



# The FBAC Observer

Volume No. 20

Issue No. 1

Date June 2006

## Next FBAC Meeting

### June 16, 2006

FBAC meetings are now held at the Houston Community College southwest campus in Stafford, Tx. Meetings begin promptly at 7:00pm and end at 9:30pm. Refreshments are served when club members volunteer to provide them for a given meeting. The club reimburses all refreshment expenses. A donation container is provided to help defray refreshment expenses.

SEE MAP TO HCC FACILITY ON PAGE 2

## Great speaker scheduled for June 16 meeting

Our main speaker will be **Jack Nickel**, better known to many as Triple Nickel. Jack will be speaking to us about **Zero-G C-9B**, better known as the "Vomit Comet"!

Don d'Entremont will be the novice presenter on LUNA-ODOLOGY PART I - about the size, orbital characteristics and origin of our moon.

In July, we will have the fourth in our series of presentations on The Universe Sampler. This will be lessons 7 and 8, "Eyepiece Field Orientation" and "Recording Your Observations" respectively. FBAC now has a fresh supply of "The Universe Sampler" in stock at \$10 each.

## FBAC IHOP Tuesdays

For those who may not be aware of this, several of us meet informally every Tuesday for dinner at the IHOP in SW Houston, 59 north service road just south of Kirkwood. Come join the fun!

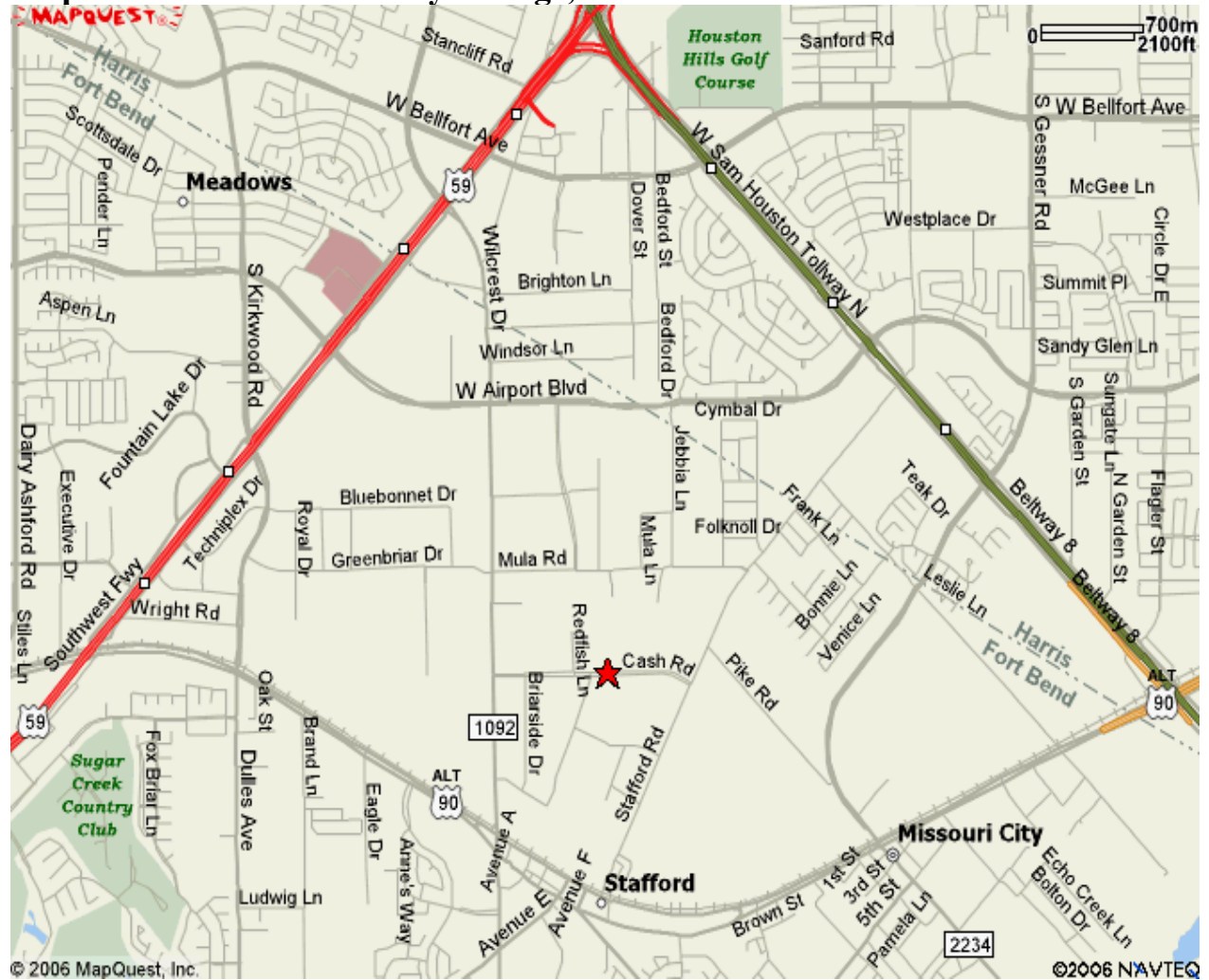
## Newsletter Contents:

Meeting information	Page 1
Speakers for June 16	Page 1
IHOP Tuesdays	Page 1
Club observing	Page 1
Map to meeting location	Page 2
From the president	Page 3
Need quarterly newsletter editor	Page 3
Astronomy On Wheels	Page 3
Picnic news	Page 4
Telescope drawing	Page 4
Telescopes-for-Telethon	Page 4
Area astronomy club info	Page 5
FBAC Library	Page 5
FBAC phone numbers	Page 5
George event calendar link	Page 5
FBAC loaner scopes	Page 5

## Next Club Observing Evening June 23

It's been a while, mostly due to weather, but we are planning another observing outing at Brazos Bend State Park in the Interpretive Center parking lot. We try to use the Friday's nearest New Moon. This month that would be June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We usually arrive a little before dark so we have ample time to get setup while we can still see. **Come on out and do some observing with us! You don't even need a telescope!** Bring a snack and something cool to drink as well as mosquito spray. We never observe too late and you can leave when you like. We have access to the gate code so we don't get locked in the park.

# Map to Houston Community College, Stafford



## From the President

**Greetings FBAC members!** As many of you have no doubt noted, our club's newsletter has been "missing" for several months. At our February meeting, Wes Whiddon asked to be relieved as newsletter editor. Work and family commitments needed to take precedence over his newsletter duties and there just didn't seem to be enough hours in the day to get the newsletter done each month. He would continue to be our web site editor.

In an open discussion about the club newsletter at our February meeting, it was suggested that the club may no longer need a club newsletter. Modern day communications means such as email, web sites and list servers were slowly taking the place of mail through the post office. In fact, most of our club members had elected to download the club newsletter through the web site and save considerable club expense in postage. The club newsletter had ceased long ago as being an important source of science news. There are just too many other means of acquiring this kind of information.

A general vote was taken by a show of hands and it was decided to drop our newsletter and depend on the web site and list server to handle club communications among it's members.

After our May 2006 meeting, Keith Rivich, Leonard Ferguson and I sat together having a bite to eat at Fudruckers. We began discussing the fact that we seem to have lost several regular meeting attendees when we moved from the Sugar Land conference center to Houston Community College. It dawned on us all, that we hadn't communicated the change in club meeting location in any of the latest newsletters. DUH! That brought us around to the dropping of our club's newsletter and further discussion as to whether that may have had a negative impact on our loss of several regular meeting attendees. We all felt certain that at least an occasional newsletter was important for continued good club communication. Maybe a quarterly, just to keep all of our members informed of recent and proposed club activities. So.....this is the first of our quarterly FBAC newsletters.

We should all thank Wes Whiddon for his dedicated efforts of producing The FBAC Observer from May of 2002 through October of 2005. Wes spent many hours writing most of the articles each month. It was no small feat and we thank him for his service as newsletter editor.

And that brings us full circle to the next topic!

## FBAC looking for ambitious editor for quarterly newsletter

As was mentioned in my *From the President* topic, our club's newsletter doesn't need to be about the latest and greatest science news. In fact it probably shouldn't be used for that at all.

It seems to me, that we still need a means to communicate with our membership in a written publication. At a minimum, we need to stay in touch with members who don't have or don't care to play with computers and the Internet. This could include a few of our most senior members who never had the need or desire to be computer users. It certainly keeps life simpler, especially if you're retired and have more important things (at least to you) to worry about.

**So, who thinks they might have the keenest ear for club doings and the latest club gossip?** I don't mind doing a newsletter, but it would be great to get some of our other club members involved.

Contact me, Dennis Borgman, at 281-495-1590 or via email at [borgmandl@cs.com](mailto:borgmandl@cs.com) if you feel you'd like to be our new quarterly newsletter editor.

## Astronomy On Wheels

FBAC has a program that we use to share our love of astronomy with local schools and groups in Fort Bend county and SW Houston. If you know of a school or group in that area that would like an evening under the stars , have them contact our AOW coordinator, Leonard Pattillo (phone # page 5). We will give them a short presentation and have telescopes for them to view through.

## A successful picnic was held May 28, 2006

FBAC's spring picnic was held May 28, at the George Observatory. We had about 40 adults and several kids attending for some great burgers, hotdogs and potluck dishes. Special thanks to Barbara Wilson and the George Observatory for allowing us to use the wonderful facilities! We hope this will be a regular outing each spring for FBAC members and their families and guests.

## Jeff Parr was our drawing winner for the Harbison Telescope

Jeff was our lucky drawing winner of Dan's 90mm refractor. We generated \$500 from the ticket sales and donations and sent a check from FBAC to Houston Hospice in Dan's name.

## Astronomy Day Planning Meeting Held

A meeting was held June 1 at Houston Community College downtown on Main. Representatives attended from all the area clubs to help decide the details and make assignments for areas of responsibility. The date for the Regional Meeting this year is Friday, October 27, 2006 at HCC downtown. Astronomy Day will be at the George Observatory on October 28, 2006. The 2007 dates were set at October 19 and 20. Volunteers will again be needed for parking, unloading, club table and so forth. So, please reserve those dates to come out and help.

## Telescopes for Telethon dates set for this summer

Its that time of year again to bring our scopes to the public for our annual Telescopes-For-Telethon fund raiser to help Jerry's Kids and Muscular Dystrophy. For every \$62 we raise, that is 1 minute of research, or \$500 is a week at camp for one patient. I would like to have at least 3 scopes on each corner of the building.

The dates this year are Saturday, July 8th and Saturday, August 5th. The 16th is just shy of full moon and on the 5th is 4 days before full moon. So that places the moon in a good position for each night.

We will meet at the Tinseltown Movie Theater at Belt Way 8 and Westpark from 5pm to 11pm. We will set up on the front corners of the building by the parking lots.

Things to bring:

- a chair
- stool to use at the scope
- ice chest with drinks
- snacks for dinner, or get something from the Theater
- step stool for the kids to reach the eyepiece
- hat for shade during the day
- mosquito repellent

If you are able to come on either or both nights, please let us know. If you have any questions, please post them on the FBAC Netslyder or send me a private email.

Regards, Steve & Amelia Goldberg,

T-4-T Co-Chairs

mailto:goldberg@infohiwy.net?subject=T-4-T

## The Fort Bend Astronomy Club

**Dedicated to the acquisition and dissemination of information pertaining to the science of astronomy.**

**The Fort Bend Astronomy Club** meets on the third Friday of every month except for October and December. In October, the Regional Meeting takes the place of our regular club meeting. We have our annual Christmas Party in early December. The next regular meeting will be at 7:00 PM on June 16, 2006 at the Houston Community College, 10141 Cash Road, Stafford, TX in lecture hall 102/104. Dues are \$30/year for the first member, \$5 per additional household member. Student dues are \$15/year.

The **Houston Astronomical Society** meets the first Friday of the month in room 117 of the University of Houston Research Building. The novice program begins at 7:00 PM and main meeting at 8:00 PM.

**Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society** meets at 7:30 PM on the second Friday of each month in the auditorium at the Center for Advanced Space Studies (formerly LPI) located at 3600 Bay Area Blvd. in Clear Lake City.

**North Houston Astronomy Club** meets on the 4th Friday of each month at Kingwood College. The novice meeting starts at 6:30 PM, and the main meeting starts at 7:30 PM.

**LINKS TO ALL CLUBS ARE AVAILABLE AT <http://www.fbac.org/web%20links.htm>**

## FBAC Library

Alex Cruz maintains FBAC's book library. Alex brings a selection of books every other meeting. Books may be checked out for 2 months. We are trying to do two book reviews at each monthly meeting. If you have read an interesting science book lately, please consider doing a simple review at an upcoming meeting.

## FBAC Officers and Phone Numbers:

President: Dennis Borgman 281-495-1590  
Vice-Pres: Leonard Ferguson 281-762-4465  
Secretary: Rachel Stout 281-988-6665  
Treasurer: Joe Dellinger 281-531-5417  
Alcor: Tracy Knauss 409-798-7917  
Loaner Scopes:  
    Keith Rivich 281-468-8491  
Astronomy On Wheels:  
    Leonard Pattillo 281-980-1175  
East Dome Coordinator:  
    Cynthia Gustava 281-468-8491  
Newsletter Editor: VACANT  
Librarian: Alex Cruz 713-702-9064  
George Observatory: 281-242-3055

## George Calendar of events

Please note the IP address has changed in the last couple of weeks, please update your favorites.

[http://209.34.11.207:8010/cgi-bin/calcium.pl?Op=ShowIt&CalendarName=GeorgeObs\\_Event\\_Cal](http://209.34.11.207:8010/cgi-bin/calcium.pl?Op=ShowIt&CalendarName=GeorgeObs_Event_Cal)

## FBAC Loaner Scopes

FBAC has 5 telescopes for checkout by club members in good standing. The telescope may be used for one or two months depending on demand. We have a 60mm Solaris scope for solar viewing, a Meade 10" LX200 computerized scope, a Meade 8" LX200 computerized scope, a Celestron C8 equatorial fork mount, and an 8" Z-Scope DOB. Please come to a club meeting for further information.

Fort Bend Astronomy Club  
P O Box 942  
Stafford TX 77497-0942

Stamp

Label