



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 27 Number 8

August 2005

Ramblings of the President - by Dave Jessie

It's been a busy month. Not only are we in the midst of summer viewing, but we've recently had a wonderful club picnic at the beautiful home of members Carl and Betti Hervol. It was HOT that day but those in attendance had a wonderful time despite heat that almost felt like we were Venusians. The Club is indebted, again, to you, Carl & Betti, for your most generous hospitality. Thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts.

The three-year term of Trustee Glenn Cameron came to an end and long-time member Freddy Huffman not only agreed to fill the position, but has done so with extreme enthusiasm. Freddy was nominated at the ACA Board meeting held on Sunday, August 7, 2005 and was unanimously approved by the Board. The Club and the Board are lucky to have Freddy and I'm sure he will have the support of the entire membership. By the way, Glenn has agreed to remain on as our webmaster – at which he's done a truly marvelous job. Thank you, Glenn. Interestingly, VP John Crilly was stuck in a monster traffic jam just this side of Toledo the afternoon of the Board meeting. John was able to 'attend' the meeting and cast votes via his cell phone, however.

The two-year term of Observatory Director Ray Paul (who had served in this capacity for nearly ten years!) came to an end when the Board received Ray's resignation on Sunday, July 31, 2005. Relatively new ACA member Mark North had expressed interest in filling this position whenever it became available. Mark brought a cornucopia of ideas to the table and was nominated at this same Board meeting. I'm happy to tell you that Mark was also approved by a unanimous vote of confidence by the Board. It will take some time for all Mark's ideas to come to fruition, but we'll all be happy that Mark has joined the team. Mark and Freddy have promised us a more 'member-friendly' observatory and intend to work toward that end. I'm certain we will all benefit from their ideas.

I want to remind everyone that this is a club. We're supposed to pull together for the common good of us all. There are some things that make this difficult...for one, we're a legal entity – incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. That creates a genuine need for our Bylaws, to keep us all on track and legal. There are certain requirements on each and every Board member which, quite frankly, become somewhat burdensome at times – especially when the IRS gets involved! There is no pay, of any kind, for the work the Board

members perform. Am I bragging here or asking for points? Absolutely not. I just want the membership to recognize that the Board performs by the book so we remain a positive force in the community.

If this article gets into the hands of the membership prior to Sunday, August 14, 2005, please be aware that we have one of our best-attended events that day...our annual Solar/Lunar/Hotdog Roast Extravaganza! We'll have specially equipped telescopes to view the Sun, of course the Moon (which is at 60% illuminated phase, just a tad more full than first quarter) and our delicious roasted hotdog feast. For whatever reason, don't you find that amateur astronomers are especially drawn to those delicious grilled hotdogs?!

Festivities start at 6:00PM with Solar viewing followed by food then Lunar viewing. Of course, as always, general viewing of planets (Jupiter) and deep sky objects will also be available. All of this is dependent on the weather, so everybody keep their fingers crossed! If the weather is bad, a makeup date will be announced. At the present time, it would appear that this event will be rescheduled for Saturday August 27, 2005 since we already have an event planned for that day.

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Lou Poda

Activities Calendar

Club

August 13, Observatory Program, Solar & Lunar
 August 27, Observatory Program, Uranus & Neptune
 September 10, Black River OTAA
 September 23, Monthly Meeting 8 pm
 September 24, Observatory Program, Mars
 October 1, Hidden Hollow Star Party
 October 8, Observatory Open House
 October 21, Monthly Meeting 8 pm

Celestial

August 12, Perseid Meteors Peak
 August 19, Full Moon
 August 23, Mercury at greatest West Elongation
 September 1, Venus 1.2 deg. S of Jupiter
 September 3, New Moon
 September 6, Jupiter 2.7 deg N of Moon
 September 17, Full Moon
 September 22, Autumnal Equinox

The deadline for article submission is **the second Tuesday after each 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

Test Yourself!

Each question worth five points. Score yourself using the chart below the answers at the bottom of the page.

CHEATERS GET ZERO POINTS ;-)

- # 1 What is the distance to the center of the Milky Way?
- # 2 What is the name of the first star to have its distance measured?
- # 3 What are the letter designations for stellar spectra in the order they are officially arranged?
- # 4 In what constellation does the Dumbbell nebula appear?
- # 5 What is the second brightest star in the sky?
- # 6 What is another name for Alpha Lyrae?
- # 7 In what constellation does the star Romulus appear?
- # 8 What is the closest star to the earth?
- # 9 What is the distance to the Andromeda galaxy?
- #10 What is the solar apex and where is it located?

See answers on page 5

From the Observatory Director Mark North

This is not only my first written contribution to the Night Sky Newsletter, it's also my first written contribution as Observatory Director.

I feel honored to serve the ACA in this capacity and will work very hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly and for the benefit of all members.

The ACA is your club and as such, members of the board would like to hear from you if you have ideas or comments. I can't promise that we'll do all things for all people, but we will give consideration to all positive, constructive suggestions.

As many of you know, I am a relatively new member of the ACA. It was only a year ago that Diane and I attended our first public viewing event and if we hadn't met so many kind and helpful people that day, we may not have

joined. As it was, we visited on a Saturday, and then sent our membership dues on Sunday! We also purchased our first telescope that same day and began what was to become a fun and rewarding new passion.

What was it that convinced us to join so quickly? Each and every one of you! Whether you pay your annual membership dues to support the club, but don't necessarily make it to all of the events, or whether you're out there at darned-near every public event, it doesn't really matter. You, the members, are what oil the gears and make the club an exciting and educational experience for everyone!

Thank you all for being part of this great big family! I'm looking forward to all that the future holds for the ACA.

The ACA would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members...

Karen Desmarais and Michael Natt
Wayne George
Erin Haren (wife of member Jeff Haren)
Joe Haren (father of member Jeff Haren)

We are thrilled to have you as members and look forward to seeing you at ALL club meetings and events!

Treasurer's Report: 7/1/05 - 7/31/05

Diane North, Treasurer

Total Beginning Assets	\$9,070.84
Income	
Dues	\$155.00
Interest on balances	\$6.82
Magazine Subscription Paid to ACA	\$90.95
Expenses	
Magazine Subscriptions paid by ACA	\$(90.95)
Food for ACA Picnic	\$(120.56)
Newsletter	\$(40.32)
Total Ending Assets	\$9,071.78

From Jeff Haren

Finally dusted off my Celestron 4 1/2" yesterday. Got the kids out and looked at Jupiter and the moon. I never get tired of hearing the little gasps and oohs from them.

I kept the scope out because my wife and I were going to spend some late night time under the stars, when Kayla (the older one) got out of bed begging to come out with us. Now how on earth could I possibly refuse her??? ;-)

I showed her Alberio, the Hercules Cluster and the Ring, although in the 4 1/2, they weren't very good (I'm definitely spoiled now). But she thought they were cool nonetheless.

I then shared with her how her Grandpa Joe would wake me up late at night and take me outside with our telescope and look at planets, comets and such. She seemed honestly interested and said she wants to do that with me "every time it's dark".

In that moment, it suddenly struck me that this is what our hobby is all about. It's not just looking at the glorious heavens, but it's about being together and making memories.

I still recall quite vividly, those cold nights when my father would gently nudge me out of a

deep sleep to go see a meteor shower. Mom would make us hot chocolate and we'd bundle up, get under blankets and stare upwards for hours. If there was something else of interest to see, our trusty Sears Tasco 2 1/2" refractor pointed it out.

Those were some of the fondest memories I have growing up, and probably why I still have that love of the sky today (as well as the time I spend with my dad.) Hearing that same wonder-filled interest from my 6 year old gives me more motivation than ever to not only cultivate this interest in her, but to

spend that all-important time together. Man, I love her!

ACA loaner telescopes ...

On Monday, July 25, 2005 member Andy Marek picked up the ACA's 8" f/6 Discovery Dob and two Plossl eyepieces. This scope is to be returned by October 23, 2005 and will be available to another member at that time. If you'd like to be in the running for this loaner telescope when it again becomes available, please contact any member of the Board and make your wishes known. The Trustees are ultimately in charge of all Club property.

ACA Board Meeting Minutes Sunday August 7, 2005

- 1.) Mark North was nominated for Observatory Director and approved by a unanimous vote.
- 2.) Freddy Huffman was nominated for Trustee and approved by a unanimous vote
- 3.) ACA treasurer Ms. Diane North has the paper work for the clubs 501(c)3 status and will provide same to the Trustees.
- 5.) All loaner telescopes and any club property needs to be turned into the ACA for a much needed inventory. Please see Freddy Huffman.
- 6.) A plaque to commemorate donors of the 14" LX200 GPS is to be displayed at the observatory.
- 7.) Saturday August 13th will be the solar/lunar/wienie roast.
- 8.) Privy keys are available upon request for \$1.50.
- 9.) Requirements for an observatory key can be seen upon request. Please see observatory director Mr. Mark North for details.
- 10.) Mr. Tom Mino is researching the possible purchase of an LCD projector for club programs.
- 11.) A gift certificate is to be purchased for Mr. & Mrs. Hervol's generous hospitality for hosting the ACA picnic.

ACA Secretary
Pete Flohr

ASTRONOMY YARD SALE
(prices lowered)

DEAL OF THE DAY

10" Mead LX 200 EMC with Smart Drive, programmed for thousands of items

Comes with a field tripod and the Scope Saver mounting plate and the DC wires to power it with your car battery. \$2,000.00

90mm ETX RA new and in FITTED CASE, has one eyepiece and a erect view finder and full solar filter \$250.00

8" f7 Criterion Dynascope Original on EQ pier mount RA & DEC setting circles
TELRAD finder and 2 Criterion Eyepieces \$350.00

5 feet long and 1 inch Diameter Aluminum polls for building a truss mount.

Make your scope more portable
\$5.00 ea or 8 for \$35.00

42mm 5 element RENO 2" Erfil eyepiece \$45.00

28mm 5 element RENO 2" Erfil eyepiece \$45.00

7.4mm to 22.0mm zoom eyepiece by Pro Optics \$35.00

6 x 30 Discovery finder w/ mount \$30.00

Planetary filter set of 5 in a case \$40.00

Celestron 2x Barlow (short) \$45.00

Mead 2x Barlow (long) \$35.00

Contact Rich Ruggles 330-644-5912
Astronomy1on1@cs.com

ANSWERS To TEST

Give yourself five points for each question answered correctly.

1 What is the distance to the center of the Milky Way?

A: Approximately 26,000 ly

2 What is the name of the first star to have its distance measured?

A: 61 Cygni

3 What are the basic letter designations for stellar spectra in the order they are officially arranged?

A: O B A F G K M (Give yourself an extra 5 pts if you also mentioned L T in that order after M.)

4 In what constellation does the Dumbbell nebula appear?

A: Vulpecula

5 What is the second brightest star in the sky?

A: Canopus

6 What is another name for Alpha Lyrae?

A: Vega

7 In what star cluster does the star called Electra appear?

A: The Pleiades

8 What is the closest star to the earth?

A: The Sun (Trick question. Subtract 5 pts if you said anything else.)

9 How many light-years are in a parsec?

A: 3.26 ly (If you said 3 consider yourself correct.)

#10 What is the solar apex and where is it located?

A: The direction in which the solar system seems to move relative to other stars in our vicinity; located in the constellation Hercules.

SCORE YOURSELF

50 pts = Expert Astronomer!

45 pts = Amateur Expert!

40 pts = Serious Amateur.

35 pts = Amateur Astronomer.

30 pts = Armchair Astronomer.

25 pts = UFOlogist.

20 pts = I watch documentaries!

15 pts = I saw a UFO!

10 pts = Average Joe/Jane

5 pts = Are you in the right galaxy?



Dave Jessie expounds upon all things celestial to a group of visitors at the July 30 Observatory Star Party.

Trip report - Great Lakes Pre-Gaze

By J Crilly

I managed to get away the first weekend in August to an informal precursor to the Great Lakes Star Gaze, which is held near Gladwin, Michigan at the end of September. Some of the Michigan astronomers I know meet there around the full Moon during the preceding months and I try to make it as often as I can.

The site is on a hill next to a campground so it's possible to stay the weekend at the campground and walk or drive up to the observing field. It's sufficiently remote that there's only one light cone, which is to the Southeast and doesn't reach very high. The Milky Way is usually visible from horizon to horizon. It's about a 6 hour drive from the Akron area but it's nearly all Interstate and usually a very easy drive. I got tangled up in construction on I75 this time so I arrived too late for photos.

There was a nice array of gear available for "view mooching" and since it was dark when I arrived I didn't bother to set anything up myself. The local club had their recently-acquired 25" F/5 Dob there. Other dobs included a 15" Obsession with ServoCat, a 10" Intelliscope, and an old 13" Coulter. There was only one SCT in evidence, an 8" Meade LX200 Classic. Refractors included an NP-101, a TV-102, a 60mm Tak, and a 66mm William Optics Petzval. That's a brand new model (introduced this Spring at NEAF) and they are gonna sell like hot cakes; it gave excellent views. Sunday morning there were Ha Solar views through a PST and a double-stacked Maxscope 60 (nice!).

I carried my Tele Vue OIII filters around with me and spent some time looking at the Veil Nebula in most of the scopes there. Transparency was great; I had several of my best ever Veil views. I particularly enjoyed the Veil in the 15" Obsession (half at a time) and the NP101 (all at once).

ASTRO GARAGE SALE

I'm unloading a few unnecessary items:

Thousand Oaks 1.5 angstrom Hydrogen-alpha filter setup for a 12" Meade SCT - \$450

Homebrew (not by me) 12" F/5 truss dobsonian telescope. It's built bigger and heavier than I would have done it; would probably handle a 15" mirror just fine. Includes a 2" helical focuser and a shroud. Mirror coatings are a little scratched but a recoat will fix that - \$600

Tasco Starguide 60GT - same as Celestron Nexstar 60GT; 60mm F/11 achromat refractor with alt/az GoTo mount & tripod - \$125

Coronado "Binomite" white light solar binoculars - \$80

2" 32mm Konig eyepiece (looks exactly like the UO but doesn't say UO) - \$80

2" 32mm Tele Vue "Widefield" eyepiece (precursor to the Pan-optic line) - \$175

John Crilly
jcrilly@neo.rr.com



The Moon and Venus sink into the evening twilight.

What Do You “Get” for Your Membership Dues?

By Glenn Cameron

You're supporting a non-profit organization that promotes science in general and astronomy in particular. You're promoting imagination and logical thinking, knowledge and its attainment. You're promoting the appreciation of the night sky and the getting of people of all ages and walks of life out of the house and into the world. You're getting those people away from the television, the Internet, video games, bars, and malls. You're putting those people into nature where the hustle bustle of modern life can be temporarily forgotten. Where this beautiful universe can give one perspective and respect for both its simplicity and complexity. Where stimulating conversation and debate about our avocation can spark thought, insight, reverie, and even epiphany.

John's right. We're not here to provide profit to members. Membership carries some benefits to be sure but those benefits can not be equal to the dues paid or the club can't afford to carry out its mission. We want to increase knowledge and decrease ignorance. Those are usually altruistic efforts. My compensation for dues paid is far short of my time and energy expended at public star parties, periodic outreach events, quarterly board meetings, and maintaining the club's web site.

A member of the club should be concerned about education. That member should be concerned about such news stories that report that the United States is losing its lead in science and engineering, http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=585&e=1&u=/nm/20050708/sc_nm/economy_usa_science_dc. That member should want to get aimless

youths off the streets and into universities and colleges in order to reinvigorate our national technological skill set. That member should be indignant about cutbacks in NASA that curtail future planetary probe missions and that shorten the life of the venerable Hubble Space Telescope. That member should be pounding the scientific pulpit that will enlighten the masses who in turn can demand more support for the sciences from our elected officials.

All of these goals will be directly and indirectly achieved by club membership. Shame on anyone who expects absolute material profit in exchange for membership.



Left, Jason brags about our members' astro photos to a visitor at the Aug. 13 Observatory program.



Above, an artistic view of the club's 14" scope.

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Ray Hyer, Editor

725 Brewer St

Akron, OH 44305-2103

To join the ACA, **or to renew your membership**, please fill out the form below, place in an envelope and mail to the address shown in the return address area of the form.

Please be sure to enclose payment for the membership level desired.

The Astronomy Club of Akron
c/o Diane North, Treasurer
795 Mohawk Ave
Akron, OH 44305-1811

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

www.acaoh.org
(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

ADULT (ages 18 and older)..... \$30.00

JUNIOR (ages 12 to 17).....\$15.00

ADDITIONAL ADULT member \$15.00

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP\$40.00

I realize the full color version of *The Night Sky* newsletter is available for download by members from our web page at www.acaoh.org, but I would rather have the B&W version mailed to my address via USPS.