



# The Night Sky

The Newsletter of  
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 29 Number 5

May 2007

## RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by *Dave Jessie*

**Item 1 - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!!!!** We need your renewal before the end of this month. The Bylaws stipulate that ALL memberships expire in the month of May. If you recently joined, then you have nothing to worry about, however if you're a long-time member, it's time to send in that check (along with a completed 'join form' that's found on the back page of every newsletter) to our Treasurer, Steve Rohweder. Without your support, we're out of business since we receive no funding whatsoever from outside sources. We have expenses, as does every organization, and every membership helps keep us going strong. Come on, send your renewal to Steve. (*now where did I leave my check book?*) Donations are gladly accepted and since we're a 501(c)3, those donations are tax-deductible!

**Item 2 -** The ACA election took place at our last meeting on April 27. Your Board remains as it was with two exceptions, we have a new Secretary and a new Assistant Secretary/Treasurer! John Phillips decided to run for the position of Secretary when it was announced that outgoing Secretary, John Shulan, would not be able to participate due to the extreme demands on his time from other commitments. Likewise, Rosaelena Villaseñor made the decision to run for Asst Sec/Treasurer when Gregg Crenshaw couldn't run also due to other commitments. We want to thank John S. and Gregg for their work on the Board and welcome John P. and Rosaelena to their new positions. I want to thank Lou Poda and Vic Saker for calling the entire membership seeking candidates for our elected positions. It's a tough job and they performed it tirelessly. The last meeting before the summer break will be on Friday, May 25 and will be conducted by your newly-elected officers.

**Item 3 -** We have a new Trustee! At our last Board meeting, Ray Hyer's name was put before the Board for consideration as a Trustee. As I expected, the Board ap-

proved Ray's nomination unanimously! Ray is taking the position vacated by outgoing Trustee, Peggy Stabholz. We owe Peggy a great deal of thanks for her work for the ACA both on the Board and for her diligent work getting us speakers for our meetings. Thank you, Peggy. Your efforts are very much appreciated by me, the rest of the officers and by all members and visitors to our meetings. Ray will be a welcome addition to our already strong team of Trustees including Freddy Huffman and Tom Mino. In times past, the Trustees had little to do with the running of the Club...that was in the past, the duties of the Trustees have expanded tremendously and we're a better organization because of it. Welcome Ray Hyer, as the ACA's newest Trustee!

### **Item 4 - Important Upcoming Events:**

Saturday May 19, 2007 - The OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze at Scenic Vista Park near Lisbon, OH. See last month's newsletter for details including a map.

Saturday June 2, 2007 at 9:00PM - Planet Parade program at the ACA Observatory.

Friday June 8, 2007 at sundown - Camp CHOPS at Camp Christopher at the corner of Ira Rd and N Hametown Rd at the north-west corner of the Bath Nature Preserve. This camp is for cancer patients from Childrens' Hospital. They look forward all year to our being there to show them the stars, planets, Moon and all the rest of the celestial wonders we offer. Join us in helping make their camping experience all we can. Please, absolutely no smoking on the camp grounds.

Saturday June 9, 2007 at 8:30PM - Venus and Mercury program at the ACA Observatory.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Reminder for May's meeting at the Kiwanis Civic Center at 8:00pm on Friday, May 25, 2007:**

This is our last meeting until September. Don't forget to pay your dues!

## OFFICERS 2006 – 2007

<b>President</b>		
Dave Jessie	330-688-9043	djessie@neo.rr.com
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<b>Treasurer</b>		
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<b>Observatory Director</b>		
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<b>Trustee</b> (term through 2009)		
Tom Mino	330-923-7704	tjmino@neo.rr.com
<b>Trustee</b> (term through 2010)		
Ray Hyer	330-784-3970	rhyer@neo.rr.com
<b>Statutory Agent</b>		
Mark Kochheiser	330-882-3713	mkochheiser@neo.rr.com
<b>OTAA Representative</b>		
Lou Poda		

## Activities Calendar

Club	Celestial
May 25, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm	May 16, New Moon
June 2, Open House and Star Party 9:00 pm	
June 8, Camp CHOPS	May 31, Full Moon
June 9, Open House and Star Party 9:00 pm	
June 15, Camp WUNDERLUNG	June 14, New Moon

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](mailto:phillipsaca@gmail.com)

(Continued from page 1)

Friday June 15, 2007 at sundown - Camp WUNDERLUNG also at Camp Christopher (see above for location). This camp is for patients from Childrens' Hospital with severe breathing disorders. Please, absolutely no smoking on the camp grounds.

Saturday June 23, 2007 at 6:00PM – Solar / Lunar Event / Hot Dog Roast at the ACA Observatory.

Sunday July 22, 2007 2:00pm - ACA Member Picnic: at the Big Oak Shelter in the Portage Lakes State Park near our observatory. More information to follow.

Every Friday all summer for an informal star-party at Fishcreek School in Stow, except for the Fridays we'll be at Camp Christopher for CHOPS and WUNDERLUNG.

**Item 5 - Thanks to members for participating in all our events this past month!**

Boy, such participation we've had! Camp Butler, Astronomy Day at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Observatory events, Earth Day at the Akron Zoo, the Telescope Seminar, our annual ACA dinner... so many activities and so much participation! Thanks to each and every member (and non-member) that helped make these events so successful. The Club would be lost without you. Honest it would.

**Item 6 - Finally, summer is here!** There are lots and lots of observing sessions planned so let's all get out and enjoy the stars and each other's company. Find the time

and you'll be rewarded, I promise you. I feel butterflies in my chest just thinking about cruising through the summer Milky Way with binoculars or seeing my old friends up there like M13 and M57 while sharing the views and awe with my old and new friends on the ground. Come and enjoy all this. Please. It's what we do!

<b>Treasurer's Report: 4/1/07 - 4/30/07</b>	
Steve Rohweder, Treasurer	
Total Beginning Assets	\$8,077.61
Income	
Interest on balances	\$1.93
Expenses	
Newsletter Expenses	(\$12.00)
Coloring Books	(\$40.00)
Observatory Upkeep	(\$264.55)
Color Brochures	(\$476.15)
Total Ending Assets	\$7,286.84

# OBSERVATORY REPORT

ACA hosted two star parties during the month of April. The first was at Camp Butler on April 20th. Camp Butler is located in Peninsula, OH off Route 303 in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The camp covers 1200 acres and is well isolated from light pollution. About ten club members represented ACA at the star party. We had a great night for observing with Venus and a three day old Moon highlighting the early evening. Saturn dominated the rest of the night and looked spectacular through Jason Shin's new 3 mm eyepiece. Many double stars, open clusters, and one globular cluster, M3, also entertained the Boy Scouts. And there was a lot of Boy Scouts. A line of scouts was behind each telescope waiting to look at the celestial objects. They really appreciated our effort to show them the stars.

The next evening, ACA held a public star party at Portage Lakes State Park Observatory. It was another great night for observing. Many club members and public attendees showed up for the event. John Crilly started out the event with a presentation on Saturn. John's "campfire chat" was just the type of presentation the observatory

staff envisioned when they developed the 2007 Public Event Schedule last year. And then, the star party began. ACA members were ready to show the public a host of beautiful celestial objects. The observatory grounds were decorated with members' telescopes including Mark North's massive 11" Celestron, Rick Bradley's new 9 1/4" Celestron that Rick was field testing, and Fred Huffman's old 12" Dobsonian. The featured objects were Venus, Saturn, the Moon, NGC 3242 (The Ghost of Jupiter), M87, M81, M82, and M49.

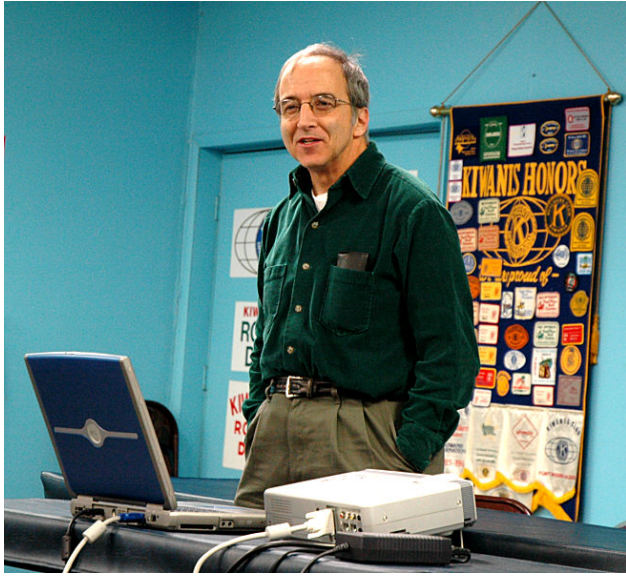
Ron Kalinoski

**Next OTAA Event for 2007:**

**May:** OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze - Saturday May 19, 2007 (Scenic Vista Park, Lisbon, OH.) There is a flier for this event in the online April newsletter.

For full list of events, see the Night Sky Newsletter for February or March of 2007.

# March ACA Meeting



For those who missed the March meeting, Joe DeRocher, coordinator of the Nathan and Fanny Shafran Planetarium at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History spoke about dark matter. This presentation about matter that can't be seen was very enlightening.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History also is home to the Mueller Observatory. Please check out their website for events taking place over the summer.

[http://www.cmnh.org/site/atthemuseum\\_planetariumandobservatory.aspx](http://www.cmnh.org/site/atthemuseum_planetariumandobservatory.aspx)



March Meeting Photos By Ray Hyer

Dave Richards from Hoover-Price Planetarium brought in an Astro-chair his brother designed. This chair is light weight and when taken down to its components, very space saving and portable. For more information about this chair, you can contact Dave at the McKinley museum: (330) 455-7043 or email him:

[hooverpriceplanetarium@hotmail.com](mailto:hooverpriceplanetarium@hotmail.com)

# Other ACA Events



Photo By Justin Phillips

Andy and Christina Marek, Steve Rohweder, and Rosaelena Villaseñor watching a presentation by Ron Kalinoski at a futile attempt at a Messier Marathon on March 17.



Photo By Justin Phillips

Tom Mino and Lew Snodgrass await visitors at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Astronomy Day event, April 21.



Photo By Jason Shinn

ACA display at the Akron Zoo Earth Day event, April 28.

# April ACA Meeting



Photo By Justin Phillips

The guest speaker for April's meeting was Geoffrey Landis, NASA scientist and science fiction writer. He spoke about the current Mars exploration missions, including the rovers Spirit and Opportunity, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter as well as future robotic and manned missions to Mars. The images and information from current missions and a look forward to future planned missions presented by a scientist directly involved with the space program is a rare opportunity which should not be missed. He will speak again on the topic "Space Rovers" at the July 21<sup>st</sup> third Saturday series event at NASA Glenn.

Landis' knowledge of Mars is apparent in his science fiction writing. To check out some of his published work go to his website. <http://www.sff.net/people/Geoffrey.Landis/>

Hoover-Price Planetarium

[http://www.mckinleymuseum.org/hover\\_price\\_planetarium](http://www.mckinleymuseum.org/hover_price_planetarium)  
2007 Schedule

MythConceptions II

May 19th thru July 8th

Saturdays at 1pm, Sundays at 2pm

Eclipse!

July 14th thru September 16th

Saturdays at 1pm, Sundays at 2pm

Radio Eyes

September 22nd thru November 4th

Saturdays at 1pm, Sundays at 2pm

Celestial Light

November 10th thru December 29th

Saturdays at 1pm

Star of Bethlehem

November 11th thru December 30th

Sundays at 2pm

NASA Glenn Research Center has monthly programs about space and aviation (mostly space). This is called the third Saturday series, and logically enough the events occur on the third Saturday of each month. I (the editor) have been to quite a few of these events, and they were very enjoyable. <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn/home/index.html>

05.19.07 - Space Stations Then and Now

Learn about the history and role of space stations in the exploration of space.

06.16.07 - NASA Hits

From trash compactors and smoke detectors to cordless power tools and bar codes, find out how NASA research and technology have changed our lives in so many ways.

07.21.07 - Space Rovers

Learn about the use of wheeled vehicles in the exploration of the solar system and tour a rover test facility.

08.18.07 - Voyager: The Grandest Tour

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Voyager space missions and learn what they have taught us about our solar system.

09.15.07 - Space Memorabilia Show

Join us as NASA Glenn and collectSPACE.com host the 3rd annual space memorabilia show, highlighting space artifacts from the beginning of the space age to the present.

10.20.07 - 50 Years of Exploration

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sputnik's launch into space and find out how it ushered us into the space age.

11.17.07 - Catch a Falling Star

Prepare for the upcoming Leonid Meteor Shower by learning more about the origins of meteorites and their impact on Earth.

12.27.07 - Rockets' Red Glare

Join us for a discussion on the history of rockets and a description of how they fly at this special holiday event.

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

Paul Oravec (father of Jake, one of our Junior Members)  
Terry Taylor (welcome back, Terry!)  
Connie Tighe

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

# 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](http://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](http://www.acaoh.org), but I would rather have the B&W version mailed to my address via USPS.