

The Night Sky

Astronomy Club of Akron
Akron, OH USA
<http://www.acaoh.org>

MARCH 2004

Presidential Musings

By Gregg Crenshaw

FIELD TRIP TO THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

On Sunday, March 28 the ACA would like to invite its members and their immediate families to participate in a field trip to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Admission to the museum and a planetarium show in the museum's recently opened Shafran Planetarium will be free.

Members will have to pay \$5 for parking in the museum's parking lot or find a parking spot on the street. The museum's hours that day are 12 noon to 5 PM. The Planetarium will reserve seats at the 2 PM show for ACA members. If many ACA members attend some may have to go to the 4 PM showing.

To participate in the field trip you will need to send me an EMAIL at starsforall@core.com. When you call/email I will need your name and how many people (including yourself) will be participating. IMMEDIATE FAMILY ONLY PLEASE. The museum is requesting this information to make sure they only

admit members and their families free.

I MUST HAVE THIS INFORMATION BY TUESDAY MARCH 23.

I hope to see you there.

You may have read sometime ago in this newsletter a series of articles discussing how the ACA might make some changes to improve services to it's members. The "Focus On the Future" steering committee was formed to discuss those and other ideas. Those of you who attended the February meeting heard the steering committee's chairman, Tom Mino read an announcement that a group of members had the opportunity to purchase a

NEXT MEETING

March 26
8:00 PM
Kiwanis Hall.

Speaker: Eric Wertz, who is the president of the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the American Meteorological Society .

14" Mead LX 200 SC telescope with just about every bell and whistle imaginable at a great price. The group of members' intentions is to then donate this telescope to the ACA to replace the existing 12.5" main observatory telescope at the Portage Lakes State Park Observatory. The group also solicited donations from members in attendance to add funds to this project.

While the group's intentions are noble and a donation of this magnitude would be a great addition to the ACA, the Observatory and its contents are owned by all members of the ACA. Should the club replace the existing 12.5" telescope? If so what do we do with it? Should the club sell it and use the funds for other upgrades?

The ACA needs YOUR help! The Portage Lakes State Park Observatory is in need of repairs to the building. We will be scheduling workdays later in the spring. Please help out. The observatory is the centerpiece of the club. Don't you want it to look its best?

If you have an opinion come to the March business meeting. I would like to hear what you have to say.

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

**Submission Deadline
April 12, 2003**

Send submissions to: ACA 152
Melody Dr. Akron, OH 44321 or
aca@hudsonstuff.com

Welcome New Members

Joe Ewicka
Chris Blanton

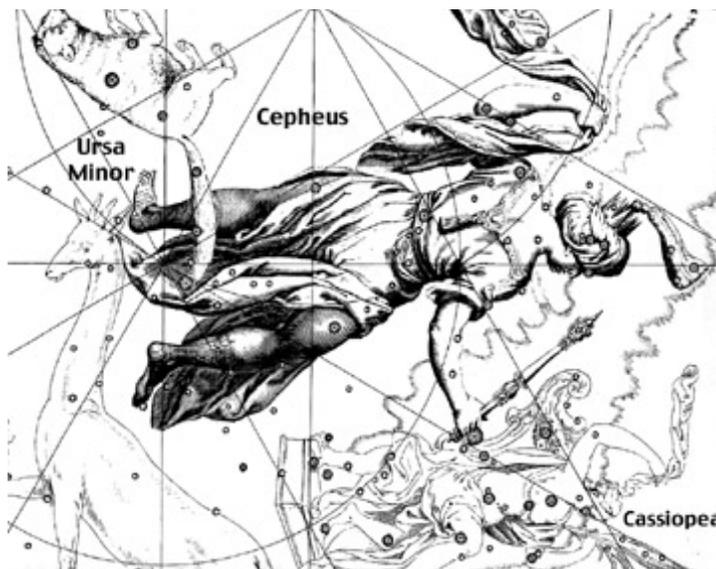
FOR SALE

Orion XT8 Dob.

many extras

call Fred Huffman

at 330 535 8009



Frontiers of Astronomy

A free lecture series at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History

This free lecture series features the latest astronomy research. Sponsored by the Museum with Case Western Reserve University and The Cleveland Astronomical Society.

On clear evenings, the Museum's observatory is open after the program. Selected Thursdays, 8 pm. No tickets or reservations required. For more information, call (216) 231-4600, ext. 362 or 253.

The Birth and Death of Galaxies

Dr. Robert Kennicutt, University of Arizona
Thursday, 04-15-2004, 8 pm

Understanding the life cycles of galaxies is one of the major scientific challenges of the 21st century. Enormous progress is being made, thanks to new information from space telescopes and a new generation of ground-based telescopes combined with powerful supercomputer simulations. All are providing important clues to the physical processes that build and transform galaxies and trigger star formation within them. Robert Kennicutt highlights recent discoveries, discusses what remains to be found and looks ahead to what a new series of telescopes may reveal about the future of galaxies such as our own.

Astronomy On The Road

April 23 and 24
18th Annual NIAGfest
<http://clubs.kconline.com/was/niag.htm>

Sponsored by the Northern Indiana Astronomical Group features ingenious telescopes and paraphernalia, radio astronomy, astrophotography and CCD imaging and viewing experiences.

June 14 thru June 20
Laurel Highlands Star Cruise
<http://www.lhstarcruise.org/>

The more than 500 members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh invite you to attend the Sixth annual Laurel Highlands Star Cruise near Hazelton, West Virginia. (elevation approximately 2250')

June 11 and June 12
Apollo Rendezvous & Telescope Fair
<http://www.mvas.org/>

This years theme is the "The Universe in Pictures" and will feature Jack Newton, an internationally recognized amateur astronomer and astro-imager who pioneered the field of amateur CCD photography.

July 8 thru July 11
Green Bank Star Quest
Green Bank National Radio Astronomy Observatory - Green Bank, West Virginia.

Green Bank is home to the largest fully steerable radio tele-

scope the 100 meter Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope

Two of the main attractions will consist of an astronaut from NASA's Johnson Space Flight Center as a keynote speaker, and presentations from Hubble imaging specialist Mark "Indy" Ko-tech of the Space Telescope Science Institute

August 17 - 22
AstroBlast 2004
<http://www.oras.org>

Astroblast is a regional gathering of amateur astronomers. Lectures, information and educational sessions, and dark-sky observing are all a part of this annual Star Party near Oil City, PA

Dance of the Planets

Don't miss March's rare planet panorama. In the latter half of March and the first few days of April, all five naked-eye planets can be seen simultaneously. In late March 2004, both Mercury and Venus will be about as high as possible at dusk for viewers at mid-northern latitudes, providing the most favorable opportunity until 32 years from now to observe all five bright planets in the evening sky.

In order from west to east, this March's long planetary lineup will consist of Mercury-Venus-Mars-Saturn-Jupiter.

Not until April 2036 will there be a more easily observed display of all five naked-eye planets at dusk.