



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 29 Number 3

March 2007

RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by *Dave Jessie*

Item 1 - Guess what? ACA election time has rolled around again! Come one, come all. Run for the office of your choice. Did I hear you say you don't want to run? Now what kind of organization would we be if nobody wanted to run for office? The positions up for grabs are all the elected offices on your Board – President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. All other positions are appointed and approved by the voting members of the Board. Honestly, the club is only as strong as the weakest link, just like every other organization. The Club wants - no, the Club needs - the best people to guide this organization in the proper direction while avoiding the pitfalls that always seem to show up at exactly the wrong time. I'm asking you to please consider running for an elected office. Come on, what are you waiting for?

Here's the order of events - by the end of our next meeting, March 23, 2007 8:00PM at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Hall, ***we need to have a list of members running for election and the offices for which they are running.*** To hold an office in the ACA, you must have been a member in good standing for at least one year prior to when you'll take office - May of 2007. Junior members are not normally eligible, but special considerations can be approved by the Board. Honorary members are also not eligible. Looking at the roster, I see that leaves us seventy-four members who are able to run for elected offices. Come on...you know who you are - run for office!!

Item 2 - Ron Kalinoski, our Observatory Director, asked me if I'd consider doing the program on asteroids at the April 21, 2007 observatory event. I was reluctant since I knew very little about asteroids. Actually, about the only thing I knew was that they basically are located between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter...hardly enough to fill a thirty-minute program! I stalled until Ron cornered me at the February meeting. I hemmed and hawed but I had a hard time saying 'no' when asked face-to-face. I agreed.

As I said, I knew next to nothing about asteroids. What was I going to do? Well, I'll tell you what I did. I've been on a quest to find out as much as I possibly can about asteroids! Duh. Fortunately, a quick search at the Hudson library netted me a fantastic book titled ***Asteroids, A History*** by Curtis Peebles.

I can't tell you how interesting this book is! There's tragedy, envy, amazing feats of daring, wars and science. Did you know there was actually a group that called itself "The Celestial Police"? Fascinating, I tell you. Oh, I've learned a lot, too!

Here's an example: The first asteroid discovered was on January 1, 1801 - the first night of the nineteenth century - by Giuseppe Piazzi - a member of said "Celestial Police". It was Ceres and was discovered visually (of course). All astronomers hailed the event and called the new discovery a "planet" since it was in the location predicted by a rather bizarre mathematical series which indicated there

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Topic for March's meeting at the Kiwanis Civic Center at 8:00pm on Friday, March 23, 2007:

Joe DeRocher, astronomer at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will speak on dark matter/ dark energy in a lecture entitled "The Really "Dark" Secret About The Universe". Joe is an accomplished speaker and this will be a fascinating talk on a hot topic in astronomy.

OFFICERS 2006 – 2007

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OTAA Representative		
Lou Poda		

Activities Calendar

Club	Celestial
Mar. 10, Open House and Star Party 7:00 pm	March 18, New Moon
Mar. 17, Open House and Star Party and Messier Marathon 7:30 pm	April 2, Full Moon
Mar. 23, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm	April 17, New Moon
Apr. 14, Open House and Star Party 8:00 pm	April 21-22, Lyrid Meteor Shower

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

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should be a planet located between Mars and Jupiter. The brilliant mathematician, Carl Friedrich Gauss, had been working on a method of determining a body's orbit based on a few observations, which Piazzi accurately provided.

There's an amazingly rich history here of which I was totally unaware. The discovery of the second asteroid, Pallas, followed in March 1802 by Heinrich Olbers - another member of the Celestial Police. Guess what? It was given planet status, as well. Then Juno and Vesta were discovered in 1807. Yup. All called planets. Then no others until 1845 when the second phase of discovery began. Lots and lots and lots of new asteroids started pop-

ping up. All called planets. Whoa, wait a minute here!! We can't call all these planets, the astro community screamed. Anybody thinking about the identical issue regarding Kuiper belt objects and the loss of planetary status for poor Pluto?

I'm running out of room here, so if you want more information, I heartily suggest you go to your nearest library and get this book. It, truly, is an incredibly interesting read. I guess you could come to the Observatory event on April 21 and listen to me blather on about all this, but honestly, I'd encourage you to read the book!

Item 3 - Oh, did I mention we'd like you to **RUN FOR OFFICE!?!?**

Treasurer's Report: 2/1/07 - 2/28/07

Steve Rohweder, Treasurer

Total Beginning Assets	\$8,908.16
Income	
Interest on balances	\$3.46
Dues	\$10.00
Magazine Subscriptions	\$32.95
Expenses	
Magazine Subscriptions	(\$32.95)
Total Ending Assets	\$8,921.62

OTAA Events for 2007:

May: OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze - Saturday May 19, 2007 (Scenic Vista Park, Lisbon, OH.)

June: CVAS (Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society) - Saturday June 16, 2007 - at the Indian Hill Observatory

July: CAA (Cuyahoga Astronomical Association) - Saturday July 14, 2007 - at Letha House

August: MVAS (Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society) - Saturday Aug 11, 2007 - at the Cortese Observatory

September: BRAS (Black River Astronomical Society) - Saturday Sept 15, 2007

October: RAS (Richland Astronomical Society) - ?? Saturday Oct 13, 2007 ??

MARATHON MADNESS

Many people ask, "what is a Messier Marathon and why do it?"

1. It is a challenge to see how many Messier objects one can find in one night.
2. The Food. Usually, people bring a dish to share and it is a feast!
3. The challenge of staying up all night and a few good jokes.
4. The food is really good!
5. Learning from the Marathoners who know what they are doing.
6. Food, coffee and friends.

Join those who will brag all year that they did the marathon and share some good eats too! It will surely be a memorable *Gastronomical...a...er...* I mean **Astronomical** event!

Clear skies will follow the luck of the Irish and the ACA.

Hope to see you there!

John Shulan
Secretary

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

Ken Kear

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

Public Outreach at Sterling Jewelers

Thursday March 1st saw the Astronomy Club of Akron's latest opportunity for public outreach. Sterling Jewelers held their annual corporate headquarters' staff learning fair. This fair brings together a group of exhibitors to give the Sterling staff opportunities for self improvement, advancement, and lifestyle enhancement. Sterling employs over 2,000 people in their corporate headquarters, located in Fairlawn just behind Summit Mall. This year our very own Greg Crenshaw contacted the event coordinator on behalf of the ACA to see if we could set up a display and pass out our event schedules.

This was definitely an opportunity we couldn't miss to get our name out there! Between 11:30 am and 3:00 pm we passed out well over 400 event schedules. Included with our schedule was a current chart of the March night sky, provided by Greg Crenshaw, and the 2007 Hoover-Price Planetarium program schedule, provided by the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum. The club photo gallery and two telescopes were also on display.

This event was such an exciting success. Great interest was expressed by many of the Sterling staff in bringing their families to our observatory. A few seemed genuinely interested in membership. Our dynamite displays and enthusiasm for astronomy has even got the ACA invited back to this event next year!

Once again let me thank Greg Crenshaw, a member of our club and of the Sterling staff, for making this opportunity available to us. If you have or know of a special event in your neighborhood or city where the ACA might be welcome, please contact an officer of the club and tell us about it! The ACA is always looking for opportunities for public outreach and opportunities to expand our membership. Lets be the number one club in NE Ohio!

Jason Shinn



Greg and Deborah Crenshaw at the Sterling Jewelers Learning Fair



Jason Shinn, his telescopes, and the ACA club gallery at the Sterling Jewelers Learning Fair



Members of the Sterling staff and the ACA's Learning Fair display

THE PERFECT TELESCOPE

By Freddy Huffman

This is my first try at writing any kind of an article, so I hope you won't expect too much and will bear with me through the whole thing.

I became interested in astronomy at about the age of ten. What got me started were some books in the school library about make believe space travel. The school had only a few of these science fiction books and I read every one of them. I guess it was the make believe worlds that got me thinking about seeing them for myself. I later realized that there was no such thing as real space travel and I could only view these worlds if I owned a telescope and viewed them from earth.

So for the very next Christmas my wish was for a telescope, neither I nor my parents had any knowledge of telescopes and even less knowledge of where to purchase one. When Christmas rolled around there set a 3.1 inch Gilbert reflecting telescope under the tree. Boy, was I happy! I looked at the moon and when I finally found Saturn it was like icing on the cake.

Since that great day I have owned just about every type of telescope that was on the market including refractors, Maks, reflectors, and yes a solar scope PST. I have viewed the planets, the sun, many deep space objects, a few comets, the moon and a few neighbors and their wives. This brings me to the object of this article - which one is the best for observing? My answer to that is simple: the one you own and use the most is the perfect telescope for you. When you talk to people at the time they are observing and ask them if they like the scope

they are using I have never found anyone that will tell you that their scope is a piece of junk and that they don't like it. They might tell you they wish they could own a better one but they are pleased with the one they are using at the time.

Now I will try to give you some factors that I use for selecting the perfect scope for me.

If you are like me, budget is the number one consideration. I want the best I can afford whatever that might be. Next is the size of the objective lens or mirror, get the biggest you can manage. This brings me to my next important factor - can you get it in and out of your house or vehicle with as little effort and physical strain as possible. Believe me, this means a lot as you get older and I know more about this the older I get. If you are like me, another odd but equally valid factor is time. How much time do you have to observe and how fast can you get your scope out and set up to observe?

These are a few factors I use to search for the perfect scope for me. You may think of more and your factors would all be good and valid points for you, I am sure.

I have to bring up one more option you might consider, and that is to build your own scope. I have done this and it is very rewarding and gives you great pleasure to view other worlds with something that you have made yourself.

No matter what you choose to buy, build or what ever - get out and observe with it. It will be the perfect scope for you!

WINTERTIME BLUES

By Ray Hyer

I hurried through the garage yesterday, wanting to get into the house before the cold wind froze me in my tracks. Just as the restaurant servers who have mastered the skill of walking around the room without looking at anybody, my goal was to avoid looking at the corner. But I did. And it was a painful sight.

There, snuggled into the end of the garage was my eight inch dobsonian. Shamelessly, it called to me. It did not care that the wind chill was below zero. It did not care that I would have to move ten other frozen objects to get to it. It did not care that the box containing the eyepieces and telrad was buried even deeper into the massive collection of debris. All it knew was that there was a clear sky above. And it wanted to collect starlight, moonlight or planetlight and energize my optic nerve with winter's spectacular sights.

As fellow sky lovers living in the northern part of Ohio, I'm sure you can all sympathize with my plight. It's bad enough we had to miss a rare eclipsed-moon moonrise due to massive cloud cover. This time of year rarely produces clear sky without a blast of bitter cold air.

I realize some of you are blessed with the ability to enjoy a time of winter sky observing. Most of you are

young, crazy or drunk. I do not enjoy any of these luxuries.

My observing has, shamefully, consisted of a brief exercise of scraping the frost off the window and trying to find an opening that is clear enough to spot a familiar constellation. For me, and those astronomers who find themselves in the same pathetic state, winter's celestial wonders reside in one of two places, the flicker of the computer screen or the rapidly fading memories of many years past.

Winter's harshness has been tempered in part with other activities. We now have the internet to share experiences and observational data. Club meetings provide contact with those that we do not see on the observation field. The long cloudy winter season seems to go on forever.

But there is reason to be hopeful. Soon the warming breeze will arrive and the season of hiding will be replaced with hours of watching dew form and swatting mosquitoes. The aging amateur astronomer can once again be a player rather than a spectator. And I will need to clear a path back into that corner of the garage.

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

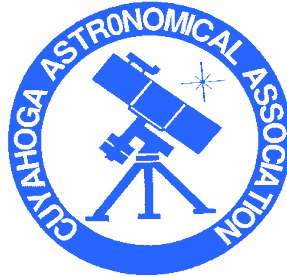
JUNIOR (ages 12 to 17).....\$15.00

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.

The Cuyahoga Astronomical Association



Presents

Mike Unsold

developer of

Images **PLUS**



DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING

Saturday, July 14, 2007
12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.
CAA Observatory
10311 Spencer Lake Road
Spencer, Ohio

You will have an opportunity to work with Mike Unsold, the person who developed one of the most complete and powerful software packages for capturing and processing astronomical images. He will present one workshop that will be hands-on and present many opportunities for questions. The workshop will consist of the following:

- **Planetary Image Processing:** Learn the basic workflow for processing a set of planetary images. Mike will supply the images you will work on to gain knowledge of the unique challenges associated with processing a set of planetary images.
- **Deep Sky Image Processing:** Learn the basic workflow for processing a set of deep sky images. Mike will supply the images you will work on to gain knowledge of the unique challenges associated with processing deep sky images.

The workshop will involve use of a computer to follow along with Mike as he processes image sets using the methods available in Images Plus. Preferably, attendees should bring a computer for this workshop. You will need *Images Plus software already loaded onto your computer. Workshop participants may update* to the latest release (for the standard update fee) or use Beta versions of the latest release if their version of Images Plus is not yet the latest release. If you do not have Images Plus software, you may obtain a free demo version or purchase now by visiting: www.mlunsold.com*



NOTE: This workshop will also be useful for those wishing to get started in astrophotography but with no access to a computer at the time of the workshop.

**A 30% discount (refund) will be available to all new users of ImagesPlus that register for the workshop. Refund will be given after verified registration, and purchase of IP from the IP website.*

The workshop will begin promptly at 12:00 Noon and run until 4:00 p.m. Participants should be set up and ready to start at Noon, so plan to arrive at Letha House by at least 11:30 a.m. Space is limited so register now!

Attendance by Pre-paid Registration Only

CAA member	\$10.00
non-CAA member	\$15.00

The workshop is presented in conjunction with the 2007 CAA annual OTAA convention also being held on Saturday, July 14 at Letha House.

The 2007 Mike Unsold Image Processing Workshop
July 14, 2007
12 Noon – 4 p.m.
Cuyahoga Astronomical Association Observatory
10311 Spencer Lake Road
Spencer, Ohio

Registration must be received by June 1, 2007

*Space is limited to 25 people so register now!
One registration per form!*

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____

CAA member - \$10.00: _____

Non-CAA member - \$15.00: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Mail this form and check or money order to:
Cuyahoga Astronomical Association
PO Box 868
North Olmsted, OH 44070-0868

Make check or money order payable to:
Cuyahoga Astronomical Association

Workshop will take place rain or shine. Registration will be confirmed via email no later than June 15, 2007.

In order for us to better serve you during the workshop, please indicate what equipment you plan to bring with you.

_____ Laptop computer (already loaded with either the demo or full version of Images Plus)

_____ Desktop computer (already loaded with either the demo or full version of Images Plus)

_____ None (we recommend a notebook and pen!)

Please direct all questions to WorkshopRegistrar@cuyastro.org