Lab - DSC (Don Klaser)
- GLAAC - Kensington Star Party (Bob MacFarland)
- SIG – Astrophoto Contest (Jim Frisbie)
- Yahoo Group – FAAC (Gordon Hansen)



## Minutes of August Meeting

Bob MacFarland

**Don Klaser** opened the meeting at 5:30 pm by welcoming everyone including three new members. **Ken Anderson, Harry Juday, Ed Halash, Milton French and John Kirchoff** all reported on their recent observing or astronomy experiences.

**John Kirchoff** gave a presentation on video imaging with his ToUCam camera. John spoke on how he got started, what equipment and software he uses and the overall process of capturing his images. He compared standard digital vs. stacked images and included several other examples of his work – some of which he compared side-by-side with much more elaborate set ups. The images were enjoyed by all.

The July minutes were accepted without comment. **Gordon Hansen** reported out on the status of the treasury. See his detailed report elsewhere in this newsletter. Gordon also reported that Sky & Telescope subscription rates have gone up to \$32.95/year for club members.

Members discussed the possibility of having a Mars event potentially on November 5<sup>th</sup> at potentially HFCC, Lake Erie Metropark, the New Detroit Science Center and U of M Dearborn. Also discussed was the possibility of conducting an additional Beginner's Night at Island Lake on the first quarter moon Saturday night (i.e. October 8<sup>th</sup>).

**Ed Halash** reported that he and the Dark Sky Observing Site Committee had crafted a proposal with the Sand Hill Soaring Association to use their **Richmond Airfield** for nighttime observing. He passed out copies of the proposal which was discussed at length (see the document posted elsewhere in this newsletter). The motion to approve the proposal was passed. **Thank you Ed and the team for all the hard work!!!**

One of the noteworthy points of the agreement was that all FAAC members must pre-register themselves and their guests (just a count – not names) with **Ed or Tony Licata** two days prior to going to the site. This would meet the criteria of letting the SHSA know a maximum number of persons to expect (club members who pre-registered two days or more ahead and decided not to attend for any reason would not have to cancel). Request to register could be e-mailed in, called in or posted in the new FAAC Yahoo Group noted below.

**Gordon Hansen** announced that he had set up and tested out the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club Yahoo Discussion Group for FAAC club members at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub/>

Just follow the steps laid out and club members will be processed within a day or two.

Bob MacFarland gave the status of the September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Astronomy on the Beach GLAAC event at Kensington Metropark. 12 members volunteered to staff the FAAC display table. **Thank you, volunteers!!!**

## Treasurer's Report

Gordon Hansen

### Bank Accounts

Checking	\$	240.17
Savings	\$	2,400.35

**TOTAL Bank Accounts** \$ **2,640.52**

### Cash Accounts

Cash Account	\$	83.22
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**TOTAL Cash Accounts** \$ **83.22**

### Asset Accounts

FERA Ticket Sales	\$	-
GLAAC	\$	795.00
Projector	\$	474.97
Scholarship	\$	303.60
Swap Meet	\$	-

**TOTAL Asset Accounts** \$ **1,573.57**

**OVERALL TOTAL** \$ **4,297.31**

## Sky Calendar

Jim Frisbie

### September

21	We	Moon rises near Mars-pm
22	Th	Autumnal Equinox 6:23 pm
25	Su	Last Quarter Moon 2:41 am
28	We	Moon near Saturn-dawn am

### October

3	Mo	New Moon 6:28 am
6	Th	Crescent Moon to lower right of Venus-dusk pm
10	Mo	First Quarter Moon 3:01 pm
17	Mo	Full Moon 8:14 am "Hunter's Moon"
17	Mo	Partial lunar eclipse-8:03 am
18	Tu	Moon above Mars- dusk
24	Mo	Last Quarter Moon 9:17 pm
25	Tu	Moon near Saturn-dawn
26	We	Moon near Saturn-dawn
29	Sa	Mars at closest approach to Earth this year
30	Su	Daylight Savings Time ends

*All times in Eastern Daylight Time.*

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

## FAAC Yahoo User's Group

**Reminder:** The FAAC has initiated a Yahoo User's Group – **FordAstronomyClub** – so members can more easily communicate. Group is restricted to active club members at this time. If you haven't already signed up, join the group at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FordAstronomyClub>

Members of the Group can post messages, seek answers to questions, find out if anyone else is going observing, post pictures, etc. The site also includes a calendar with upcoming events.

## From the Editor

Dale Ochalek

This note is written in appreciation of our previous editors, venerable club members all, such as Greg Burnett, and Jim Frisbie, to name but two.

In piecing together this, my first, edition of **Star Stuff**, I have begun to learn first hand what former newsletter editors knew all too well – this is a time-consuming, taxing, labor of love, and for the most part, depends greatly on the good graces of our many contributing FAAC members.

Thus, as with any club endeavor, we can only be as good as our members and their support affords. So I will echo this perennial sentiment – we encourage your contribution, be it the occasional story, regular feature, photos, item for sale, or participation as a story subject.

Send your questions, comments, contributions, or suggestions, to [dake00k@yahoo.com](mailto:dake00k@yahoo.com) for review and consideration.

I hope to continue the tradition, and serve well, as my predecessors have, in the role of editor for **Star Stuff**, newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club.

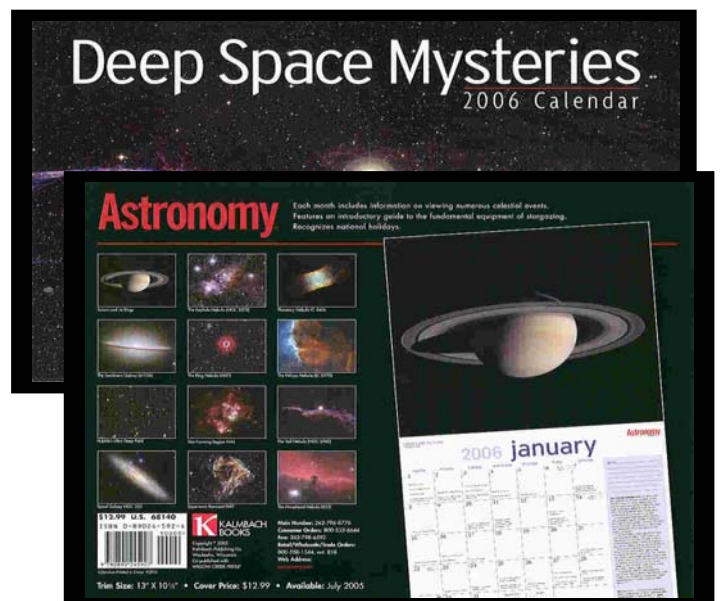
## New Astronomy Calendars

Gordon Hansen

### Deep Space Mysteries - 2006 Calendar

The Astronomy Magazine 2006 Calendars are now available. These calendars normally retail for \$12.99. Member price is \$7.00 if you pick up at a meeting; \$10.00 if you'd like one sent to you.

Contact Gordon at [ghhansen@comcast.net](mailto:ghhansen@comcast.net)





# GLSG<sup>3</sup>

*The Third Annual*

## *Great Lakes Star Gaze*

**September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005**

*"A Star Party with Dark Skies"*

Held at River Valley RV Park, Gladwin, MI

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

Location and dark sky are the main attractions of this star party. Gladwin's central location provides excellent observing without traveling hours into Northern Michigan. Limiting magnitudes are estimated to be around 6.5 at zenith with some minor light domes from the cities of Mt. Pleasant and Midland, some 30 miles away. This is a star party for the astronomer who loves to observe and mingle with other astronomers. Some practical and interesting talks are scheduled to enhance your weekend experience.

### GETTING TO RIVER VALLEY RV PARK:

2165 South Bailey Lake Ave., Gladwin, MI 48624

**From US-10**

Travel 12 Mi. N. from Loomis Exit.

**From US-27**

Travel 6-1/2 Mi. E. from Lake George Exit.

From M-61 travel 2-1/2 Mi. S. on Bailey Lake Ave.

(Midway between Gladwin and Harrison).

### WHAT IS INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION?

- Admission to the observing field.
- Assigned tent camping on the observing hill.
- Participation in presentations and observing.
- Hot coffee/chocolate in welcome tent.
- One ticket for door prize raffle per registration
- Clean hot shower/restroom facilities.

### TRAVEL TRAILER FEES:

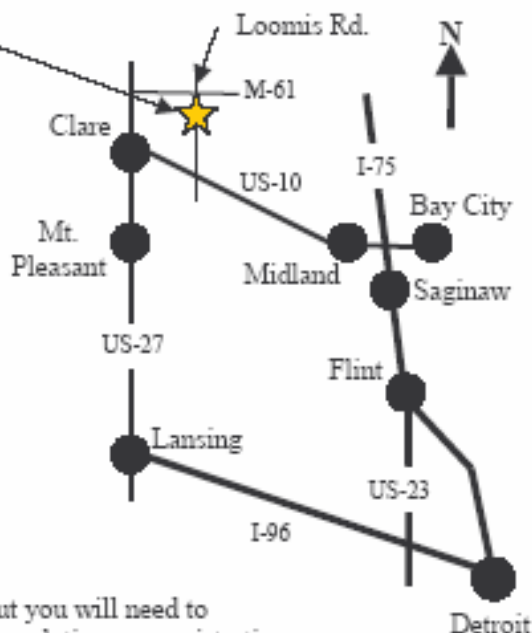
- Full hook-up sites for travel trailers are available, but you will need to register with River Valley RV Park in addition to completing our registration.
- Full hook-up sites run \$25-\$27 per night **plus** our star party registration fee.
- *River Valley RV Park, Phone: (989) 386-7844 Website: <http://www.rivervalleyrv.com>*

### SPONSORS: (These companies have donated materials for door prizes)

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