



STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 19, Number 2

February 2010

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Building a Case Against Ozone

by Patrick Barry

When it comes to notorious greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide is like Al Capone—always in the headlines. Meanwhile, ozone is more like Carlo Gambino—not as famous or as powerful, but still a big player.

After tracking this lesser-known climate culprit for years, NASA's Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer (TES) has found that ozone is indeed a shifty character. Data from TES show that the amount of ozone—and thus its contribution to the greenhouse effect—varies greatly from place to place and over time.

"Ozone tends to be localized near cities where ozone precursors, such as car exhaust and power plant exhaust, are emitted," says Kevin Bowman, a senior member of the TES technical staff at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. But the ozone doesn't necessarily stay in one place. Winds can stretch the ozone into long plumes. "Looking out over the ocean we can see

ozone being transported long distances over open water."

Continued On page 2

2010 Winter Star Party

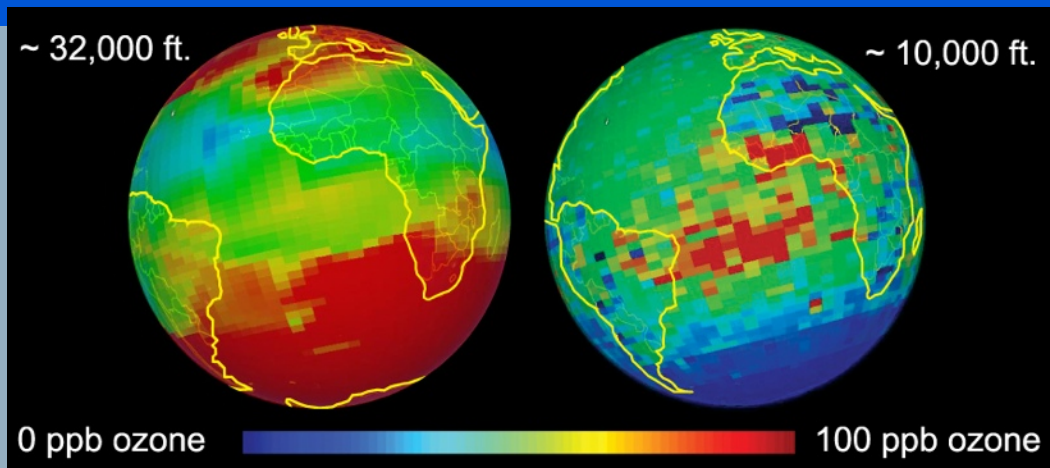
President's Corner

This year was my third trip to the Winter Star Party in West Summerland Key, Florida. It is a great get away from the Michigan winter. This year FAAC was well represented with 10 members attending: George and Pat Korody, Doug and DeeAnn Bauer, Gordon and Susan Hansen, Dennis Salliotte, Mohamed Mroue, Jim Moscheck, and Larry Goodsell.

Continued On page 3



*FAAC group arrives
(Photo courtesy Jim Moscheck)*



These images are TES ozone plots viewed with Google Earth. Colors map to tropospheric ozone concentrations. The image on the left shows ozone concentrations at an altitude of approximately 32,000 feet, while the one on the right shows ozone at approximately 10,000 feet. The measurements are monthly averages over each grid segment for December 2004.

Building a Case Against Ozone

(continued from Page 1)

Unlike CO₂, ozone is highly reactive. It survives in the atmosphere for only a few hours or a few days before it degrades and effectively disappears. So ozone doesn't have time to spread out evenly in the atmosphere the way that CO₂ does. The amount of ozone in one place depends on where ozone-creating chemicals, such as the nitrogen oxides in car exhaust, are being released and which way the wind blows. This short lifespan also means that ozone could be easier than CO₂ to knock off.

"If you reduce emissions of things that generate ozone, then you can have a quicker climate effect than you would with CO₂," Bowman says. "From a policy standpoint, there's been a lot of conversation lately about regulating short-lived species like ozone."

To be clear, Bowman isn't talking about the famous "ozone layer." Ozone in this high-altitude layer shields us from harmful ultraviolet light, so protecting that layer is crucial. Bowman is talking about ozone closer to the ground, so-called tropospheric ozone. This "other" ozone at

lower altitudes poses health risks for people and acts as a potent greenhouse gas.

TES is helping scientists track the creation and movement of low-altitude ozone over the whole planet each day. "We can see it clearly in our data," Bowman says. Countries will need this kind of data if they decide to go after the heat-trapping gas.

Ozone has been caught red-handed, and TES is giving authorities the hard evidence they need to prosecute the case.

Learn more about TES and its atmospheric science mission at tes.jpl.nasa.gov. The Space Place has a fun "Gummy Greenhouse Gases" activity for kids that will introduce them to the idea of atoms and molecules. Check it out at spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/tes/gumdrops.

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with NASA.

STAR STUFF

January 2010 - Vol. 19 No 1

STAR STUFF is published eleven times each year by:

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

PRESIDENT: Doug Bauer
VICE PRESIDENT: Chuck Jones
SECRETARY: Lori Poremsky / Kevin Medon
TREASURER: Gordon Hansen
WEBMASTER: Greg Ozimek
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Greg Knekleian

Club Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Astronomy or Sky & Telescope Magazine Discounts

Obtain the required form from the FAAC club treasurer for a \$10 discount. Send the completed form directly to the respective publisher with your subscriptions 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 pvideo@aol.com. Email text or MS Word is fine. STAR STUFF will usually go to press the weekend prior to each general meeting. Submissions received prior to that weekend can be included in that issue.

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

This months background photos courtesy of John Kirchhoff. Jupiter photo page 7; and moon background strip on page 1. See more of John's photos at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33926475@N06/with/4311533997/>

Presidents Corner *(continued from Page 1)*

The Winter Star Party is a weeklong event which includes many presentations, many vendors (very dangerous), relatively dark skies for observing, a lot of interactions with others interested in astronomy, and great camaraderie. This year the weather was much cooler than normal (but there was no snow!).

People are not supposed to begin lining up along the shoulder of the road to get a good site before 6:00 AM on Monday. We got there at 6:00 AM and found 45 vehicles already parked on the side of the road. The gates don't open until noon, so it offers a good time to chat with others. The first guy in the line got there at 9:00 PM the night before and slept in his car all night. This is an indication of how eager (or crazy) people are to get in.

DeeAnn, Pat and Susan planned several day trips to nearby attractions during the day, while the rest of us tried to catch up on our sleep. They visited the Theater of the Sea in Islamorada, Truman White House in Key West, and of course shopped on Marathon Key.

The whole group met for dinner on most nights at local restaurants: ParrotDisse, Big Pine Key Restaurant, No Name Pub, Boonedocks, Mangrove Mama's, and the Square Grouper. Dennis Salliotte tried the Key Lime Pie at every one of the restaurants, all of whom claimed to have the Best Key Lime Pie. Dennis' rating system seemed to be Good and Very Good. I kind of got the impression that if it was pie and tasted like lime it would get a passing grade.

The highlight of the Winter Star Party is the door prize drawing on Friday morning. They always have great prizes. This year the FAAC contingent did pretty well. Mohamed Mroue won a piece of glass artwork, Dennis Salliotte won a device to take flats for astrophotos, and Larry Moscheck won a 9mm eyepiece.

Continued on Page 4

Presidents Corner *(continued from Page 3)*

The first night was partly cloudy with intermittent clear patches with temperatures in the 50s and a 20-30 MPH wind out of the north. It was quite chilly. I had on a long sleeve shirt, sweatshirt, jacket, and actually broke out my winter hat and gloves. Despite all of this, I still managed to get some observing in until mid-night. The second night was cloudy all evening (no observing), on Wednesday night it was clear all night long and the wind died down, so we observed until around 4:00 AM. Thursday was clear and less windy so we observed until about midnight. Friday was a rainy night, so no observing took place. I packed up my equipment on Friday morning in anticipation of the rain, and DeeAnn, Mohamed, and I had plans to go to Key West all day Saturday, I didn't do any observing on Saturday.

All in all it was a nice week!

Doug Bauer

dougbauer@comcast.net



Early morning lineup



(These photos courtesy of Doug Bauer.)
See page 12 for more WSP 2010 photos.)

January Meeting Minutes

Kevin Medon/Lori Poremsky

Attendance: 38+

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Chuck Jones at 5:30 p.m.

New members were asked to introduce themselves as well as guests.

Several members of the group reported on their observing experiences during the last month.

Today's main presentation was the election of officers. Doug Bock presented the Board slate to the members. Formal nominating procedures were followed for each position, asking for nominations from the floor, closing those nominations, and motioning for approval. The resulting 2010 Board members are as follows:

President: Doug Bauer
Vice President: Chuck Jones
Treasurer: Gordon Hansen
Secretary: Kevin Medon/Lori Poremsky

Congratulations to the 2010 elected officers. The group also thanked the officers for a successful 2009.

Doug Bock followed the elections with an "Ask the Astronomer" Tech Talk session. Several questions were asked in regards to mounts, gravitational pulls and how we can tell whether a star we're seeing truly exists. Several suggestions and opinions were offered as to various solutions and reasons why.

Chuck Jones spent a few minutes on astronomy equipment and toys, asking a very important question – when do you have enough?

Club Business

Secretary's Report – Lori Poremsky noted that we have two new members this month. New membership cards have been printed and will be mailed when the list of paying members

have been received from Steve Flessa. For those in attendance at the meeting, to save on mailing costs, please feel free to pick your membership cards up today. Motion & second to accept the December minutes; approved.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Flessa reviewed the balance of monies in the various club accounts. This month's report is published in Star Stuff.

Equipment Managers Report – None.

Open Discussion

Gordon Hansen noted that the FAAC Annual Banquet is being held Saturday, March 27th at Karl's Cabin in Plymouth, Michigan at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$30 per person. For those interested in attending, a sign up sheet was being passed around the room. For those not at the General Meeting, please contact Gordon Hansen directly if interested in attending at ghhansen@comcast.net. Payment is not due immediately, but would be appreciated in a timely manner. At the time of reserving, please indicate your main entry choice: beef, chicken, or fish. A flyer with more detail can be found in this month's Star Stuff as well as on the Yahoo group site. Door prizes can be donated to Pat Korody. Everyone goes home with a prize.

Tom Blaszk noted that the 7th Annual Astronomy Expo and Swap meeting will be held Saturday, March 6, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm at the Holy Cross Church Gymnasium in Livonia, MI. Several local businesses and clubs will have tables featuring astronomy related equipment and gadgets. Private tables are also available for rent at \$15 each, or \$20 at the door. If you have extra astronomy equipment, this is a great place to sell it. We currently have 3 sponsors. Door prizes will be given away, several speakers will be providing talks in their areas of expertise and there will be planetarium lectures. Food will also be available.

Continued Page 6

January Meeting Minutes

(continued from Page 5)

General admission is \$5.00. A full flyer on the event can be found in this month's Star Stuff as well as on the Yahoo group site.

Several Outreach Events are being planned.

- Ann Arbor Hands On Museum for Junior Girl Scouts – Fri, March 19 - Doug Bauer
- Multi-club Outreach at Metro Beach Metropark – Sat, April 24 - Doug Bauer
- Cub Scouts Pack at Memorial Elementary School in Garden City, - Doug Bauer
30001 Marquette, Garden City, MI 48135-2698.
– Mon, April 26
- Girl Scout Outreach – Weekend of February 19th at Camp Innisfree in - Lori Poremsky
Howell, MI. Lori is e-mailing to decline this invitation since no interest was shown – notices were posted on the Yahoo Group, at the general meeting and at the board meeting.
- Starry, Starry Night – Enjoy an evening of star gazing hosted by the - Doug Bauer
Ford Amateur Astronomy Club. Free star programs will be offered,
and numerous telescopes will be set up to view planets, star clusters
and galaxies. Time TBA. Location: Humbug Marsh Unit, Trenton, Michigan.
Saturday, August 14th (same as the Beginners Night, but it should reach
100- 150 people). It is a 5,400 acre site on the Detroit River.

If you're able to attend any of these events, please contact the coordinating person.

Gordon Hansen noted that SIG meetings are taking place the 2nd Thursday of every month in the Berry Auditorium of Henry Ford Community College, located in the Administrative Services and Conference Center. This month's meeting will be chaired by Jim Frisbie.

Frank Ancona had nothing to report for the Dark Sky Committee.

Steve Flessa noted that 2010 FAAC dues if paid by January 31, are \$25.00. For those renewing after January 31, the dues are \$30.00.

Steve also noted that he had one Astronomy calendar left at \$7.00. He also noted that he has one Observers Handbook which did not get delivered. Is there any one who order one but did not receive it?

Steve Flessa mentioned that the FAAC has a discount subscription rate for Astronomy Technology Today, a good Astro Gadget magazine. The club discount is \$14 per year for 6 issues. If interested, sign up at their website using the code "FAAC".

Chuck Jones asked the status of the Lincoln Park Observatory and whether or not it was being used not only by the school but for public outreach events. He was interested in whether it could be used for the mentoring program started in the club. Both Tim Dey and George Korody are working on plans for using the Lincoln Park Observatory and will update the club when more information is available.

Steve Uitti noted that the cable show is progressing nicely. If any one is interested in distributing the FAAC cable TV show to their local community programming channel please see Steve Uitti or Kevin Medon for a copy of the show.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Member Profile

Each month we are hoping to feature a different FAAC club member, with a few questions and a photo.

If you get a call from Greg Ozimek with some interview questions, you may be featured in an issue.

Astro Imaging SIG

Gordon Hansen

February's meeting was cancelled, most imagers were wisely in Florida in the warmer climate.

All are invited to join us in the Astro Imaging SIG meetings, to share and discuss images, experiences, and techniques.

We always have a good time, with lively discussion, and sharing of valuable information.

Next meeting is March 11. Note the new meeting room location – HFCC Admin. Services and Conference Center (same building), Berry Amphitheater Auditorium.

Topics invited. Pizza served.

FAAC Events 2010

Kevin Medon and Lori Poremsky

March **6th 7th Annual Astronomy Expo & Swap Meet, Livonia**

19th Ann Arbor Hands on Museum

27th 2010 Annual FAAC Banquet

**Karl's Cabin 6005 Gotfredson Rd,
Plymouth Michigan - \$30/person**

April **26 – Cub Scouts pack at Memorial Elementary School in Garden City**

Background Jupiter - courtesy of John Kirchhoff

The Cooled StellaCam III becomes hot

Sadly a new camera was stolen from Hector J Robinson Observatory. To make matters worse, the serial number for this camera was not recorded on the receipt by Ocean Pacific Telescopes (OPT) and we didn't record the serial number. (The lesson: always check, verify and document serial numbers ASAP)

Items For Sale

Meade Lightbridge Deluxe 12" – F/5, 1524mm focal length. Purchased new last year. Perfect condition mechanically, optically and cosmetically. Big, clear deep sky views. Built-in battery powered cooling fan, two-speed Crayford focuser (1.25 / 2-inch). Easy to transport, set up collimate and use - smooth as silk. Upgraded with Bob's knobs and heavier collimation springs. Includes shroud, cover, Telrad and secondary mirror heater. Over \$1000 invested, will sell for \$650.

Contact John Johnson at
jjohnsonpub@yahoo.com

or (248) 515-0014.



Hector J Robinson Observatory

by Greg Knekleian

Many who have been working on the Hector J Robinson Observatory travelled to the Winter Star Party this month.

One boy scout troop did visit the observatory. Thanks to a few breaks in the clouds they were able to view the crescent moon.

In the winter, (especially during setup) it might be nice to have an electric heater or two in the observatory. The observatory has more than one 15 amp circuit providing plenty of power in the event a member brings an electric heater.

I always find good advice when out with FAAC members. During last months setup we tested and the balance of the C-14 with my 4 month old Canon EOS T1i camera. One member mentioned it's a good idea to have a safety strap attached between the camera and telescope.

Some bad news. It's likely that someone stole a \$1245 Stellacam from the observatory. It's impossible to know who took it, because so many outsiders were involved at the observatory over the past 6 weeks. Once we confirmed the theft, a police report was filed. We will be working on a more secure setup and procedures to hopefully keep items from walking away in the future.

Meeting Agenda - February 25th

HFCC –Berry Auditorium - Admin. Services & Conference Center

For map see: http://www.hfcc.edu/contact/campus_maps.pdf

5:30 PM

Opening/Introduction/Member Observing

Main presentation:

Field trip to the HFCC
Planetarium FAAC

Club Business/Secretary/Treasurer/ Equipment Reports

Club Projects/Committees/Member Support

* 2010 Annual FAAC Banquet Sat March 27 Karl's Cabin
-2005 Gotfredson Road Plymouth, Mi - \$30/person

* 2010 Astro Expo/Swap Meet - Sat. March 6th

* Ann Arbor Hands On Museum - Friday March 19th

* Multi-Club Outreach at Metropolitan Beach - Sat April 24

* Cub Scouts Pack at Memorial Elementary School in
Garden City. 20001 Marquette, Garden City - Monday
April 26

* Astro Imaging SIG

*Dark Sky Committee

Treasurer's Report

Bank Accounts	
Checking	\$1,218.09
Savings	\$186.50
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$1,404.59
Cash Account	
Cash	\$100.00
TOTAL Cash Account	\$100.00
Investment Accounts	
CD 1	\$1,080.31
CD 2	\$1,046.91
TOTAL Investment Accounts	\$2,127.22
Asset Accounts	
Equipment	\$1,501.42
Scholarship	\$641.30
TOTAL	\$2142.72
OVERALL TOTAL	\$5774.53
Memos	
GLAAC	\$2596.64
Total	\$8,371.17



Dennis Salliotte looking for snow while at the WSP 2010
(photo courtesy Dennis Salliotte)



2010 FAAC Dinner Banquet

Saturday, March 27, 2010
6 PM till 10 PM

Dinner Talk – Norbert Vance
Going Virtual: A Real Sky Astronomer's Story

Plus

Astro Picture Presentation – Door Prizes – Astro Jeopardy

Location: Karl's Cabin
Price: \$30 / person (checks payable to FAAC)

Dinner Selections:

- **New York Strip Steak** – *Char-grilled 10 oz. cut cooked medium*
- **Chicken Marsala** – *Tender chicken breast topped with marsala wine mushroom sauce*
- **Herb Whitefish** – *Fresh whitefish topped with herb olive oil and baked*

Includes vegetable, potato garden salad with choice of two dressings, bread & butter

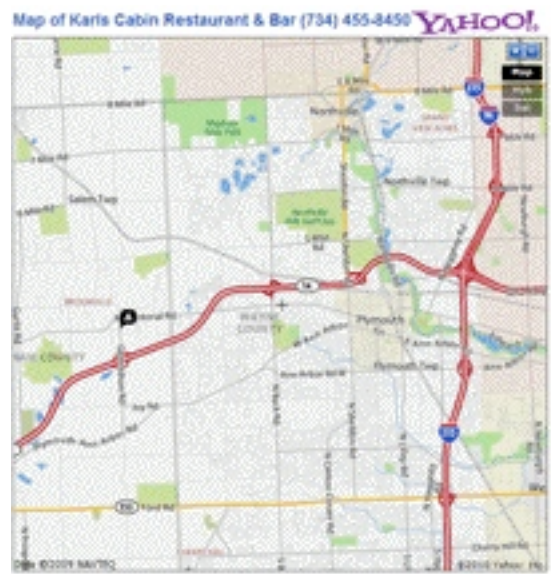
Coffee, hot tea, and soft drinks included

\$\$Cash Bar\$\$

Cocktails at 6 PM – Dinner at 7 PM

Reservations:
Gordon Hansen at
ghansen@comcast.net
or post a note on the Yahoo Group

Karl's Cabin is located at:
6005 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
Phone 734-455-8450





7th Annual Astronomy Expo & Swap

Saturday, Mar 6, 2010 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Holy Cross Church Gymnasium, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia

The Day's Activities

FAAC Speakers

- 10:00 am: Astronomy 101 – G. Hansen
- 11:00 am: Climbing the Learning Curve – Astrophotography with a DSLR – C. Kessler
- 1:00 pm: Backyard Observing – J. Frisbie
- 2:00 pm: No Charge Astronomy – M. Deprest
- 3:00 pm: TBD

Featured Astronomy Subjects

- 10:30 am: High Resolution Lunar and Planetary Imaging – J. Kirchhoff
- 11:30 am: "Our Star," The Sun – F. Ancona
- 1:00 pm: New Frontiers in Astronomy: Discoveries – Surprises – K. Bjorkman
- 2:00 pm: Exploring Hubble Sequence in the Spring Sky – T. Trusock
- 3:00 pm: TBD

Planetarium Lectures @ 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm – T. Cervenak





Catering by KIM

(Pizza, Hot dog, Wraps, Cookies, Drinks)

(Pizza, Hot dog, Wraps, Cookies, Drinks)

Admission: \$5.00 at the door or presale.

Table Fee: Individuals \$15 in advance or if available at the door \$20

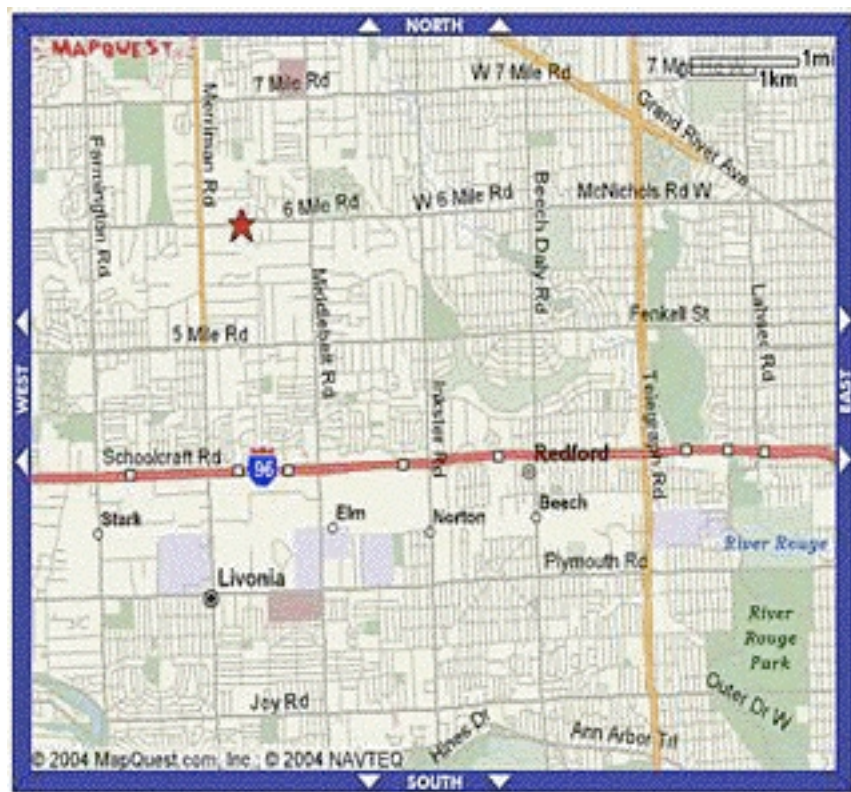
Advanced Registration ends February 15, 2010

Doors Open at 8AM for set up and Public Open at 9AM.

Make Checks Payable to: FAAC. Send payment to Ford Amateur Astronomy P.O. Box 7527, Dearborn, MI 48121-7527.

Vendors, Manufacturers, Commercial contact Tom Blaszk at

key_string_guy@yahoo.com or contact Doug Bauer at DougBauer@comcast.net



FAAC Profiles



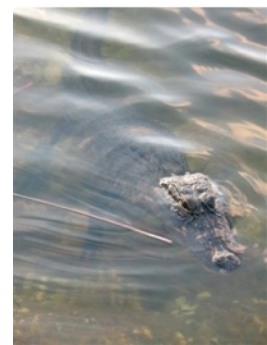
Winter Star Party 2010



Doug & DeeAnn Bauer, Gordon & Susan Hansen, Jim Moscheck, Dennis Salliotte, Larry Goodsell & Mohamed Mroue at the No Name Pub

Star Stuff Question:

Did you go swimming or was it too cold?



It was too cold (Alligator at the Blue Hole, Big Pine Key)



New FAAC wallpaper added to the No Name Pub

WSP photos on this 1/2 page courtesy of Dennis Salliotte.

Winter Star Party 2010



Sunrise Minus the Michigan Snow



Dennis Salliotte



Larry Goodsell



Mohamet Mrouse



Panoramic view of the prize drawing



Let's scope out the beach



Vendor Area

Photos on this page courtesy of Arthur Mullis (WSP official photographer) Flickr link below has 500 photos from the event
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amullis/sets/72157623436906034/>

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Star Stuff Newsletter
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