



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acorn.net/aca

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March 2002

Astronomy Day Activities Coming April 20



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm back. No I didn't go anywhere; I had a MAJOR computer crash. The diagnosis was, Motherboard Failure leading to nervous heads (bang-bang-bang) against the stops in the drive. Leading to failure of the hard drive, and loss of ALL data on the drive. Did I have the drive backed up? No. Moral: Never think your hard drive may never fail, therefore BACKUP-BACKUP-BACKUP.

On to club related stuff. At the last meeting a nominating committee was formed to solicit names for officers for the upcoming elections in April. Gregg Crenshaw has volunteered to head up the committee giving Lou Poda a break from this task. If you're interested in an office contact Gregg. We will need a newsletter editor. Ray Hyer is leaving the position and we will need a publications secretary. Here is an opportunity to use a talent you might have.

Dave Jesse did an impromptu presentation on using an inexpensive video chip camera to capture images of the moon. (Although the camera

was piggy backed on a 'scope and there was no clock drive so the moon moved across the field of view, the views were AW-SOME! I was very impressed with the quality of the images. See Dave for information. Thanks, Dave!

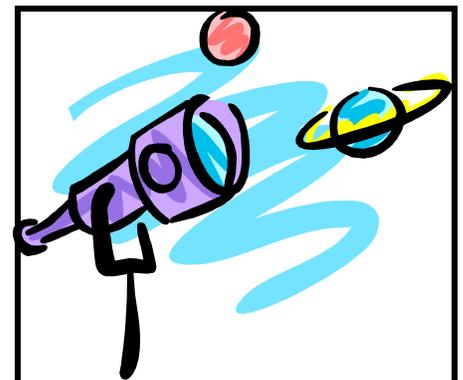
If ANYONE wants to share expertise on a subject, please contact Jeff Hudson and volunteer for a program. It's not that hard. Just imagine you're at the observatory and sharing with the public.

Astronomy day is coming up. We will be at Chapel Hill mall. There will be a signup sheet at the next meeting. We'll (the ACA) be there from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Signup, come; bring something to share your knowledge of ('Scopes, books, artistry, posters etc.).

Lastly, I want to thank all of those that stayed after the last meeting and cleaned up. Members were staying after the meeting and talking. I had to go back to work, so I asked Ray Paul if he would lock up. (THANKS) I told Ray I would come back Saturday and get the refreshment stuff. When I came back on Saturday morning, to clean up and to my surprise, eve-

rything was cleaned up, and the trash was taken out. All I had to do was load the refreshments stuff and be on my way. Again THANKS to all that cleaned up.

See you at the next meeting in March.



Spring is here! Get ready for a great season of viewing.

If you need to upgrade, now is a great time to get that new scope or other equipment for the warm viewing days ahead! Check out the many scopes for sale on page 3.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING RESCHEDULED

The ACA Board meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday March 24 at 2 P.M. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Waterloo Restaurant.

Activities Calendar

Club

March 22, Monthly Meeting
April 13, Observatory Program
April 20, Astronomy Day
April 26, Monthly Meeting

Celestial

March 20, Vernal Equinox
April 6, Moon is 4 deg. South of Neptune
April 7, Mercury in Superior Conjunction
April 7, Daylight Savings Time begins
April 12, New Moon
April 26, Full Moon

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OTAA REPRESENTATIVE Lou Poda...330-773-8160

The deadline for article submission is **two weeks before the next meeting**. All word processing files should be saved in straight ASCII text files or any version of Word to minimize import problems. We will not turn away **any** submission, as long as the article's subject is astronomy or a related topic. If you don't have access to a computer, don't hesitate to write something out long hand. As long as it is legible, I will slave over the keyboard and get it published.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES!!!!

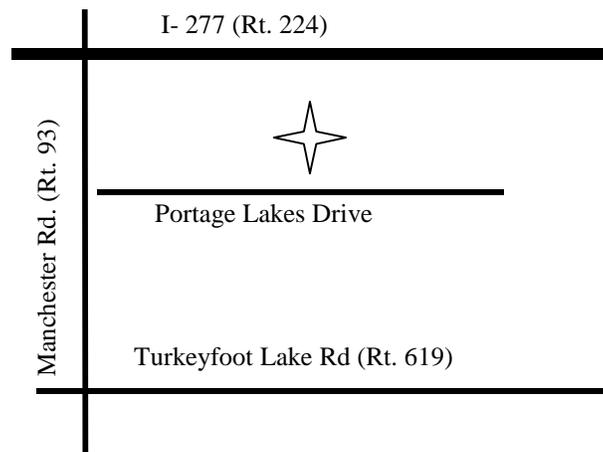
The newsletter (and the club) will be much richer with your contribution. Thanks to all who have used their valuable time to author or collect material for the Night Sky. (Editor)

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

Ray Hyer, 725 Brewer St. Akron, OH 44305 Email: rhyer@neo.rr.com

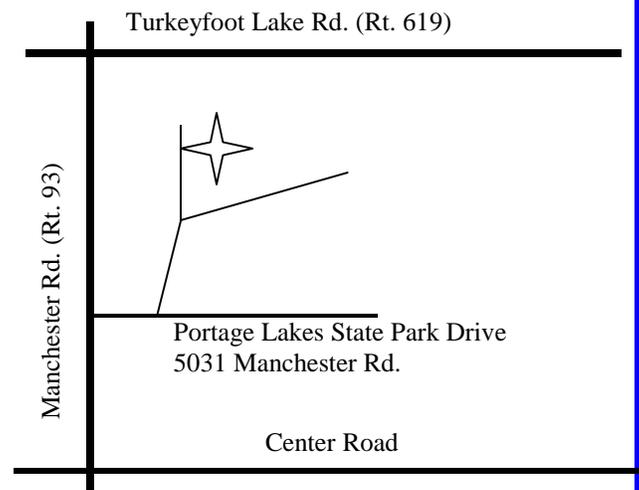
MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION:

The Astronomy Club of Akron meets at 8:00 PM at the Kiwanis Hall, 725 Portage Lakes Drive.



OBSERVATORY LOCATION:

The ACA Observatory is located within the Portage Lakes State Park on Manchester Rd. (Rt. 93). Turn left off Manchester Rd, then left at the first drive. Observatory is across the street from the Park Office.



Wanted:

Edmunds Scientific Astro Scan telescope. Call Bob or Linda Dupree 330-832-1789 or E-mail blbolin@sssnet.com

ITEMS FOR SALE

The following is a list of scopes that are now for sale. If anyone is interested in getting one of these I would suggest that you contact them soon, at these prices they will not last long.

10" Meade LX-50 New in Oct 1999 used only 6 times. All standard equipment plus EXTRAS: Heavy Duty Field Tripod, Auto Focus, Super Wedge, Magellan II Computer, all boxes and foam forms \$1,900.00 neg.

Randy Morton 330-929-2075 rczmmortonfamily@msn.com

4 1/2" Dob square tube with Red Dot finder and a 24mm Kong eyepiece \$125 Rich 330-644-5912 astronomy1on1@cs.com

4 1/2" Newtonian on Equatorial pier mount, setting circles, Red dot finder w/ intensity control. 10mm and 25mm eyepieces. 2x Barlow, RA and DEC slow mo, can be fitted with drive motors, 6 month old \$150.00 Rich 330-644-5912 astronomy1on1@cs.com

Hello , I have an Orion Sky-Quest Dob. XT6 telescope I am needing to sell. I bought it new about a year ago. I just don't have the time in the evening to use it enough. There is a 2x barlow and the stargazers tool kit with it also. I paid about \$420 selling it for \$200 Do you know

anyone interested?
thank you bigjb1@aol.com

6" Newtonian Telescope. F10 49" Tube / Aluminum - with steel pedestal base - clock drive (120 volt) with two fitted plywood cases holds everything. Telrad, Barlow, Three Eyepieces, 10 X 50 Finder-scope. \$ 450.00 Firm. 330-724-4611 Marty

Celestron 8, classic orange tube SCT, serial number 281007, with original orange 6x30 finder, Celestron wedge, Celestron tripod, and the original Celestron 25mm and 12mm Kellner eyepieces. The telescope has an AC powered clock drive motor. It includes the original case for the tube and fork arm assembly. The case does not lock anymore but it still latches securely. It all looks and works great.

I also have a DC to AC converter. I never used it because I always plugged it into an AC outlet. I also have an unused drive corrector. It's unused because I never got into long exposure astrophotography.

I've had this scope (the whole bundle, drive corrector, AC/DC converter) for about twenty-four years. It has very, very low miles. Up until two years ago it was only used two or three times a year. For the past two years it's been used once or twice a month.

I love this scope, but finally upgraded to a Meade LX90 last month.

Price: \$700

Call if you have any questions.

Glenn R. Cameron

glenn@cameronclan.org

(330) 456-2022

NASA'S GRACE MISSION

On March 16 NASA plans to launch a pair of satellites that will provide much needed information about the world's oceans. The project, called GRACE, stands for Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment, will be able to look beneath the surface of the oceans.

The project consists of two identical satellites that will fly in the same orbit. One satellite will be 137 miles ahead of the other. Variations in gravity will be detected as the distance between the satellites vary.

GRACE will be able to measure the masses of the world's ice sheets and glaciers, as well as any changes in size and shape. These fluctuations can be responsible for changes in weather patterns. The project will be able to aid forecasting and study surface temperature variations.

Amazingly, GRACE will also be able to chart ocean currents at the bottom of the oceans, which has never been possible before.

As we look out into space deeper each year, it's nice to know the same technology can help us study our own planet that remains hidden from view.