



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 24 Number 10

October 2002

Monthly Meeting October 25

NEW PRESIDENT

Frank Koby, Astronomy Club of Akron president, has had to resign his position. We thank him for the many years he has served as an officer.

At the September meeting, Jay Svitko was elected to finish Frank's term as President. Gary Smith was elected to finish Jay's term as Secretary.



President's Column

By Jay Svitko

As a young boy long ago, sitting in the corner of the Highland, Indiana library science section, trying to memorize the 12 moons of Jupiter (like I said, I was a young boy), I was hoping to someday find persons that would have an interest in astronomy as strong as I had.

After the time it takes Saturn to orbit the sun once (29 years) and finding the girl of my dreams, getting married and moving from Chicago (Land of the Orange Sky Glow) to Akron (Land of the Lighter Orange Sky Glow), I found my first associate. I meet Gregg Crenshaw & his wife in the now defunct

World of Science Store in Chapel Hill Mall while looking for telescope accessories. He led me to the Astronomy Club of Akron.

I came out for the next meeting, which was the Solar/Lunar program in June 2001 and signed up my wife & myself. Ever since then, I have been having the experiences & conversions that I was looking for as a young man; about astronomy, physics, history, and every once in a while, an Art Bell joke.

I would like say, "Thank You" to the attending members of the September meeting for the unanimous vote of support. It is an honor to have been elected and I hope to spend my term encouraging both new programming of interest to the members and our community and nurturing the existing programs we all enjoy. I plan to be very much in touch with our membership, so please feel free to call me at 330-929-0222 if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

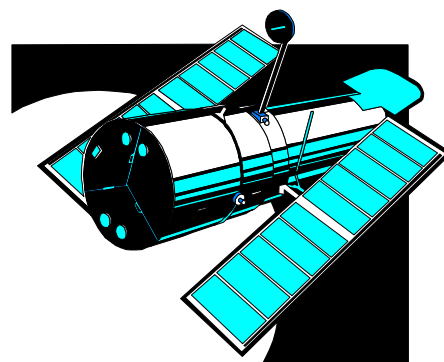
I would like to thank everyone for their friendship since I have been here and I look forward to leading our group in the direction of the stars.

This Month's Meeting

Our monthly meeting will be Friday October 25 at 8:00 PM at the Kiwanis Hall on Portage Lakes Drive.

One of our own members will present a spectacular show featuring slides of new images from the Hubble Space Telescope.

Be sure to be there to participate in the fellowship of the club.



Welcome New Members

The Astronomy Club of Akron welcomes new members:

JoAnna Johnston

Jennifer Robinson Family

We hope to see you at all our many activities!

Activities Calendar

Club

October 25, ACA Monthly Meeting
October 26, ACA Halloween Observing
November 2, ACA Dark Sky Star Party
November 22, ACA Monthly Meeting

Celestial

November 4, Full Moon
November 18, Leonid Meteors
November 19, Penumbral Lunar Eclipse

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2002 – 2003 COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

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.

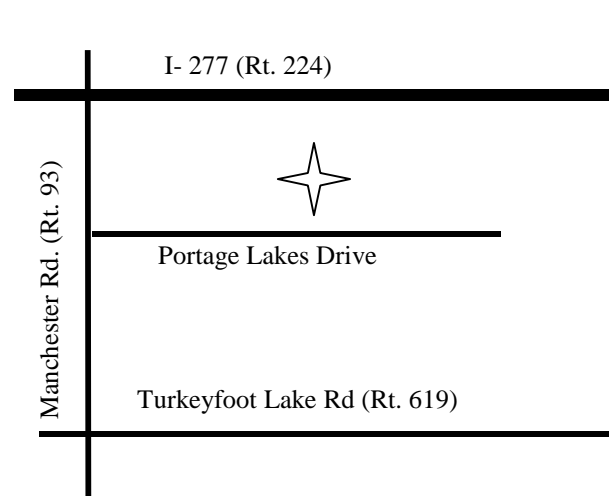
PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES!!!!

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

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

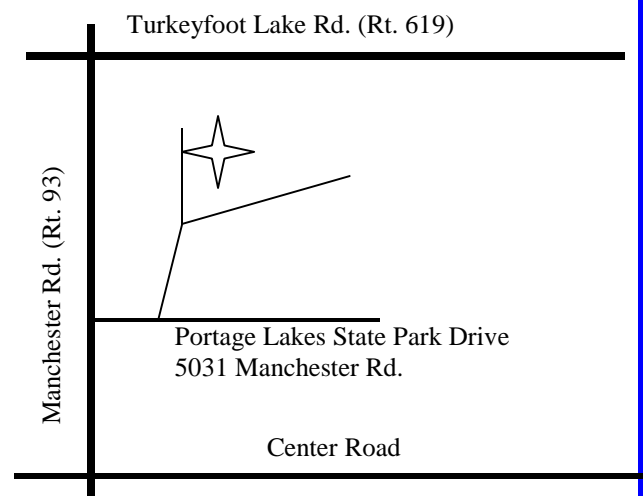
MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION:

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.





Ether Drag

By Jeff Hudson

New Prez

Congratulations to Jay Svitko on becoming our new President. Jay has great enthusiasm for astronomy and for the club and I see this as a good opportunity for the club.

Hidden Hollow

Since I had not camped out in a tent in about 10 years and had never been to a Hidden Hollow event, I decided to do both this year. I had a great time at Hidden Hollow and the camping was fun too. I did have to sent the tent up in the wind and rain on Friday night, but once that was done, the tent was nice and cozy. Instead of sitting in the tent listening to the wind and rain, I took the opportunity to attached my new Telrad dew shield.

Once I got it adjusted correctly, it works as advertised. The rain did let up on Friday night and I hear there was good viewing on Saturday morning, but I slept through it.

Saturday was spent listening to the speakers or checking out the merchandise room. I picked up a tripod for my camera and a 2" focuser for my telescope. Also I picked up a bandanna that has a star map on it and glows in the dark. I will bring it with me to the next club meeting and see what the interest is in purchasing more of them. The sky on Saturday night and Sunday morning made up for Friday night. They have a 31" reflector there and the views of the ring nebula, Orion nebula, andromeda galaxy, Jupiter and Saturn were

breathtaking. I saw details in each object that I had never seen before.

I want to thank the members of the Richland Astronomical Society for putting on the event and I hope to work with that club in the future. They hold regular meetings and public viewings and I would encourage you to try and get down there sometime.

Hubble Pictures

Thanks to Dave Jessie for informing us about a great presentation at the Stow library. Clyde Simpson, who is the observatory coordinator at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, presented a "slide show of the universe," courtesy of pictures from the Hubble Space Telescope. Clyde is such a great speaker and easily mixed humor and science into the almost 2 hour presentation. I talked with Clyde afterward about speaking at one of our meetings and he is enthusiastic about the idea. He is booked up the rest of this year, but I will do my best to get him down to a meeting early next year.

IIS Grows

The latest space shuttle mission delivered the S1 Truss to the International Space Station (ISS). What was interesting about this mission is, for the first time, a camera was mounted to the space shuttle's external fuel tank. The camera offered a view of the ride into orbit. You can see video taken from the camera at <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/gallery/video/shuttle/sts-112/html/fd1.html>

The next shuttle mission will add the P1 truss segment to the

IIS. The P1 truss will be attached opposite the S1 truss to the S0 Truss. The trusses provide structural support for the active thermal control system, the mobile transporter track, the crew and equipment translation aid (CETA) cart, camera/light operations, and S-band and UHF communications.

The CETA cart is used to move astronauts and equipment along the mobile transporter rails to work sites along the truss structure. Each truss has its own CETA cart. The S1 truss contains a S-band antenna system, whereas the P1 truss will have a UHF antenna system. Both trusses hold the Active Thermal Control System. This system acts like the cooling system on a car radiator except this system uses 99.9 percent pure ammonia (compared to 1 percent in household products).

New Parts

As mentioned above, I now have a 2" focuser. I want to install on my 8", since I have never done anything to my telescope this should prove to be an adventure. I will write up next time how it went or consider how long it takes me to get stuff done - how it is going.

Ham Radio

As some of you know, I would like to get my HAM radio license. We have a good number of members that use HAM radios and I have always had a passing interest in the technology. If there are any other members that are intested, contact me and we check out the process.

Until next time ...



Astronomy On the Road

By Rich Ruggles

November is just around the corner, temperatures are dropping and so are the regional star parties. With the conclusion of the Hidden Hollow convention so marks the end of the conventions for the year. With the cooler temperatures also come sharper skies and one more chance to enjoy them.

NOVEMBER 2nd is the date set for the **Fall Dark Sky Star Party**. The location will be The Barber Airport north of Alliance Ohio on State Route 225. This year we will be inviting other nearby astronomy clubs to join us. Who knows what this could grow into? So mark your calendar and come out and enjoy the night. Primitive camping will be permitted.

Directions to The Barber Air-
port:

From Akron take State Route 224 East to State Route 225 and turn South. Look for Barber Airport and the ACA signs to direct you to the site.

From Canton take Rt 62 North to Rt 225 North travel through Alliance and look for Barber Airport and the ACA signs to direct you to the site.

See map below.

Scopes to Loan

If you want to take a telescope to a star party or just want one to observe from home, the Astronomy Club of Akron has three scopes just waiting to be used. So don't let the lack of a scope of your own keep you from observing.

Contact Rich Ruggles at 330-644-5912 to make arrangements to obtain one of these fine instruments.

Frontiers of Astronomy

A Series of Free Public Lectures

A Series of lectures sponsored by the Case Western Reserve University Department of Astronomy, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Cleveland Astronomical Society continues during November.

On November 14, 2002 at 8 PM, Dr. Karen Bjorkman of the University of Toledo, presents a lecture entitled "From Stars to Disks, and Disks to Planets".

Dr. Bjorkman discusses the types of circumstellar disks, where they are found, how they may be formed and techniques used to learn about their physical nature.

The lectures are held in the Murch Auditorium at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. No tickets or reservations required. For more information call 216-231-4600 ext. 253 or 362.





Galileo's Story, Part 2

By Jay Svitko

A little poking around revealed the Galileo commission was appointed in 1981 (although discussion started by Pope John Paul II in 1979 on the 100th anniversary of Einstein's birth) and gave its report in 31 October 1992 at the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Rome (no one said it was a quick task).

The exact quote from the textbook (Michael Seed's Foundations of Astronomy) referring to the Galileo's inquisitors was "This subjective error of judgment, so clear to us today, led them to a disciplinary measure from which Galileo 'had much to suffer'." Seeds then states "Galileo was not found innocent so much as the Inquisition was forgiven for having charged him in the first place".

A bit of Googling revealed that the above quotation was from the Conclusion of the Pontifical Commission as reported by Cardinal Paul Poupard To Pope John Paul II on 31 October 1992. The fuller quote is: GALILEO'S REHABILITATION "It is in that historical and cultural framework, far removed from our own times, that Galileo's judges, incapable of dissociating faith from an age-old cosmology, believed, quite wrongly, that the adoption of the Copernican revolution, in fact not yet definitely proven, was such as to undermine Catholic tradition and that it was their duty to forbid its being taught. This subjective error of judgment, so clear to us today, led them to a disciplinary measure from which Galileo 'had much to suffer'. These mis-

takes must be frankly recognized, as you, Holy Father, have requested." (Quoted from: Galileo - Decisive Innovator, by Michael Sharratt).

Another reference to the report used in the citation comes from an article on Catholic.net about Science and Religion and the "rupture" between them (<http://www.catholic.net/RCC/Periodicals/Dossier/0708-96/article4.html>). The citation to the report reads... Cardinal Poupard, "Galileo: Report on Papal Commission Findings," Origins, v. 22, n. 22 (November 12, 1992), 375. where I believe "origins" refers to the Origins Catholic News Service Documentary Service.

These documents are available for a fee through "originsonline.org".

BTW, the catholic.net article noted "There is some confusion concerning whether Cardinal Poupard reported the findings of the Commission itself, or expressed his own reflections concerning the work of the Commission." Further investigation showed in fact the full report has not been published. The World Religious News Service has an article on: <<http://www.wrns.org/parse.php?id=5137>> which contains the following quote by Coyne, who co-chaired the subcommittee on science, said he was dissatisfied with the final report because the church did not admit what really happened: The bishops of the day "suppressed the freedom of research" of a world-renowned scientist. "The whole mentality of the Catholic Church has been secrecy and cover up, and that's where the problem is," he said. The church "has a tendency of not wanting

to admit mistakes. It's the church I love, but it's a human church, too."

The "Coyne" here is George Coyne, a member of the Jesuits and the head of the Vatican Observatory. I think he hit on something that has been a chronic problem with all large organizations (the Church in particular, but also we can see this in ENRON and WorldCom) to not want to admit mistakes... so it may be another few centuries until we see the full report. Sigh.



For Sale

New 8" Discovery Dob
With 2 eyepieces & dust cover
\$500.00

10" Star-liner E.Q. on pier mount
Dual drives RA and DEC setting
Circles
\$800.00

4" f7 Dob with 26mm eye piece
and Red dot finder
\$150.00

60 mm Meade Refractor with
25mm and 10 mm eyepiece
\$50.00

Complete set of 1 1/4" RKE eye-
pieces: 28mm 21.5mm 15mm
12mm 8mm and 2.5 barlow with
case.
\$200.00

E.Q. mount on pier ready for scopes
Up to 12". It has the Gearing
mounted Only needs motor
mounted Motor included
\$100.00

12v 2 1/2" cooling fans
\$3.00

Contact Rich Ruggles
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