



# STAR STUFF

The Newsletter of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

Volume 16, Number 8

August 2007

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## Sail Planes, Music, and ISS

Photos by Greg Ozimek, Dale Ochalek



*Doug Bauer is saddled up in back, for a smooth glide in the skies (Greg Ozimek photo).*

Start with lots of good food, conversation, sunshine, and sail planes, add slide guitar music, then top it all with fireworks, a clear night for observing, and even a late flyover by the International Space Station, and you've got a successful, 2nd annual SEMTA/FAAC picnic (August 11 at Richmond Airport).

*...continued on page 8*



## Cosmic Cockroaches!

Dr. Tony Phillips

Cockroaches are supposed to be tough, able to survive anything from a good stomping to a nuclear blast. But roaches are wimps compared to a little molecule that has recently caught the eye of biologists and astronomers—the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon.

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# STAR STUFF

AUGUST 2007 - Vol. 16 - No. 8

**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:	Doug Bauer
SECRETARY:	Ken Anderson
TREASURER:	Gordon Hansen
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Dale Ochalek

## CLUB INFORMATION

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC) meets on the fourth Thursday each month, except for the combined November/December meeting on the first Thursday of December – at Henry Ford Community College, Administrative Services and Conference Center in Dearborn. Refer to our website for a map and directions ([www.boonhill.net/faac](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. The FAAC also has use of the dark skies at Richmond Airport, Unadilla, given prior permission. 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](mailto:fordastronomy@comcast.net).

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

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

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

## ASTRONOMY or SKY & TELESCOPE MAGAZINE DISCOUNTS

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

## STAR STUFF NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Your submissions to **STAR STUFF** are more than welcome! Send your story and/or images to the editor at [dake00k@yahoo.com](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 can be included in that issue.

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

## Ancient Knowledge – Set in Stone

### President's Corner

Don Klaser, President, FAAC

While doing research for the presentation on the calendar and western culture that I gave last year I came across the subject of archaeoastronomy. It is the study of sites, structures and instruments that ancient cultures used to study the heavens. At the time I thought that this would make an interesting topic for a future talk.

Fast forward to August, 2007. An article in this month's Astronomy Magazine brought this idea back to mind. Authors Robert Benfer and Larry Adkins reveal their findings at an excavation site north of Lima, Peru - uncovering a 4,200 year-old building believed to be used to determine the solstices, telling the Inca people when to plant and harvest. It isn't an observatory as we know it, but rather an agricultural calendar - knowledge necessary for their continued existence.

So I wondered how many other sites similar to this one there are? A lot, as it turns out. In the Western Hemisphere, there's Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas" also in Peru; the Mayan Palace of the Governor in Uxmal and the structures at Chichen Itza in the Yucatan, and the Great Temple at Tenochtitlan, modern day Mexico City. The present-day United States has several Native American sites including Casa Rinconada and the Sun Dagger at Fajada Butte at Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, the Holly House ruin at Hovenweep near Monticello, Colorado, and the Bighorn Medicine Wheel in Wyoming.

In the "Old World," there are the Great Pyramids at Giza, Stonehenge in Britain (a hotly debated topic) and 19 stone pillars of the Namoratunga site in Kenya. There are also quite a number of possible ancient astronomical sites around the world, but with no verified data to prove it so, yet. All this shows me that ancient peoples were well-versed in the motions of the skies above them. And, while they were used to forecast agricultural cycles or to let them know when to celebrate religious festivals, as opposed to the more scientific pursuits we use them for today, the knowledge they accumulated has certainly helped us in our quest to understand the universe.

"Hey, Don! That sounds like a great topic for a presentation!"



## Cosmic Cockroaches... *(continued from page 1)*

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs for short) are ring-shaped molecules made of carbon and hydrogen. "They're all around us," says Achim Tappe of the Harvard Center for Astrophysics. "PAHs are present in mineral oils, coal, tar, tobacco smoke and automobile exhaust." Aromatic, ring-shaped molecules structurally akin to PAHs are found in DNA itself!

That's why Tappe's recent discovery may be so important. "PAHs are so tough, they can survive a supernova."

The story begins a few thousand years ago when a massive star in the Large Magellanic Cloud exploded, blasting nearby star systems and interstellar clouds with hot gas and deadly radiation. The expanding shell, still visible from Earth after all these years and catalogued by astronomers as "N132D," spans 80 light years and has swept up some 600 Suns worth of mass.



*Using the IR spectrometer on the Spitzer Space Telescope, scientists found organic molecules in supernova remnant N132D.*

Last year "we observed N132D using NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope," says Tappe. Spitzer is an infrared (IR) telescope, and it has a spectrometer onboard sensitive to the IR emissions of PAHs. One look at N132D revealed "PAHs all around the supernova's expanding shell. They appear to be swept up by a shock wave of 8 million degree gas. This is causing some damage to the molecules, but many of the PAHs are surviving."

Astronomers have long known that PAHs are abundant not only on Earth but throughout the cosmos—they've been found in comet dust,

meteorites and many cold interstellar clouds—but who knew they were so tough? "This is our first evidence that PAHs can withstand a supernova blast," he says.

Their ability to survive may be key to life on Earth. Many astronomers are convinced that a supernova exploded in our corner of the galaxy 4-to-5 billion years ago just as the solar system was coalescing from primitive interstellar gas. In one scenario of life's origins, PAHs survived and made their way to our planet. It turns out that stacks of PAHs can form in water—think, primordial seas—and provide a scaffold for nucleic acids with architectural properties akin to RNA and DNA. PAHs may be just tough enough for genesis.

Cockroaches, eat your hearts out.

Find out about other Spitzer discoveries at [www.spitzer.caltech.edu](http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu).

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

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## July 26 Meeting Minutes

Ken Anderson

Attendance: 39+

Meeting officially started at 5:30 pm with pizza and pop available, in the Hackett conference room of the HFCC Health Careers Building. Don Klaser, President, chaired the meeting and led the introductions, and asked for observations.

We welcomed new members Vincent Panzo, Randy and Pamela Smith. Ken Anderson observed and drew M3 and comet 2006 Linear VZ13 in the same view, and detected movement by 15 minutes. Gary Stahl mentioned the Discovery Spirit on Mars may be crippled by a dust storm; but that it lasted 3 years longer than its 90-day requirement. Greg Ozimek observed with his brand new Denk Binoviewers and Diagonal Switch on the first day, until his focuser locked up; he had to send in his Celestron SCT to check out the focuser. Bob Boswell got a cover for his Meade SCT and a solar filter. John Kirchhoff observed a "UFO" (later confirmed to be a weather balloon) south of the moon at beginner's night. It had the same diameter as

*...continued on page 4*

## Meeting Minutes... *(continued from page 3)*

Jupiter (use trigonometry to determine true size or distance if one is known --  $\text{Tangent (half angle)} = \text{opposite/adjacent} = \text{radius/distance}$ ). John also had the new Meade eyepiece "real time" video system demo set up for after the meeting.

Tim Dey did CCD imaging with his 10" Meade SCT and determined he could see down to magnitude 14 for Pluto, and Neptune's moon Titan. He used Starry Night for immediate confirmation. John Schroer requested Celestron remove their sponsorship of International Star Registry "Name a Star." Harold Thomason said a fiancé bought a star in the winter part of the sky, and they couldn't find it (during summer). Ed Halash would like to know how many accepted his "Pegasus square challenge," and noted he saw five or six super faint objects.

John Schroer gave the Technical Talk "Digital Star Atlas Demonstration." The first planetarium in 1923 showed how to find constellations by their associated stars. Then they added the sun, moon, and planets. In the 1960s planetariums added film movies, which could still maintain dark skies. But when videos became popular this created the "grey rectangle of death," which could never get totally black. Today, it is possible to have black video with no gray background. The "Digital Universe" is free, courtesy of the Museum of Natural History Hayden Planetarium, in N.Y.C (140-160 MB, from [haydenplanetarium.org](http://haydenplanetarium.org)). This software shows stars, dwarf stars, open clusters, globular clusters, pulsars, planetary nebulas, supernova, and the ort cloud grid of our Solar system. You can fly around our celestial sphere, ort cloud to and through the various stars. It has detailed block sections databases of the Milky Way, and the sun, and local group of galaxies. The source of the data comes from the 2 micron All Sky Survey and each dot represents a galaxy in 3D space. For fun, John showed how we could virtually travel to and into or through our sun. You can also find similar asteroid and comet databases at [solarium.org](http://solarium.org).

John Schroer gave also gave the main presentation "2007 Texas Star Party". Details of the 2007 Texas Star Party may be included in next month's minutes.

Don Klaser led the business portion. Ken Anderson gave the Secretary's Report, and the minutes found on both the web and newsletter

were approved. Gordon Hansen gave the Treasurer's Report totaling \$5340 (FAAC only, excluding GLAAC). Gordon also has 2008 Astronomy calendars for \$7 (or half price).

Harold Thomason, Equipment Manager, reported finding the 4.5" Dobsonian telescope that was missing, and also that the club has a new 10x10-ft. canopy, a laptop, projector, screen, sound system, and bullhorn. Club members are advised to read the new process and rules, found in the July 2007 Star Stuff and on our Yahoo website, regarding signing out equipment. Ed Halash gave some updates on the FAAC scholarship fund which we voted last meeting to keep. We currently have about \$400 in it, and Dr. Carl Jacobs, the HFCC Science Dean, said we could send the money to HFCC Foundation, and the Science Board would review the criteria. The FAAC science committee consists of Ed Halash, Gordon Hansen, John Schroer, and Bob FitzGerald.

In club events:

The FAAC at Meadowbrook will take place on Saturday June 28 at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Beethoven concert. Don Klaser, Bob and Holly MacFarland, and Gordon Hansen have volunteered to attend and support the event with telescopes. If you would like to volunteer with solar or night telescopes, please contact Don Klaser so he can add you to the official list.

SIG meetings are the second Thursday of each month (next is August 9) at 5:30 pm at HFCC Rosenau conference room. Topics are to include the proposed "Michigan Astronomy Village," led by George Korody. The intent is to have community of astronomers who want to keep a dark sky site (homeowners rules and guidelines), like that in Arizona. This first meeting will brainstorm ideas, location, and requirements, and results will be posted on yahoo and website. Ultimately they will be looking for investors to buy land, to make it a reality.

The 2nd Annual SESMA/FAAC Picnic is at Richmond, Saturday, August 11, 2 pm (backup date August 12 in case of rain -- not for clouds). This date was picked for both the new moon and Perseid meteor shower. The FAAC has provided \$300, and is seeking FAAC volunteers to help (setup at noon, cook, clean up, etc). Glider flights (about \$50) and solar observing during daytime.

*...continued on page 5*

## Meeting Minutes... *(continued from page 4)*

Bring lawn chairs, table, and side dish or desert to pass, but NOT a main dish. Jim Frisbie will show off our new 10x10-ft. canopy to provide some shade and weather protection. Fireworks are from 10:30-11:30 pm, and a surprise FAAC laser show (bring red or green lasers, but don't shine at any airplanes). Night-sky observing begins afterwards.

Jon Blum is looking for others to join him at Richmond August 12 to enjoy the Perseid Meteor shower at its peak, providing clear skies.

The next FAAC Beginners Night is August 18 at Island Lake State Park Spring Mill Pond Site. TBD officer in charge implementing new policy of informing guests with a bull horn or megaphone of gate being opened on the hour, so guests can be let out without having to wait long at the gate.

FAAC meetings are every fourth Thursday of each month (next meeting August 23 at 5:30 pm) at HFCC Rosenau conference room; Main Presentation is TBD. The FAAC Board meeting is the first Thursday of each month (August 2, 5:30 pm) at Dimitri's Restaurant in Dearborn, MI.

The FAAC Library in HFCC Science Center, conference room 109 will be open one hour before monthly FAAC meeting above – Gary Stahl. The list of 100+ books and brief descriptions is available at the FAAC Yahoo site; books can be signed out for one month, with extensions allowable. There are still 20 or more books to be cataloged. Gary recommends a courtesy e-mail a day before the meeting. President Don Klaser and V.P. Doug Bauer are backup key holders for returning books.

The FAAC Dark Sky Workshop September 5 (noon) -12 at Gladwin, Michigan, is being coordinated by Tony Licata, Jim Frisbie, and Gordon Hansen. The \$15 Dark Sky Star Imaging Party and Workshop for club members and families (not public in general). Discuss, Learn, Image—this is not exclusively for imaging. Speaker(s) will present every day, but clustered more around the weekend. See the handout on the FAAC website, in Files. It is \$5 a tent per day to camp on the hill; the hill is free for those already camping in the park (for about \$29/day RV Park fee). No camper trailers or RVs are allowed on the hill. Advance registration ends August 15. Sites are first-come, first-served. The

FAAC will coordinate porta-potty and path lighting down hill to RV area. Plan to provide your own meals, since we will not make food available. Workshop ends 30 hours before Great Lakes Star Gaze, and attendees must leave the morning of September 12. For additional information contact Gordon Hansen at GordonH2006@comcast.net or Jim Frisbie at w8tu@comcast.net.

Great Lakes Star Gaze (GLSG5) is September 13 (5 pm) -16 at River Valley RV Park in Gladwin, MI. Send your e-mail with the completed registration form to jeniferrobb@gmail.com, and mail fees postmarked before August 24 to avoid \$15 late fee. Prices vary depending on individual or family, 2 or 3 nights, RV (park fees) plus trailer. Sites are first-come, first-served.

Astronomy Day 2 is on September 15, with Eric Rasmussen and Mike Lapresto presenting the HFCC Spring Planetarium Show, and Tour of the "scaled" Solar System Walk (similar to that in Washington D.C.). The club is looking volunteers (not attending GLSG5) to help Eric at HFCC and U of M-Dearborn with complimentary events solar and nighttime observing at the U of M-D Dearborn parking lot, Island Lake, etc. (Detroit Science Center will not be participating). Eric is also checking into opening the U of M -Dearborn Observatory, but there are a lot of politics involved. This event was requested from the Astronomy League to determine if the Spring or Fall is better for celebrating Galileo's 500th anniversary in a few years.

GLAAC Astronomy at the Beach (AATB) is September 21-22, at Kensington Metropark for the general public - Bob MacFarland. Solar observing earlier, 6 pm official start (6:30 pm first show). John Schroer coordinated for John Stoke to be main guest speaker talking about the future final STS Hubble Space Telescope Service Mission. Supporting presenters have all agreed to be there. Gordon Hansen plans to do Astronomy 101 for Adults on Friday, and a new "Astronomy for Kids" on Saturday, but this can change depending on the audience. Ms. Ardis Harold from Grosse Pointe North High School will have radio astronomy static displays, but their new radio antenna is not portable. Mark Deprest will be setting up two portable planetariums. New this year, to encourage equipment setup even with cloudy weather, Televue, Meade, and Orion will provide donation raffles for those volunteers who actually

*...continued on page 6*



## Meeting Minutes... *(continued from page 5)*

set up a telescope. John Kirchhoff is coordinating with vendors. Frank Ancona is the Meade 4M Club Liaison for the Meade 4M Banner. Greg Ozimek is the Celestron contact.

GLAAC will have new concession vendors this year. FAAC will donate \$200 and provide the FAAC sound system, speakers, and microphone (previously rented for \$125). University of Michigan Lowbrows will donate \$300. Detroit Science Center to donate the same as last year -- Mars Phoenix Lander. GLAAC is proposing changing the pavilion lighting for this year, but there is talk about the pavilion being torn down next year to expand the water park. There will be a "Shadow of the Moon" Apollo astronaut giveaway. DVDs and water bottles are also to be given.

Kensington Metropark is seeking recommendations for a new pavilion (next year), acknowledging that the GLAAC AATB brings in more people than any other single event at the park. Next GLAAC planning meeting is Sunday TBD at 1 pm at the Nature Center. Contact Bob MacFarland or Bob FitzGerald for details or future meetings.

The 2008 FAAC Swap meet (date TBD) at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on 6 Mile, Livonia, is being coordinated by Tom Blaszak.

George and Pat Korody plan to attend Winter Star Party (February 2008). Register or find out more details on the Winter Star Party web site. Cost is about \$75 per person, plus \$48 to camp.

Observing site policies and procedures will be written by Ed Halash (Richmond), George Korody (Island Lake), and Gordon Hansen and Dennis Salliotte (Lake Erie), and these will be posted on the club website.

Frank Ancona polled about International Darksky Association (IDA) – 3 members present – and informed us of cost savings for new rheostat dimming lights.

There is a \$10 FERA discount for dinner show packages at Andiamo Second City of Novi. Normal price for two is \$50 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, and \$60 on Friday. Call 248-891-8702 and tell them you are a FERA member to get the \$10 discount.

Gordon Hansen has sweatshirts, shirts, hats, and patches available for purchase from Diane Worth's last order. We are considering a new order from Saginaw for sweatshirts, jackets, shirts, hats, and patches and a possible expansion of items from a new catalog.

Tonight the club members voted by 2-1 to have small logo on chest (vs. large logo) stenciled on \$10 T-shirts and \$20 sweatshirts, with items being available for SESMA/FAAC picnic. One club member asked if we could also have the large logo stenciled on the back for additional cost.

The 2008 Astronomy calendars are available for \$7. Please contact Gordon Hansen if interested.

Don Klaser is seeking 2007 speakers for both FAAC 30-60 minute Main Presentations, and 15-20 minute Tech Talks. Call Don at 586-596-9510 or email dklaser4750@wowway.com.

## Meeting Agenda - August 23

5:30 pm

**Opening/Introduction/Member Observing**

**New Members and Guests** Diane Worth

**Tech Talk:** TBD

**Presentation:** "Ask the Astronomer" - All

**Club Business/Secretary/Treasurer reports**

**Club Projects/Committees/Member support**

- Scholarship Fund - Ed Halash
- Astro-Imaging SIG / Dark Sky Workshop - Gordon Hansen / Jim Frisbie
- SEMSA/FAAC Picnic – Recap - All
- GLAAC/AATB - September 21-22, 2007 - Bob MacFarland
- Astronomy Day II - September 15 - Don Klaser
- Assistant Librarian - Don Klaser
- Observing Site Policy and Procedures - Don Klaser
- International Darksky Association (IDA) – Frank Ancona, Greg Ozimek, John Schroer
- Open – All
- Close - Don Klaser

## FAAC Events 2007

Bob MacFarland

**September** 5-11 – Astro-Imaging Workshop, Gladwin  
 14-15 – Great Lakes Star Gaze, Gladwin  
 15 – Astronomy Day II  
 21-22 – Astronomy at the Beach – GLAAC,  
 Kensington Park

**October** 20 – Beginner's Night - Island Lake

## Treasurer's Report

Gordon Hansen

### Bank Accounts

Checking	\$	633.29
Savings	\$	2,085.04
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,718.33</b>

### Cash Accounts

Cash Account	\$	99.17
<b>TOTAL Cash Accounts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>99.17</b>

### Investment Accounts

Certificate of Deposit	\$	1,014.29
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### Asset Accounts

Equipment	\$	381.95
Scholarship	\$	413.05
<b>TOTAL Asset Accounts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>795.00</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL** \$ 4,626.79

### Memo:

GLAAC \$ 1,966.81

## Astro Imaging SIG

The next meeting of the Astro Imaging SIG is Thursday, September 13, HFCC in Dearborn, in the Administrative Services and Conference Bldg. (same as the FAAC General Meeting). If you drive up to the Faculty parking lot gate, it should open allowing you to park close to the building. Topic is the proposed "Michigan Astronomy Village," led by George Korody (see Meeting Minutes for more information).

## Items for Sale

**Coulter 10" Dobsonian** telescope. \$400. Contact Bob Stonik, 313-361-4954.

**Orion XT10i Intelescope**, moonlight CR2 focuser (red), w/compression rings and 1.25" adapter, computerized object locator, custom oak holster and stalk for COL, secondary knobs for no tools collimation. Orion padded case, Telrad base. All in excellent condition, very nice optics. Offered here, before listing on Astromart. Over \$1150 invested, sell for \$800, or trade for a similar priced APO refractor. Jim 313-386-6944 days

**SkyWatcher** 120mm refractor, f8.3 F/L 1000mm. Comes with tube rings and 2in -1.25 adapter. Good condition, sharp-contrast views. Great for planets and brighter deep sky objects. Killer double-star splitter. Asking \$225.00

Contact Michael, 734-777-3605 or email: mharri1000@netzero.com

**Schmidt-Newtonian 10" – F5.35**, 1360 mm focal length with 2" focuser. Includes 60 mm guide scope, Full aperture solar filter by Thousand Oaks (Mylar). Also includes cooling fan, extra set of "O" rings. Corrector plate made by Optron systems (division of Nazca Corp. of California). Also available is the Crestliner mount (on wheels). Scope made by Nelson Lewis of Detroit Astronomical Society in 1962. Purchased 1981. Selling telescope for \$325. Mount for \$200.

Contact: Harold Thomason 313-584-7465

**Televue Pronto 70mm refractor**. Includes the carry case/bag and the Televue diagonal to go with it. Excellent condition.

Now asking just \$525 for the telescope, and accessories.

Tom Blaszak, key\_string\_guy@yahoo.com

**Photon 127 5" f9** achromatic refractor for sale. \$300 OBO.

Contact Clay Kessler, ckessler@gatecom.com.

## GLSG5 - Reserve Your Spot

Jenifer Robb, SAS

The universe is expanding, and so is our observing hill and observing nights!

The Fifth Annual Great Lakes Star Gaze will be September 13th – 16th, 2007, at River Valley RV Park, Gladwin, MI ([www.rivervalleyrv.com](http://www.rivervalleyrv.com)). A flyer and registration forms and information can be found on the Sunset club (SAS) website at [www.boonhill.net/sunset](http://www.boonhill.net/sunset). Return the registration postmarked **before August 24**, to avoid a late fee.

This is a star party for the astronomer who loves to observe and mingle with other astronomers. 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. Some practical and interesting talks are scheduled, to enhance your experience.

Food, photo contests, door prizes, and much, much more!

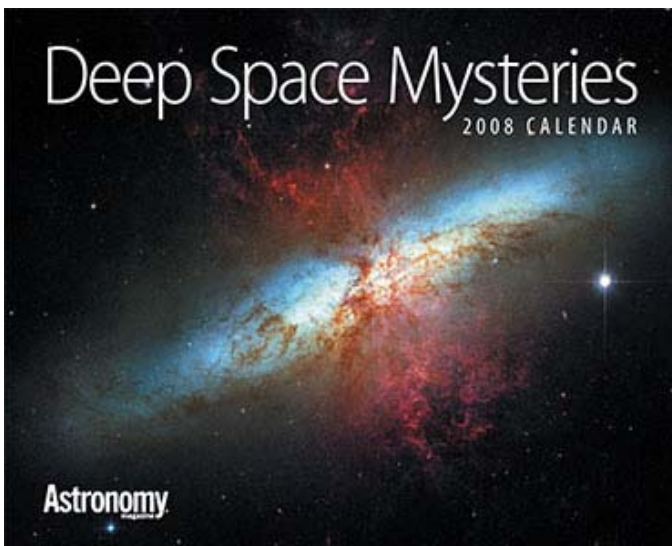
## FAAC has Calendars-2008!

Gordon Hansen

The Astronomy Magazine calendar normally sells for \$12.95. Club members can purchase them for \$7.00 - a 45% discount!

Calendars will be available at club meetings. If you will not be attending, but, would still like to purchase one (or more!), send an email to: [fordastronomy@comcast.net](mailto:fordastronomy@comcast.net)

Charge of \$3 will be added for mailing.



## New Members

Gordon Hansen

FAAC welcomes some new members! Let us know how we can help you enjoy amateur astronomy:

- Leon Kott
- Vincent Panzo
- Randy and Pamela Smith

## Sail Planes... *(continued from page 1)*



*Impressively poised and waiting...* (Dale Ochalek photo)



*The Bridge Club performs...* (Dale Ochalek photo)



*FAAC members relax, enjoy ...* (Greg Ozimek photo)



## Sail Planes... *(continued from page 8)*

*Imminent takeoff ...*



(Dale Ochalek photo)



*Gordon Hansen holds court with the Coronado and filtered telescopes, pointing out solar prominences and such ...*

## Crater Clavius

John Kirchhoff



**The Crater Clavius**

August 4, 2007 09:44UT Trans 7/10 Seeing 4/10  
235mmSCT @f/23 IR Block DMK 21AF04.AS

John Kirchhoff

Hudson, MI USA

(Greg Ozimek photo)



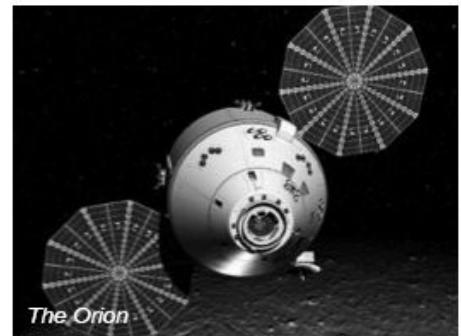
Great Lakes Association of Astronomy Clubs (GLAAC)  
presents our



# 11th Annual Astronomy at the Beach

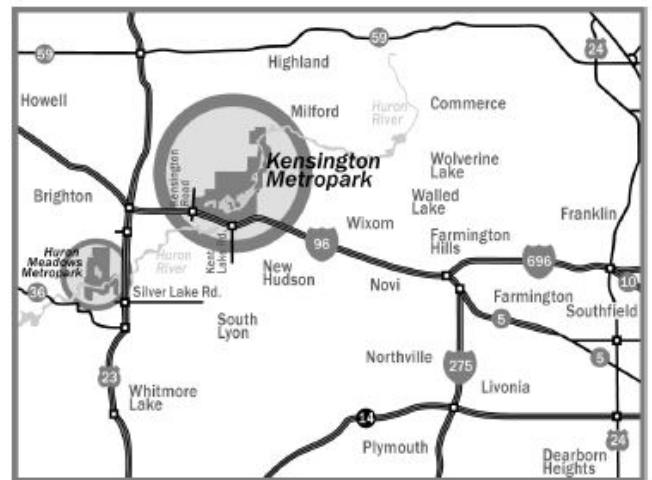
Friday & Saturday, September 21 & 22  
at Kensington Metropark, from 5 pm - midnight (rain or shine)

With a special talk by NASA's Rob Landis on  
**The Orion Manned Program  
and the Mission to Return  
to the Moon**



- ▼ Learn about astronomy first hand
- ▼ View dozens of exciting objects through our telescopes and binoculars
- ▼ Children's celestial scavenger hunt with prizes
- ▼ Tour the constellations
- ▼ See digital imaging
- ▼ Comet making demonstration
- ▼ Plus much more!  
(food & beverages available for purchase)

For more information call the  
Kensington Nature Center at 248-685-0603  
or visit the GLAAC website at:  
[www.boonhill.net/glaac/](http://www.boonhill.net/glaac/)



**To Kensington Metropark:**  
Take I-96 to Exit 153 (Kent Lake Road), then  
go North to Martindale Beach.  
**\$4.00 Vehicle Entry Permit required to  
enter Park. Event is FREE.**

Sponsored by:







# DARK SKY WORKSHOP

*Hosted by  
Ford Amateur Astronomy Club (FAAC)*

**Wednesday, Sept. 5th thru Tuesday Sept. 11th 2007**

**River Valley RV Park, 2165 S Bailey Lake Avenue, Gladwin, MI 48624**

**Camp Phone: (989) 386-7844, Website: <http://www.rivervalleyrv.com>**

## WORKSHOP:

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, Astro Imaging Special Interest Group is sponsoring a Dark Sky Workshop. All club members and their guests are invited to come out and spend a week with friends, under mag 6.5 skies. You don't need to be an imager to attend.

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

The purpose of the Dark Sky Workshop is to offer FAAC members and friends time to mingle and engage in astronomy related activities. The main event of course will be the nightly observing and imaging on the hill, under clear dark skies (we guarantee the "dark" part). By day, we hope to set up a learning atmosphere around topics like imaging techniques, equipment, software, and so on. A more precise schedule of events will be forthcoming, as plans are finalized.

**Workshop Fee: \$15 for the week plus...**

- **Tent Camping** (on observing hill) - **\$5.00 / night**
- **RV Site** (water & elec.) - **\$29.00 per night** (Please book and pay for your RV site directly with the campground)

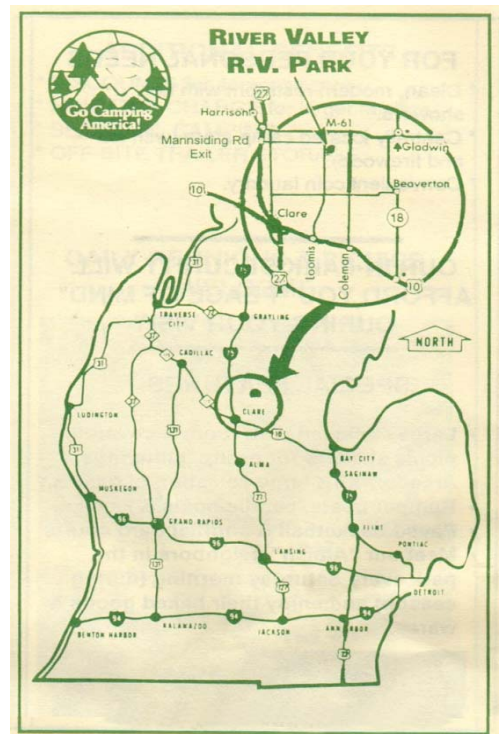
**Advanced registration ends August 15.** Please add your name and info to the Sign Up Sheet in the Database Section of the Yahoo Site. Please send \$15 payable to FAAC at address indicated below. Please include: Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail, and Number of Guests

**Make Checks Payable:** to FAAC for advance admission or table registrations. Send payment to Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, P.O. Box 7527, Dearborn, MI 48121-7527

**Please note:** Our event will be followed one day later, (September 13), by the Great Lakes Star Gaze, which is at the same site this year. If you plan to stay on for that, you may be asked to vacate the hill for a time while they lay things out. Star Party etiquette would be appreciated!

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

**For More Info Contact:** Gordon Hansen: [GordonH2006@comcast.net](mailto:GordonH2006@comcast.net) or (734) 675-6137,  
or Jim Frisbie: [w8tu@comcast.net](mailto:w8tu@comcast.net) or (734) 453-1422





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