



The benefits to your
society of being a member
of the Federation of
Astronomical Societies
(FAS)

The Benefits of FAS Membership



1. Advice

The FAS can provide advice on the running of an astronomical society. Formed in 1974, the FAS was conceived as a sort of union of astronomical societies and groups, liaising together where practicable, for their mutual benefit.

The Benefits of FAS Membership



2. Public Liability Insurance (PLI)

This covers legal claims made against a society by members of the public for injury or loss while attending a meeting or observing session organised by the society. Injury claims may run into thousands of pounds, so insurance is essential. A single premium may cost up to £400 per year, but the FAS organises a block insurance that costs a lot, lot less. This is an additional cost to the subs.

The Benefits of FAS Membership



3. Speakers List

The FAS provides a long list of speakers willing to give talks to astronomical societies on an expenses only basis.

Your society committee will greatly appreciate the help this could give them in arranging the programme for your society meetings.

The Benefits of FAS Membership



4. Newsletter

The newsletter is published 3 times a year and includes member Society news, forthcoming meetings and events, astronomy book and software reviews. Your society can submit news items for the newsletter.

An expanded electronic PDF version is also available.

The Benefits of FAS Membership



5. The Handbook

A copy of the FAS Handbook is supplied to your society committee and includes the Speakers list, the contact details for all astronomical societies in the FAS (~170), the PLI cover details and safety advice for the holding of meetings and observing sessions. It also contains information on the FAS Council, organisation and meetings, FAS publications and Regional Groups. Updated annually.

The Benefits of FAS Membership



6. The Astrocalendar

Published annually and on sale at a very reasonable price, the Astrocalendar provides observational details of the night sky for the forthcoming year.

It covers the planets, lunar phases, meteor showers and eclipses and includes a set of monthly sky charts.

The Benefits of FAS Membership



7. 'Stargazer's Guide to' Booklets

The FAS also sells the following low cost, value for money booklets:

“Stargazer's Guide to Buying a Telescope”

“Stargazer's Guide to Observing the Night Sky”

Coming soon – “Stargazer's Guide to Astrophotography”

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8. AGM and Convention

The Annual General Meeting of the FAS is accompanied by an astronomy convention which features a programme of excellent astronomy talks and trade stands selling astronomy equipment, books, software etc.

Always a popular astronomy day out and well worth attending!

The Benefits of FAS Membership



9. Awards

The FAS presents the 'Eric Zucker' Award annually (plaque & £50 gift token) to someone judged to be a great promoter of astronomy to the public or astronomy educator.

Small value grants and other prizes are sometimes awarded to member societies by the FAS.

The Benefits of FAS Membership



10. Publicity for Member Societies

The FAS routinely provides the contact details for its member societies via the following outlets:

- The FAS website
- Monthly Sky at Night Magazine CD ROM
- In response to special requests e.g. from IYA2009, Nat. Ast. Week's

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11. FAS Website

For more information on the FAS go to:

www.fedastro.org.uk

The website includes links to the websites of member societies and other astronomy websites, information on astronomy holidays and education, UK observatories etc. Your society can even post its own diary and events information onto the website for free for all to see.

Contacting the FAS



The FAS wants to hear from its member societies and you can do this in a number of ways:

- There are e-mail links to the FAS Secretary and other Council members on the FAS website.
- Postal contact details in each newsletter
- Your society may also be part of a recognised Regional Group which may appoint a representative to attend FAS Council meetings for direct communications
- Contact through the Annual General Meeting



**Best Wishes and Clear Skies
from your FAS**