

The Night Sky

The Official Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

Volume 21 Number 9

September 1999

The President's Corner

Here it is September. We have had a good summer with many people coming to the observatory for programs. We celebrated our 50th anniversary of the ACA; had our annual Picnic, had a warm/hot (?) dry summer. It's time to look toward the winter (YUCK). I've seen some of the winter season constellations rising in the eastern sky in the morning. (A true sign that winter is on its way.) I always look for the progression of the constellations in the morning sky. Soon we will be seeing the summer constellations rising in the East. My schedule at Metro will not permit me to attend programs at the observatory again, as I do not get off work until 10:30 PM. I'll be there in spirit.

Again, for those interested... the ACA has its own HAM call sign! It is **W8ACA**.
CLEAR SKIES!

The Vice President's Corner **October Meeting Date Changed**

To accommodate our speaker Joe Nieberding, the October meeting will be on October 29th and not the 22nd. Joe is having surgery in September and is hoping he will be sufficiently recovered to speak on that date to our group. Please note the change. The Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society Convention - Despite the cloudy sky and threat of rain, nine ACA members attended the Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society's (MVAS) convention August 14th. Some of us went because we thought this would be their last convention at this site. Good news! Mike, the new owner of the property, wants the MVAS to stay. He even mingled with the group and seems interested in astronomy. We also saw Ed Eaken a MVAS member who is also an ACA member. The sky cleared around 10PM and we were able to see at least a dozen meteors (I only saw 8) and a dozen satellites. Of particular interest was a tumbling Russian booster rocket and an iridium satellite. The Milky Way was spectacular! ACA members were well represented at the door prizes (except for me)-7 members out of 9 won something.

VCR/TV needed for Sept. Meeting! Bro. Heinrich has a wonderful video of the Northern Lights he wants to show us at the Sept. 24th meeting. If anyone has a VCR/TV monitor you can bring to the Sept. meeting, please call Peggy at 499-3174.

A Sad Note...We are saddened to learn that Gene McKenna has passed away. Mr. McKenna was instrumental in securing the ACA meeting site at the Kiwanis Civic Center. According to Mrs. Eaken, when she called him and asked if the ACA could meet at the Kiwanis Center, he gave her the information and said to call that day. Mark Kochheiser followed through on Mr. McKenna's information and we have been meeting at the Center ever since then. At the September meeting, let's think of a way to honor the man who we didn't know but who has helped the ACA by getting us a meeting site. To accommodate our speaker, Joe Nieberding, the October meeting will be on October 29th and not the 22nd (the 5th rather than the 4th Friday of October) Joe is having surgery in September and is hoping he will be sufficiently recovered to speak on that date to our group.

So please note the change.

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emaillisawcn@aol.com

For Sale - The ACA's Classifieds

Celestron Celestar 8" with Sky Vector-2
Computer. Many extras including dew shield, dew
zapper, motor focus, dec motor and hand
controller. \$1500

Call Randy Morton on 330-929-2075

10" Dob w/Coulter mirror, Telrad & misc... \$600
Call Jim at 644-7135

21" NEC Multisync 6FG computer monitor \$700
Call Dave at 688-9043

*ACA Members: send in information you'd like to
have included here to buy, sell or trade*

ACA MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION:

Next Meeting.....September 24th at 8:00pm
Location.....Portage Lakes Kiwanis Hall
Speaker.....Bro. Heinrich
Subject.....Northern Lights

ACA Merchandise Mart

Astronomy related items at low club prices!

ITEM	Non Member Cost	Club Member Cost
T-Shirts	\$15.00	\$10.00
SkyClobe 5.25"	\$4.00	free on
SkyGlobe 3.5"	\$4.00	your disk
Star Wheels	\$2.00	\$3.00
Kalmbach Publishing - - - 25% to 44% off for members		
Sky Publishing - - - 10% off for members		
Sky & Tel Mag	\$36.00	\$29.95
Astronomy Mag	\$33.20	\$29.00
Edmund Scientific - - - 15% to 45% off for members		

**Contact Dale Knotts at 330-644-1661
for additional information**

Send your articles, items for sale, and comments to:

The Night Sky - Dave Jessie
5020 Fishcreek Rd
Stow, OH 44224-1934

If you have email capability, send to:

DAJessieStow1@worldnet.att.net

Or call: 330-688-9043

The deadline for article submission is the 18th of each month. If you have info that needs to be in the next *Night Sky*, I must have it by the 18th of the previous month! All files should be straight ASCII text files, or any version of Microsoft Word to minimize import or conversion problems.

Please send in your articles! The newsletter (and the club) will be much richer with your contribution!

Thanks to all that have used your valuable time to author or collect material for the Night Sky.
(Ed.)

ACA Monthly Meeting Information

The ACA meetings are the 4th Friday of the month except in November when we meet the 3rd Friday and in December when there is no meeting. We meet at the Kiwanis Civic Center on Portage Lakes Drive at 8 PM. Please note that the ACA Dark Sky Committee meeting occurs ½ hour before normally scheduled monthly meetings. Thanks to all the members who attended meetings - we averaged about 40 people per meeting! Thanks to all who attended the observatory events this summer.

- Sept 24th 1st ACA meeting following the summer break.
Speaker: Bro. Heinrich - Kent State Stark Astronomy Professor
Topic: Northern Lights
- Oct 29th Speaker: Joe Nieberding-NASA
Topic: Space Station & Mars Update
Note: This is the 5th Friday of the month instead of the 4th !!
- Nov 19th Speaker: Steven Cederbloom from Mt Union
Topic: to be announced

Report from Black River – Site of the BRAS OTAA Convention on 9/11/99

By Bill Prewitt

It was an OK night, but dew gave several of us problems until about midnight. The site has been trashed by light pollution. There were 4 bright streetlights that shined directly at the field. I don't remember them from 2 years ago. We blocked them with cars as best as we could. There was a bright dome of light in the direction of Vermillion (NE) that got better after midnight when the humidity dropped. It looked about like I remembered it. Still lots darker than the Portage Lakes site. We could see the milky way most of the way to the southern horizon, but the north was bothered by the streetlights. The club did a fine, friendly job of hosting the group....lots of nice people. Nearly everybody brought a scope... there were about 2 dozen set up at one time or another. Maybe 1/3 of them were homebuilt. Every one of them that I looked at had good optics.... no duds at all.

ET Walks Back Home

By Douglas Mason

Astronomers were baffled, looking toward the complex spectrograph of a recently interrogated star. Appearing much like the stock report, the significant peaks and valleys of the spectrum, unlike the minor dips and bumps of most celestial objects, revealed much to be discovered. When this news was released, people from around the world thought up their own theories of what caused this unexplainable phenomenon. Some said that it was a series of dust clouds that absorb the light abnormally. Others suspected a signal from extraterrestrial beings. However, despite the creative possibilities of this discovery, a more conventional answer was found.

This happened three years ago. For that period of time, no one knew exactly what was going on. Nonetheless, it inspired very interesting prospects. OSETI (Optical Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) was getting much fame as a result. They based their searches for finding aliens by looking into the visible light wavelengths, as opposed to the radio wavelengths that SETI usually searches in. Harvard University helped Paul Horowitz by allowing him to piggy-back his OSETI monitor on their 61-inch telescope. At the size of a notebook and costing 20,000 dollars, this is a huge investment in the search. Although no sign has been detected as of yet, OSETI members are still looking for “stuff out there we couldn't even dream of.”

However, what brings this story to the spotlight is that George Djorgovski, astronomer at the California Institute of Technology, has set himself to discover what this object is by observing its infrared radiation patterns. Beforehand, some postulated that it might be a supernova, which sometimes have spectrums that remotely resemble that of the unknown object. Trough scrutinizing its brightness, that idea has been brought to a halt, for there were no signs of a supernova such as dimming brightness. Djorgovski thought that it may have been a “sub-sub-sub-category of quasar,” and he may have been correct.

One week after the aforementioned story was published in the August 30 Time Magazine, another article appeared providing conclusion to the dilemma. After inspecting the object's infrared light with the help of Hawaii's Keck Observatory, it was revealed that its unique optical properties obscured its obvious infrared quasar origins. Djorgovski admitted that this famous mystery may have been somewhat overcharged, for the answer humbled the object greatly. Although this may have been a disappointing ending to a notable discovery, it does show how something of this nature can capture the hearts of astronomers and the public alike.

For more information on the California Institute of Technology, go to <http://www.caltech.edu>;

for information on Harvard University and their astronomy programs, go to <http://www.harvard.edu>;

for information of Hawaii's Keck Observatory, go to <http://www2.keck.hawaii.edu:3636/>.

MSDC '99

The Conference for Everyone!

MSDC offers, as no other regional space conference, the experience and professionalism that make our conference the oldest and largest regional conference in the United States. MSDC members are pleased to host our 14th conference for the general public, students and space enthusiasts. This year we present the latest in the developments towards establishing a permanent human presence on the Moon!

Come and join us at
Lakeland Community College in
Kirtland, Ohio for the 1999 MSDC.

Midwest Space Development Corporation is a non-profit educational organization incorporated in the State of Ohio. MSDC holds its conferences in the Midwest as a regional forum of space related topics. The conference provides a relaxed atmosphere for the exchange of information and ideas about how space can be used for the benefit of all people. MSDC meetings and activities are open to the public. We welcome new members who share our goals and who want to participate in our mission. MSDC provides people with information about the expansion of the human race into space.

★ Sponsors of MSDC '99 ★

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Kirtland, OH 44094-5198



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14th Annual Midwest Space Development Conference 1999

October 8, 9 & 10, 1999
Lakeland Community College
Kirtland, Ohio

Sponsored by:

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LAKELAND
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EDUCATION

★ ★ ★ MSDC '99 TENTATIVE PROGRAM ★ ★ ★

Friday, October 8, 1999

- 4:00 - 6:00 pm Early Registration
- 5:00 - 7:00 pm Model Rocket Workshop
- OR - Return to the Moon Overview - Bill Avery/ EXITUS, Inc.
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm Pizza Party and Movie (Four Marooned), Moderator - David Yeoman
- 9:00 - 10:00 pm Star Party at Lakeland - Prof. Bill Gerling

Saturday, October 9, 1999

- 8:00 - 11:00 am Registration & coffee
- 9:00 - 10:30 am Warp Drive When - Bryan Palaszewski/NASA - OR - Lunar Transportation - Paul Swift/MSDC - OR - Mar's Society - Tam Czarnik
- 10:30 - Noon Space Station MIR - Dan Gauthier - OR - Nuclear Propulsion - Dr. Stan Borowski/NASA - OR - Tenuous Atm. on the Moon - Francis Graham
- 12:00 - 1:30 pm Luncheon - Return to the Moon - Peter Kokh
- 1:30 - 3:00 pm Space Medicine - Tam Czarnik/Wright State U - OR - Advanced Propulsion - Bryan Palaszewski/NASA - OR - Asteroid Protection - Greg Allison
- 3:00 - 4:30 pm Mission to the Moon - Lowell Wolfe/MSDC
- OR - New Solar Planets - Clyde Simpson/CMNH
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm Speaker's Forum - All Speakers
- 6:00 - 6:30 pm Filksinging with Sally and Barry Childs-Helton
- 6:30 - 9:00 pm Awards Banquet - The Moon - Science/Legend
Dr. R. Lynn Bondurant/NASA

Sunday, October 10, 1999

- 8:00 - 9:00 am Model Rocket Launch - Ron Leeseberg
- 9:00 - 10:30 am The Foundry - Greg Allison - OR - Lunar Review - Peter Kokh
- 10:30 am - Noon Chapter's Assembly - Ronnie LaJoie
- 10:30 am - Noon Small Steps - First Back to the Moon - Paul Swift
- Noon - 1:30 pm Luncheon - Moon Lore and Legends - Tom Burns

★ ★ ★ Check us out on the Internet: www.MidwestSpace.com ★ ★ ★
 Questions? Call: (440) 357-6709

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- κ Advance Conference Registration - Section 70556 \$40
- κ Registration after Oct. 1, 1999, or at the door - Section 70557 \$50
- κ Student Registration (high school or credit students) - Section 70558 \$20
- κ Model Rocket Workshop (Limited to 14) - Section 70559 \$10

Directions to Lakeland Community College: Take I-90 to Exit 193 (Mentor/Kirtland/Route 306). Go south to first light and enter campus on east side of Route 306, Clocktower Dr. Follow signs to parking and conference. Registration is in the A building to the right of the clocktower.

MEAL INFORMATION:

- ★ Friday Pizza Party - Sec. 70560 \$10
Pay by Oct. 4 - incl. various pizza, chips, pop
- ★ Saturday Lunch - Sec. 70561 \$10
Pay by Oct. 4 - incl. various breads, meats, cheeses, salads and beverages
- ★ Saturday Banquet - Sec. 70562 \$22
Pay by Oct. 4 - incl. carved prime rib of beef, lemon-garlic chicken breast, buttered redskin potatoes, green beans almondine, various salads, rolls & butter, beverages
- ★ Sunday Lunch - Sec. 70563 \$8
Pay by Oct. 4 - vegetable lasagna served with garlic sticks

REGISTRATION FORM

MSDC Conference

Lakeland Community College, Kirtland
 Saturday, Oct 8, 9, 10

Name _____

Soc. Sec # _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____

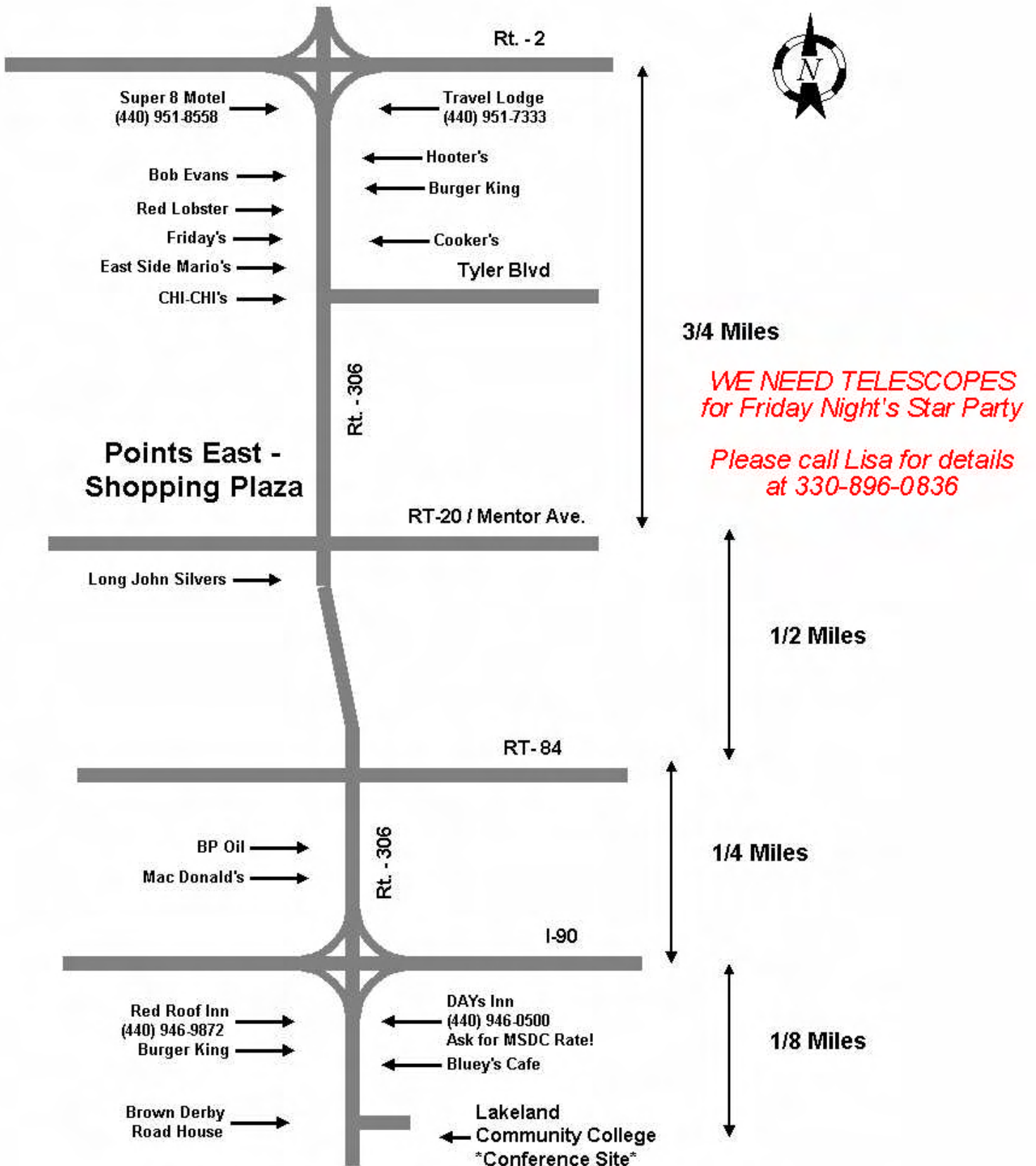
(work) _____

- Advance registration - Sec. 70556 \$40
- After Oct. 2 or at door - Sec. 70557 \$50
- Student (high school or credit) - Sec. 70558 \$20
- Model rocket workshop - Sec. 70559 \$10
- Friday pizza party (pay by 10/4) - Sec. 70560 \$10
- Saturday lunch (pay by 10/4) - Sec. 70561 \$10
- Saturday banquet (pay by 10/4) - Sec. 70562 \$22
- Sunday lunch (pay by 10/4) - Sec. 70563 \$ 8

(No Discounts)

Total enclosed for meals & registration _____


Register by phone using credit card (440) 953-7116, (440) 975-4777, (800) 589-8520. FAX with credit card or purchase order (440) 975-4734. Or send check or money order to Lakeland Community Education, 7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirtland, OH 44094.



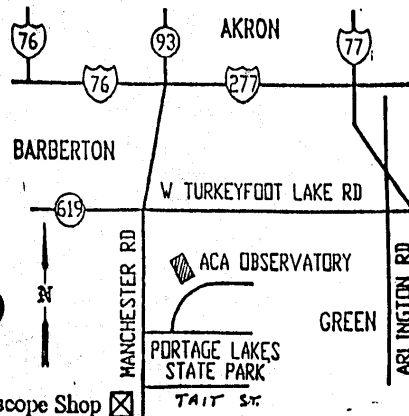
Take I-271 north to I-90 east. Exit at Rt-306 and turn RIGHT.
 Follow south for 1/4 mile.
 You'll pass Days Inn on your left and Red Roof Inn on your right.
 The college is to your left. Be careful! The entrance is a double turn lane... bear to the right until the stop sign.
 Turn right and park in the lot on your right.
 Walk to the Clocktower, go past it and enter the building on the right.
 There will be signs to direct you to the 2nd floor where registration will be.

September 1999

Note: Times are in EDT (Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SR: 7:03 SS: 19:41 MR: 9:40 MS: 21:27	SR: 7:04 SS: 19:39 MR: 10:40 MS: 21:56	SR: 7:05 SS: 19:38 MR: 11:39 MS: 22:27	SR: 7:06 SS: 19:36 MR: 12:36 MS: 23:01	SR: 7:07 SS: 19:34 MR: 13:32 MS: 23:38	SR: 7:08 SS: 19:33 MR: 14:27 MS: None FQ: 16:08	SR: 7:09 SS: 19:31 MR: 15:18 MS: 0:20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
SR: 7:10 SS: 19:29 MR: 16:07 MS: 1:07	SR: 7:11 SS: 19:27 MR: 16:52 MS: 1:59	SR: 7:12 SS: 19:26 MR: 17:33 MS: 2:55	SR: 7:13 SS: 19:24 MR: 18:11 MS: 3:56	SR: 7:14 SS: 19:22 MR: 18:46 MS: 5:00	SR: 7:15 SS: 19:21 MR: 19:20 MS: 6:07	SR: 7:16 SS: 19:19 MR: 19:53 MS: 7:15 FM: 6:53
26	27	28	29	30		
SR: 7:17 SS: 19:17 MR: 20:26 MS: 8:25	SR: 7:18 SS: 19:16 MR: 21:01 MS: 9:36	SR: 7:19 SS: 19:14 MR: 21:40 MS: 10:47	SR: 7:20 SS: 19:12 MR: 22:23 MS: 11:58	SR: 7:21 SS: 19:10 MR: 23:12 MS: 13:07		

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| SR : Sun Rise | NM : New Moon |
| SS : Sun Set | FQ : First Quarter |
| MR : Moon Rise | FM : Full Moon |
| MS : Moon Set | LQ : Last Quarter |
| SE : Solar Eclipse | LE : Lunar Eclipse |



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(Class fees due on first day of class. check or cash only)

Philip's Telescope Shop offers telescopes, binoculars, eyepieces and barlow lenses, star maps, astronomy posters, books and other popular accessories for sale. Store hours vary, so please phone ahead for an appointment. Thank You.

**The Astronomy Club of Akron
5020 Fishcreek Road
Stow, OH 44224-1934**

For more information call: 330-688-9043

Yes ! I want to become a member of the Astronomy Club of Akron.

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIPCODE** _____

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(For Planned Optional Email Delivery of The Night Sky)

Astronomy Club of Akron annual memberships renew in the month of May.

Adult (ages 18 and older)\$20.00

Junior (ages 12 to 17).\$15.00

Added Adult member \$ 5.00

Family Membership\$30.00



**The Astronomy Club of Akron
704 S. Sheraton Circle
Akron, OH 44319**

The Astronomy Club of Akron

Upcoming Events

Sept 24th ACA meeting, Portage Lakes Kiwanis: Bro. Heinrich on ***Northern Lights***

Oct 8, 9 & 10th MSDC Conference at Lakeland College, Kirtland, OH

Oct 29th ACA meeting, Portage Lakes Kiwanis: Joe Nieberding on ***NASA Station & Mars Update***