

# The Night Sky

Astronomy Club of Akron  
Akron, OH USA

[HTTP://WWW.ACAOH.ORG](http://www.acaoh.org)

## On The Road

By Rich Ruggles

With the end of October comes the end of the 2003 star parties and conventions.

The final gathering will be the fall dark sky star party. This will be the last chance to get together under DARK SKY conditions until Winterfest at the Wagmen observatory 5 month from now in March.

At the September meeting a new steering committee was appointed to help plan the direction the club activity. Hopefully they will be planning the dark sky star parties for the next few years.

With that in mind this will be the last "Astronomy on the Road" article that will be submitted.

I will continue to send out convention notices and reminders via Email to anyone that would like to receive it. If you want the reminders send your Email address to Rich Ruggles at [astronomy1on1@cs.com](mailto:astronomy1on1@cs.com)

### October 25 Fall Dark Sky Star Party

The Star Party will be held at the Sherwin-Williams Sportsmen Club outside Middlefield Oh. The location is in the middle of Amish county on the Trumbull Co. line. This location was a big hit for the spring star party and

was requested to return this fall.

Please try to arrive before dark.

If you need a telescope contact Ray Paul (330-658-3125) on the availability of a club loaner scope.

Directions from Akron are:

**SR 76 East 15 mi to SR 44**

**SR 44 North 27.7 mi to SR 87**

**SR 87 East 10.1 mi to BUNDY-BURG RD (look for ACA sign)**

**turn Right on BUNDYBURG RD .**

**follow it 1.8 mi to the entrance. (look for ACA sign)**

**Hope to see you there**

## CLUB MEETING

October 24  
8:00 PM

Followed at 9:00 PM  
with a talk on astronomy  
imagining by  
Mike Unsold

## Upcoming Events

**October 18**  
Open House & Star Party

**October 24**  
ACA Club Meeting  
(Mike Unsold)

**October 25**  
ACA Fall Dark Sky Party  
(see directions in this issue)

**November 8**  
Total Lunar Eclipse

**November 21**  
ACA Club Meeting

**December 13**  
Open House & Star Party

## Help Needed

Does anyone have a PC projector (you know the kind that plugs into a PC) that Mike Unsold could use for his presentation.?

If you have a projector that you can bring to the meeting or one I can be picked up to use at the meeting, please contact Jeff Hudson or Jay Svitko.

### The Night Sky

Editor / Layout	Jeff Hudson
Contributors	Jay Svitko
	Jeff Hudson
	Rich Ruggles

The Night Sky is published monthly and contains information on upcoming meetings, observing sessions, and articles by members.

**Submission Deadline  
November 7, 2003**

### Editor Notes

By Jeff Hudson

The next ACA meeting on Friday, October 24, will be a little different. The business meeting will begin promptly at 8:00pm and will finish by 9:00 pm. There will be a brief intermission before the presentation by Mike Unsold. The meeting is being planned this way to allow Mike more time to talk.

The deadline for next month's newsletter is Friday November 7. I always have the newsletter printed and mailed out on the following Wednesday after the deadline, this gives me five days or so, to gather late submissions, organize and print a master copy. The deadline is early than normal because of an early than normal meeting date to avoid having a meeting Thanksgiving Day weekend.

Until next month ...

#### Welcome New Members

Ralph Jones

Matt Clark

#### Membership Renewals

Mike Duncan

George Rufener



### Interesting News

By Jeff Hudson

... taken from SkyandTelescope.com

On Saturday, September 27th, a very small asteroid plunged past Earth well inside the Moon's orbit. Unseen, it passed just 78,000 kilometers (a fifth the Moon's distance) above Earth's surface before barreling back into interplanetary space. Judging by its faintness — 18th magnitude when first picked up the next day — it can't be any larger than 3 to 6 meters across.

On October 3rd, orbital elements were refined and indicated that the tiny planetoid is traveling in a low-inclination orbit that takes it to well out beyond Mars's distance from the Sun, then inward as close as Venus, in a period of 1 year 10 months.

If it ever hits Earth it should break up in the upper atmosphere, causing virtually no harm.

## Web Sites

By Jeff Hudson

Every so often, I just search around the WWW for interesting astronomy related sites. Here are a few I found on my last tour:

### Messier Objects

<http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/messier/data.html>

Complete with photo, type, right ascension, declination, apparent visual magnitude and distance.

### TerraServer

<http://terraserver-usa.com/>

The TerraServer-USA web site provides free maps and aerial photographs of the United States. Maps and images are supplied from the U.S. Geological Survey.

### Master Clock Time

<http://tycho.usno.navy.mil/cgi-bin/timer.pl>

Just in case you need to know what time it actually is!

### IDA

<http://www.darksky.org/~ida/index.html>

The IDA site has a new feature, a dark sky finder and a good explanation of limiting magnitude.

## Dobbins Speaking

Dear local astronomy friends,

Most of you are familiar with Thomas A. Dobbins Contributing Editor for SKY & TELESCOPE.

Tom will be speaking at the November 28 meeting of the Wilderness Center Astronomy Club in Wilmot. His topic will be "Adventurers in Webcamming".

I'm sure that many folks will find his talk interesting. He will be bringing along new images on the topic. Come on down to the meeting and see the amazing pictures he has taken and how he took them.

The talk will be at 7:30, and will be free - but donations will be accepted to help our observatory fund.

If you need directions, go to <http://www.twcac.org/Store/map.htm>. Or you can draw your own map for our street address at 9877 Alabama Ave., Wilmot OH 44689.

Feel free to publicize this to your members in any way. We'd love to have you as our guests. We'll have our observatory open as well - for a walk through if cloudy or observing if clear.

Clear Skies

Bill Castro  
WCAC

## Universe Today

UP NEXT, MARS RECONNAISSANCE ORBITER

Sep 25, 2003 - Earth's closest approach to Mars is past, but it'll just be another two years until the planets are close together again - time to send more probes. Next up will be NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which will make a detailed inspection of the Martian surface; imaging objects as small as a coffee table. It will also be able to scan underground layers for evidence of water and ice, and measure the atmosphere above the surface to find vents of water vapor escaping from below the surface. The spacecraft is expected to launch on August 10, 2005.

10,000 NEW IMAGES OF MARS

Oct 1, 2003 - NASA has released 10,232 new images of the Red Planet taken by the Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft, including wind whipped polar dunes, steep-walled valleys, and boulder-strewn terrain. The images were taken over the course of several months, from August 2002 to February 2003, and they include views all over the planet. This brings the total number of images taken by Surveyor in six years of observation to more than 134,000.

More information at <http://www.universetoday.com/>