



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 28 Number 5

May 2006

Ramblings of the President

by Dave Jessie

Wow. Lots to write about this month! Where do I begin? Let's start with Club news and events and then get into some upcoming astronomical events.

Item 1 – ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN THE MONTH OF MAY! That's what the Bylaws state. It's time for us all to renew our memberships in the ACA. How? It's easy. Fill out a membership form on the back of the last page of this newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the next meeting on May 26th. Steve Rohweder, our new Treasurer will be happy to accept your payment. If you can't make the meeting, you can mail your payment and completed form to Steve at the address shown on that same form.

Item 2 – The ACA 2006 elections are now over. See the 'List of Officers 2006-2007' on page 2 for names, phone numbers and email addresses. The officers are always anxious to talk to members about issues relating to the operation of the Club. Hey, if we don't hear from you, how can we know what you'd like changed in the Club?

Item 3 – Our much-anticipated "Messier Marathon" occurred on Saturday, April 29th and lots of members - 26 to be exact - were there willing to forego an entire night's sleep in the pursuit of Charles Messier's objects. John Shulan brought a huge crock-pot of the most delicious chili I've ever tasted. Carl & Betti Hervol brought hot-dogs, sausage and hamburgers to cook on our grill. John, Patricia and Justin Phillips brought coffee. Lots of others brought donuts, cookies and salads of various types. We were ready and well fed, but the sky-gods were not smiling down on us this time...or, as our Mexican counterparts say "Tlálloc es malo" which is muttered when looking upward and seeing clouds. It means that the Aztec rain god, Tlálloc, is angry with us and cursing our attempts to see the sky by threatening rain. Exactly which one of you ticked off Tlálloc THIS time!/? No sky - just clouds. We had a lot of fun despite the conditions, talking to friends about



Astronomy Day- 2006

Photo by: Ray Hyer

old times, telling stories of past observations, listening to bad jokes, and eating great food. Not a bad time at all!

Item 4 – Astronomy Day 2006 occurred on Saturday, May 6 at the Akron Zoo coinciding nicely with the City of Akron's observance of 'Earth Day'. There are probably other articles in this issue about this event by other members, so I'll just say that it was a tremendous success! We had more interest expressed by more public than at any Astronomy Day event in my recollection. Special thanks to Jason Shinn (who's displays were truly museum-quality), Paul & Linda Koberg (especially Linda) who came up with the Zoo idea for the location and book raffle, to Freddy Huffman and Tom Mino, who helped tremendously with passing out material, talking to the public and manning the solar telescopes; to Rosaelena Villaseñor, Glenn Cameron, Andy Marek, Christina Marek, Ray & Pam Hyer and finally to Lou Poda for their help in setup and teardown of the displays and anything and everything else that was needed to be done. What a show we put on! David Barnhardt, Director of Marketing and Guest Services of the Zoo told me we were welcome back there any time. We did ourselves proud and took astronomy to the people like we haven't done in many years.

Continued on page 3

OFFICERS 2006 – 2007

President		
Dave Jessie	330-688-9043	djessie@neo.rr.com
Vice President		
John Crilly	330-334-6668	jcrilly@neo.rr.com
Treasurer		
Steve Rohweder	330-896-2849	srohwerd@neo.rr.com
Secretary		
John Shulan	330-836-0800	Pugman3@aol.com
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer		
Gregg Crenshaw	330-785-7377	gbcrenshaw@sbcglobal.net
Observatory Director		
Open position	N/A	N/A
ACA Webmaster		
Glenn Cameron	330-456-2022	glenn@cameronclan.org
Editor, Night Sky		
Pat & Justin Phillips	330-784-7922	jphillips1@neo.rr.com
Trustee		
Tom Mino	330-923-7704	tjmino@neo.rr.com
Trustee		
Freddy Huffman	330-535-8009	atmos@netzero.com
Trustee		
Open position	N/A	N/A
Statutory Agent		
Mark Kochheiser	330-882-3713	mkochheiser@neo.rr.com
OTAA Representative		
Lou Poda		

Activities Calendar

Club

Celestial

May 20, Telescope Seminar at Observatory 7:00 pm
 May 26, Monthly Meeting - 8:00 pm
 May 27, OTAA 50th Anniversary Event
 June 3, Solar/Lunar Event at Observatory 6:00 pm
 June 9, Camp CHOPS outreach event
 June 16, Camp Wunderlung outreach event
 June 17, Open House and Star Party 9:00 pm

May 13, Full Moon
 May 27, New Moon
 June 11, Full Moon
 June 15/16, June Lyrid Meteors
 June 17, Conjunction of Mars and Saturn
 near M44

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: Justin Phillips 402 Crystal St. Akron Ohio
 email phillipsaca@gmail.com

(Ramblings, continued)

Item 5 – Our Observatory Schedule for 2006 has undergone some changes. See the updated version at the next meeting or immediately on our webpage at www.acaoh.org. One of the changes is the removal of ‘Rain Dates’ for the public events. What can I say? We’re spread a little too thin and conflicting events and schedules required this change. ALSO the event time of the ‘Telescope Seminar’ was changed from 8:30PM to 7:00PM to allow us time to help the attending public with their scopes – the very reason for the event.

Item 6 – Our famous “Telescope Seminar” is being held at our Observatory on Saturday, May 20, 2006. This is always a popular and well-attended event. Bring your telescope to show the public! We’ll be demonstrating the various types of telescopes, binoculars and goodies we all know and love.

Item 7 – The OTAA (Ohio Turnpike Astronomers Association), to which the ACA belongs, is celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary this year by holding an observing event on May 27th at the Scenic Vista Park located at 11000 Wayne Bridge Rd (off SR30), about 3 miles south-west of Lisbon, OH. Currently, this is all I have on this event. Watch our website for additional information as it becomes available.

Item 8 – I can’t believe it, but it’s almost time to show the Universe to the children and staff at Camp CHOPS and Camp Wunderlung. These are two very important outreach events conducted by the ACA each year. What is Camp CHOPS? Each spring, patients and staff from the oncology unit at Children’s Hospital spend a week at Camp Christopher at the intersection of Ira Rd and Hametown Rd in Bath, OH. If you can only make one outreach program this year, make it this one. It occurs on Friday, June 9, 2006. We set up well before dark, show the children what we can and are finished by 11:00PM or so. This should go without saying but I’m going to say it anyway: **NO SMOKING AT THE PARK**...not even in parked cars. The following Friday, June 16th, is Camp Wunderlung for children with severe breathing disorders. Wanna guess about the smoking rules for this event? These two events are the very reason this club exists. I realize this is a tad early to be mentioning these events, but I wanted to give you all plenty of warning so you could arrange your schedules to attend. These kids need us and count on us being there for them. Let’s not let them down. Please come. Please.

Item 9 - Comet 73P/Schwassmann-Wachmann is continuing to put on quite a show. It passed almost directly through M57 (the Ring Nebula in Lyra) on Sunday, May 7th at just after 11:00PM and was conveniently placed 20 degrees above the east-northeast horizon AND we had clear skies! Did you see it? Tell us about it at the next meeting!

Item 10 – There will be a beautiful pairing of planets & open cluster on June 17th. Mars and Saturn will be only ½ degree apart and only 1.3 deg from open cluster M44 aka the Beehive (or Praesepe). I just love seeing bright planets with a background of an open cluster...and we have TWO bright planets playing this out for us. Wow. I love this hobby.

DON'T FORGET

TO RENEW

YOUR

MEMBERSHIP

TO THE ACA!!

All memberships
expire in the month of
May.

Treasurer's Report: 4/1/06 - 4/31/06

Diane North, Treasurer

Total Beginning Assets	\$6530.79
<i>Income</i>	
Interest on balances.....	\$5.69
Telescope Sale	\$400.00
Book Sales.....	\$25.00
Magazine Subscriptions.....	\$99.90
(\$ 5 dollar difference due to price increase of <i>Astronomy</i> Magazine)	
50/50 Raffle.....	\$20.00
<i>Expenses</i>	
Newsletter Expense	\$(18.48)
Magazine Subscriptions.....	\$(94.90)
Total Ending Assets	\$6,968.00

Messier Marathon 2006



John's Chili Recipe

The Famous '06 Marathon... an Astro-nomical *hmm* I mean **Gastronomical** event.

Cloudy skies usually keep astronomers away but not ACA members (especially when food is involved). For the marathon stalwarts, it was a lively discussion about the club, astronomy, telescopes, the weather and **FOOD**. Everyone brought a variety of good eats. I personally enjoyed the hot dogs. Someone requested my chili recipe.

I guess if I made the chili barnburner hot, it might have opened the skies and made cause for the observatory roof the roll back. Be forewarned for the next marathon.

Clear skies and good eats,

John Shulan (Secretary)

6 lbs. ground beef. Brown with some garlic powder and then drain.

Add one package each of chopped frozen onions and chopped frozen green pepper.

6 cans stewed tomatoes and one large can tomato paste.

Add two small containers of chili powder. If you like it hot, I usually add one whole large tin of chili powder. If you want to have some fun, as you pour the whole container of chili powder in, explain to your friends watching that you must be exact with the ingredients so as not to put too much seasoning in. Use a dust pan to get their jaw off the ground.

Let simmer for hours. If it is bland, add some lemon juice. If it is too acidic, add some brown sugar sparingly.

Add beans if you wish.

Best served on a slice an old fashioned rye bread with some cheddar cheese on top.



Views of the ACA's 2006 Messier Marathon. The club scope is seen in the left picture, demonstrating the position in which it remained for the entire event. The picture on the right shows the (g)astronomers, the food, and the cloudy skies.

Photographs by Justin Phillips

Next ACA meeting:

Friday, May 26, 2006 at the Kiwanis Civic Center.

The subject is US and our fabulous tips, toys, tricks and paraphernalia that make observing better and more productive. Got a technique to share with us that enhances your observing experience? Tell us about it! Have an astro-product you've found that makes you happier with than without it? Show us! Figured out a tool or invented a toy that makes observing better? Share it! We had this same type of meeting a year ago and everybody had a great time so we're doing it again. Come on...share the joy!

NEAF 2006 QUICK REPORT

I just returned from the largest astronomy trade show in the East - the North East Astronomy Forum. Since the article deadline is a scant hour away this will be brief; I'll try to put a presentation together with some of the many photos I took for an upcoming Club meeting.

The show was, as always, both well-attended and well run. Although originally located at the Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY, it has been held for a number of years at the Rockland County Community College also in Suffern (yes, Suffern is also the home of Tele Vue Optics). Everyone with whom I spoke was glad to be there, and most were return visitors from previous years. Vendors and enthusiasts from all over the world were there.

The gear on display included pretty much every price and quality category. I'll list just a few here. Meade was displaying their RCX400 and also the new LX200R models. Celestron had their new Sky Scout. William Optics had their new UWAN line of eyepieces (and I limited myself to only one of those!). Astronomy Technologies was showing their new 66mm ED APO refractor in a variety of colors (I got the chrome one, of course). Tele Vue was there with their infamous "blem" specials (I only got three of those). Backyard Observatories (our own Scott Horstman) was there with a demo rolloff roof observatory plus a Sirius dome. Europe was represented by, among others, Markus Ludes of APM, Astro Tech of Italy (wow - seriously high-end gear from there!), and Astro Buffet of 1RPD eyepiece fame. For the first time in my memory there were several competing hydrogen-alpha solar filter vendors with displays, including Daystar, Coronado, and SolarScopes.

Of course the Solar Star Party took place in the plaza area, with gear on display in actual use ranging from simple white light filters to multiply-stacked Hydrogen-alpha setups in the 5 figure range. There were only two Calcium-K line filters on display and, as I feared, my near-ultraviolet sensitivity is too poor to see the resulting image well. Those with younger eyes report terrific views of surface detail but I guess I'll have to skip one for myself. This is truly an item to try before you buy.

John Crilly (The Veep)

Hubble views "Red Jr."

Pictured here is a Hubble Space Telescope image of Jupiter's famous "Great Red Spot," and a newcomer officially known as "Oval BA," and unofficially referred to as



"Red Jr." Red Jr. earned its name in early 2006 when Oval BA transformed from white to brown to red over a period of just a couple months, beginning in December 2005. This image was captured by the HST's Advanced Camera for Surveys on April 8, 2006. The GRS is on the right, and Red Jr. is on the left. -Justin Phillips

Heard any good Podcasts lately?

For those who may not know, podcasting is simply a portable audio or video broadcast downloaded from an RSS feed on the Internet. What does this have to do with Astronomy and this month's newsletter? Well, there are a number of podcasts (ie. audio broadcasts) available on the net covering the topic of Astronomy. How can I listen to them you ask? It's easy if you have RSS aggregator software such as iTunes from Apple or Newsgator or one of the many others available by searching cnet.com for "RSS Aggregators".

Podcasts sites exist all over the net with links to RSS feeds that you can click on to subscribe to any number of programs. Subscriptions are free and in some cases you really only get what you pay for. The RSS aggregator software can typically play the broadcast on your computer or download it to your portable audio player (ie mp3 player). This works great for when you tire of listening to mp3 music while waiting for your kids' swim lessons to finish.

Some of my favorite Astronomy based Podcasts on the net include:

- Slacker Astronomy - www.slackerastronomy.com
- The Planetary Society - www.planetarysociety.org/home
- Astronomy a Go-Go - astronomy.libsyn.com
- Astronomy 162 Course Lectures at OSU - <http://www-astronomy.mps.ohio-state.edu/~pogge/Ast162/>

The Slacker Astronomy podcast is usually about 10minutes long and contains updates from recent Astronomy news while the Planetary Society and the Astronomy a Go-Go podcasts are typically 30minutes long or more and contain updates on the news, interesting sites in the night sky and occasional science history.

The Astronomy 162 lectures from Prof Pogge are actual classroom recordings of his 162 course on Astronomy taught at Ohio State Univ. These I find quite interesting as he does a good job of explaining the concepts and some history behind it.

Give 'em a listen if you haven't tried it already.

Steve Rohweder (Treasurer)

April Monthly Meeting

Where is M13?

<http://www.thinkastronomy.com/>

RTGUI

<http://www.rtgui.com/>

Cartes du Ciel.

<http://www.stargazing.net/astropc/index.html>

Our president, Dave Jessie, did a presentation before the meeting showing the members in attendance how to use the ACA website and also some other interesting information. The clearsky clock was discussed for those interested on how to use this information for planning an outing. One program, "Where is M13?" demonstrates the three-dimensional positions of numerous deep sky objects relative to Earth, and is available for purchase online.

Dave also discussed a couple computer programs designed to help amateur astronomers find interesting objects to point their scopes (or binoculars, or eyes) at. He also demonstrated a free program, called "RTGUI," which generates lists of astronomical objects well placed for observing on any given night, and can even control a goto telescope for an automated tour. Dave also introduced "Cartes du Ciel," which can be used alone or in conjunction with RTGUI to generate star charts. This software will likely be very useful for next year's Messier marathon, if it isn't clouded over. -The Editors

Secretary Minutes of the ACA General Membership Meeting on Friday April 28, 2006.

- Rosaelena Villaseñor (Assistant Secretary/Treasurer)

- Meeting started at 21:15 hrs.
- Treasurer's Report - notice that there's a \$400 income item because Pete Flohr purchased the C-8 we had for sale. The C-11 is still available.
- The Observatory Director position is available. If you are interested in being the Director, but do not know how to use the telescope, no problem! We'll train you until you are confident in using the 14" LX200. A two-year commitment is required. Please contact any of the board members for additional information.
- Our annual dinner was a big success. The event was well attended and everybody had a great time. Ideas for next year are welcomed.
- Our next meeting will be May 26th, 2006. The topic will be a 'Show and Tell' by members for members, as we did last year at this time. We'll have members demonstrate observing tips and hints and helpful goodies they've tried and/or invented.
- Observatory Schedules for 2006 need to be re-printed since they included Mark's cell phone number which is no longer good. Update: the current schedules have been modified and updated on our website as well.
- Our Messier Marathon will take place on Saturday, April 29th, 2006. John Shulan to bring chili and hotdogs will be cooked on our grill. Coffee is being taken care of by John, Patricia and Justin Phillips. Update: The Messier Marathon occurred. We had an attendance of 26 members who had a lot of fun although the Great Lake Erie Nebulae covered the sky.
- Astronomy Day is Saturday, May 6th. The purpose of 'Astronomy Day' was explained. Volunteers were asked to sign up to cover the all-day event at the Akron Zoo.
- Members were asked to submit ideas for meetings when a speaker is not available.
- Jason Shinn encouraged us to visit the Hoover-Price planetarium. Astronomy photos by members John Crilly, John Shulan, Dave Miller and Jason Shinn will be on display in a program entitled "Amateur Astronomers Extraordinaire" which runs from May 20th until July 9th at the planetarium.
- Privy keys were offered to any member that wants one.
- Jeff Kreidler, Chairman of the nominating committee, announced the elected positions to be filled and the members running for each position. Since there were no contested positions, a motion was made and seconded to accept the members without a formal vote. It passed unanimously.
- New ACA officer positions were filled as follows: President: Dave Jessie Vice President: John Crilly Treasurer: Steve Rohweder Secretary: John Shulan Newsletter Editor: Patricia Phillips/Justin Phillips
- ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN THE MONTH OF MAY! Dues should be paid immediately to Diane North (until May 1st) and then to newly elected Steve Rohweder after that.

Meeting adjourned at 21:50 hrs.

Astronomy Day

May 6, 2006

It has been 33 years since Astronomy Day was first developed. The President of the Astronomical Association of Northern California, Doug Berger, set up telescopes in urban areas as a way to provide the general public an opportunity to look into the vast emptiness of space. Since the first Astronomy Day in 1973 this event has expanded, and “Bringing Astronomy to the People” takes place throughout the world, and has allowed many people who would never take a trip to an observatory an opportunity to gaze into the sky. For further information check out <http://www.astroleague.org/al/astroday/factsheet.html>

Photographs of ACA’s Astronomy Day event at the Akron Zoo. Upper right, Glenn Cameron and Dave Jessie showing a visitor the sun in Hydrogen-Alpha through the Coronado P.S.T. Photograph by Ray Hyer.

Below, a group shot of ACA members with the display. From left to right, Freddy Huffman, Christina Marek, Rosaelena Villaseñor, Linda Koberg, Andy Marek. Below right, a zoo guest viewing the sun in H-Alpha. Photographs by Dave Jessie.



Is it daytime/cloudy and you want to do something Astronomical? Take a short trip and see some of what is available locally. –Pat Phillips

Hoover-Price Planetarium

800 McKinley Monument Dr. NW
Canton, Ohio 44708
Hours 9 AM to 5 PM—Monday thru Saturday
12 noon to 5 PM—Sundays.

Hoover-Price Planetarium will be doing a feature program on a few of the amateur astronomers here in NE Ohio. It will showcase some of their efforts in astrophotography. The program begins in the planetarium on May 20th and runs till July 9th. Featured work includes that of ACA members John Crilly, Dave Miller, John Shulan and Jason Shinn.

<http://www.mckinleymuseum.org/scplanetarium.html>
Please call (330)455-7043

NASA Glenn Visitors Center

2100 Brookpark Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
Hours—Saturdays, 10 AM to 3 PM
Also open Sunday through Friday.

The NASA Glenn Visitors Center features the Third Saturday Series of Events. On Saturday May 20, the event is called Quiz show. Guests will have the opportunity to compete for prizes. The next factory tour will be on Saturday, June 3rd. the Small Multipurpose Research Facility (SMiRF), will be the building featured.

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn/about/visitgrc.html>
Call (216)433-2000 for more information.

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Justin Phillips, Editor
402 Crystal St
Akron, OH 44305-3116

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 Steve Rohweder, Treasurer
3981 Meadow Wood Ln
Uniontown, OH 44685-7785

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.