



# The Night Sky

The Newsletter of  
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 29 Number 6

June 2007

## RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by *Dave Jessie*

**Item 1 - First, some sad news:** If you haven't renewed your membership in the ACA, this will be your last newsletter. A list of the members marked 'Current' can be found elsewhere in this issue. Steve Rohweder, our Treasurer, is currently out of the country and has been for the past week. If you've mailed your renewal during that time, Steve will process it upon his return. Don't panic if don't you see your name on the list - the database will be updated to reflect your proper membership status shortly. You want to renew, but you don't recall how? Easy! Just look at the renewal form on the back of the last page of either the printed or electronic version of the newsletter. Pick the membership level you want, write a check for that amount and snail-mail the check and the form to Steve Rohweder at the address shown on the form. What could be easier?! Our Bylaws require all memberships to renew in the month of May. Personally, I've never been a fan of this way of doing things, but my opinion doesn't matter - only the rules stipulated in the Bylaws matter. Speaking of the Bylaws, our Trustees have been hard at work coming up with suggested updates to them. I'm sure we'll hear about that at our first meeting following our summer break.

**Item 2 - Summer Break:** As I hope you're aware, our monthly meetings at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center are over until the fourth Friday of September. We take the summer off since we're in the prime observing/outreach season. Yeah!! Ron Kalinoski, our Observatory Director, has put together a very ambitious schedule of public observing nights and we also have several scheduled outreach events as well. Don't you just love summer?! It seems like it takes forever to finally get here and then it's over before you know it. Don't let the summer escape without getting out under the stars every possible moment. When the 'snow' flies again, you'll wish you'd have taken advantage of more warm nights at the eyepiece.

**Item 3 -** Special thanks to John Shulan for showing us a beautiful new object! While John was using his fabulous Celestron CPC-11 (11" SCT on an ALT/AZ fork mount) in 'Tour' mode, a beautiful open cluster called the 'Stargate Cluster' came up on the list of objects. John dutifully observed the object and it's quite something! An open cluster consisting of two nearly-equilateral triangles, one inside the other rotated 60° degrees looking very much like the 'Stargate' made famous in a movie and TV series. It's located a tad over 1° WSW of M104 in the constellation Corvus. Try to find this one, you won't be disappointed! Thanks again, John!

### Item 4 - Important Upcoming Events:

- Friday June 15, 2007 at sundown - Camp WUNDERLUNG 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 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 Friday at Camp Christopher Camp WUNDERLUNG.

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**Renew you membership! Pay your dues! The ACA needs you!**

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# OBSERVATORY REPORT

Ron Kalinoski

On May 12th, ACA held a public star party at our Portage Lakes State Park observatory. Fifteen club members entertained about 25 public attendees. The theme of the star party was Galaxies and we started off the star party with a slideshow presentation on galaxies. As true for the past two months, Saturn and Venus highlighted the beginning of our observing session. Subsequently, members trained their telescopes on the brightest galaxies in the sky - M87, M49, M81, M82, M104, M86, M84, and M51. M51 eluded the 14" observatory telescope due to mechanical limits, but it did not escape capture from Dave Steele's mighty 13" Dobsonian. Dave had the 13" cranked up to 100X on M51. He called me out to see the galaxy and it looked good with resolved spiral arms clearly visible. Recently Dave had his 13" mirror re-aluminized. Dave collimates his telescope at the start of each observing session and perhaps this is why he obtains such good performance from his Dobsonian.

On May 17th, ACA held another star party. This one was for the sixth graders at Copley's Spring Garden Waldorf School. About 25 students and seven adults from the school attended the star party. The ACA was represented by Andy Marek, Mark Kochheiser, John Shulan, and me. The skies were cloudy all day due to a stubborn stationary front. I called the school representative and cancelled the event at 6:45pm. I took Kepler for a walk and saw some breaks in the clouds and perhaps some hope. I called the school representative back and told her to bring the kids out to the observatory; at least we could look at Saturn and Venus. The clouds continue to break up and by 8:30pm the sky was cloudless. What a night for observing! At 9:00pm the kids started to arrive at the

observatory. Three telescopes were set up to entertain the children. At dusk, we observed Venus and Saturn. The kids and adults were amazed to see the planets. As darkness increased, we turned our telescopes to other celestial objects. Mark Kochheiser's 90mm Meade was displaying double stars for the children. Mark also gave the kids a lesson on the proper way to use a laser pointer. John Shulan had a line of kids behind his telescope waiting for a glimpse at M3, M104, and M13. Andy and I were showing the children galaxies M87 and M82, and planetary nebula NGC 3242 (The Ghost of Jupiter). It was a very good star party and the children and adults really appreciated our efforts. After the star party, the ACA members gathered in the observatory to observe some more deep sky objects through the 14" telescope. All of us were very impressed by the children's good behavior. They definitely had a lot of energy and a great desire to observe the night sky. Thanks to Andy, Mark, and John for making this event successful.

Fred Huffman and I have been talking for some time about putting an electrical interrupt into the roof roll-off circuit to prevent damage in the event of a mechanical lockup during roof roll-off operation. Mechanical lockup could result from a component failure or from operator error. We measured the current draw during roof roll-off operation and found it to be 3.6 amps. We applied a 50 lb. resistive force during operation to observe how the current changed. We examined current-time curves of several fuses to determine what fuse would give us maximum protection without nuisance interruptions. We decided on a Bussman AGC 4 amp fast blow fuse. We installed the fuse and tested the system to verify operation. The system works properly. While installing the fuse, we checked all terminals on the starters and auxiliary contacts. We found 90% of the terminals were loose (approximately 20 terminals). We were amazed to find the main feed from the panelboard was loose enough to be pulled out from the terminal by hand. One wire showed corrosion from arcing. The terminals probably became loose from 20 years of heating and cooling cycles that occurred during roof roll-off operations. We tightened all terminals on both starters and all push button control switches.

Last week I went to the observatory to clean the optics of the 14" telescope. My procedure for cleaning optics starts with cleaning all non-optical surfaces first. Dirt from these surfaces will eventually migrate to optical surfaces. Non-optical surfaces include lens cover, dew shield (inside and out), telescope tube, yoke, secondary mirror assembly, corrector plate assembly, and focuser. With these surfaces cleaned, I cleaned the corrector plate and diagonal mirror. These optical surfaces are routinely exposed to dust in the air during telescope operation. The optical surfaces were dirty, so we should see improved performance from the 14" telescope during our next star party.

## Treasurer's Report: 5/1/07 - 5/31/07

Steve Rohweder, Treasurer

Total Beginning Assets	\$7,286.84
Income	
Interest on balances	\$2.00
50/50 Drawing	\$31.00
Magazine Subscriptions	\$133.90
Dues	\$937.50
Expenses	
Website Expenses	(\$8.31)
Newsletter Expenses	(\$9.00)
Speaker Reimbursement	(\$44.16)
Magazine Subscriptions	(\$66.95)
Total Ending Assets	\$8,262.82

# Non-Technical Topics

*John Crilly*

I'm going to depart from my recent, hardware-oriented writings this month and will revert to more general topics as in my earlier newsletter contributions. It isn't that I don't still have lots to say about astronomical gear, but there are other topics which, while not urgent, deserve attention.

First, there's the matter of Club management. This will be my fourth year as V.P. of the Club. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute but I believe that by the time this term ends I'll have used up all of my ideas. I look forward to stepping back next year and supporting management from my new position within the ranks. I believe that the management structure of the Club has significantly improved through recent efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Board, so future administrations should find that some good tools are in place and ready for their use.

Second, the location of the Club observatory should be discussed. I'll begin with the comment that the primary purpose of the Club site is outreach – making observational astronomy available to the general public. For this, it's essential that the location

be convenient and easy to find, and to have decent parking facilities. It's not essential that it be a "serious" dark site such as amateur astronomers might want to visit for a star party. The public has had little or no experience looking through telescopes, and will appreciate and enjoy seeing the bright, easy objects available from suburban skies. Our current site works well for us now.

On the other hand, Akron just keeps getting brighter and closer. Additional construction within the park has the potential to further degrade the usability of our current site. It's worth considering whether at some point in the future the site will become unsuitable. Should that happen, discovering a new site and relocating our facility will be a huge undertaking.

My proposal is that a group be formed by the Club to begin defining the characteristics desired in a potential new site, and to investigate possible new locations. I'd like to think that a report could be generated within a year. Then we'd be prepared if it ever becomes necessary to make decisions in that regard.

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## ACA General Membership Meeting—Friday May 25, 2007

### Minutes from secretary John Phillips

Guest speaker: Dr. Steven Cederbloom, professor of astronomy at Mt. Union College.

Subject: Variable stars in globular clusters

Two new Board officers introduced, John Phillips, Secretary and Rosaelena Villaseñor Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Also announced new Trustee Ray Hyer.

Next meeting will be Friday, September 28, 2007

Recent public events:

Akron Zoo 4/28 deemed successful despite poor weather. Telescope seminar was poorly attended due to bad weather.

Outreach requests club will participate in, both at Camp Christopher are Camp CHOPS, Friday, June 8, and Camp Wunderlung, Friday, June 15. Both to

run from dusk until 10:30pm.

ACA member picnic is Sunday, July 22, at 2:00 pm at Portage Lakes State Park Big Oaks shelter. The club will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, pop and water. Vic Saker will coordinate with members bringing covered dishes to avoid repetition. The event will include an astronomical gear swap meet.

The treasurer reported no new activity

Reminder that all memberships expire in May, please pay dues to treasurer Steve Rohweder

Ron Kalinoski, Observatory Director, reported good observing at May 18 public event

Meeting adjourned



NGC 6888, Photo by John Crilly

## Some Notes:

Lou Poda asked me to mention that the Wilmot Astronomy Club has moved its meetings to the second Friday of the month. For more info visit: <http://www.twcac.org/>

Do you like Mars and have some extra bandwidth you want to violently abu...er, put to use? Check out the recently redesigned HiRISE website, which updates with new, huge images from Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's HiRISE camera every Wednesday.

The URL is: <http://hirise.lpl.arizona.edu/>

Also take a look at the flier for Hidden Hollow included with this newsletter.

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## (Non-ACA) Astronomy Events in June:

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

**NASA Glenn Third Saturday Series Event:** *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. June 16, 2007 at NASA Glenn Research Center <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn/home/index.html>

**Currently Showing at the Hoover-Price Planetarium:** *MythConceptions II*—May 19th thru July 8th—Saturdays at 1pm, Sundays at 2pm [http://www.mckinleymuseum.org/hoover\\_price\\_planetarium](http://www.mckinleymuseum.org/hoover_price_planetarium)

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

But we don't HAVE ANY this month!

Come on, get out there and recruit. If we don't get folks out from behind those television sets and under the stars, who will?!

## The List...

Alphabetical list of members currently marked as 'current' for 2007-2008.

Kurt Bauch  
Rick Bradley  
Marty Breyer  
Harold Brock (Honorary)  
Dwight Brown  
Vincent Burns  
Glenn Cameron  
Richard F. Cameron  
Leslie & Peter Clausen  
Debby & Gregg Crenshaw  
John Crilly  
Millie Eaken (Honorary)  
David Feltner  
Robert Girard  
Phil Hegenderfer (Honorary)  
Carol Hosfeld  
Emerick Hranilovich (Honorary)  
Fred Huffman  
Pam & Ray Hyer  
Jeannette Jensen  
Dave Jessie  
Ron Kalinoski  
Mark Kochheiser  
Jeff Kreidler  
Lenny Marek  
Mary & Nick Mihiylov  
Tom Mino  
Randy Morton  
Gayle Norris  
Jacob & Paul Oravec  
John, Pat & Justin Phillips  
Lou Poda (Honorary)  
Jeri Rinehart  
Steve Rohweder  
Vic Saker  
Jason Shinn  
Lew Snodgrass  
Marilyn Snodgrass  
Peggy Stabholz  
Jay Svitko  
Terry Taylor  
Connie Tighe  
Jerry Unroe  
Rosaelena Villaseñor  
Robert Watkins  
Jim Watson (Honorary)

# 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.

# HIDDEN HOLLOW 2007

OCTOBER 13-14, 2007



OCTOBER 13-14, 2007

## Door prizes include a 10 inch Dob!

- Good company!
- The 31" Rupp Telescope!
- Door prizes!
- Great speakers!
- Great demonstrations!
- Awesome skies!
- Free Cabins!
- Showers!
- Food!
- Vendors!

Pre-register and be eligible for the free solar filter workshop!

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Phil Harrington - Author  
Brent Archinal - USGS  
Terry Mann - Astronomical League

Mike Best - Noted Amateur and Public Speaker  
Tom Whiting - "The man with the 30 inch Dob!"  
Jason Shinn - Canal Fulton Amateur Radio Observatory

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

<http://www.wro.org/hiddenhollow07.html>



# Hidden Hollow '07 mail in registration form:

Adult registrations include one door prize ticket per registrant, which will be given at check-in. Additional door prize tickets may be purchased at the event.

1. For safety of all attendees, use of **GREEN LASER POINTERS ARE PROHIBITED.**
2. You must provide an email address (print clearly!) if you want a confirmation.
3. Registration through **October 1, 2007** or until we receive 350 registrations. Fire code regulations
4. No cars will be permitted to enter the Star Party area after dark and no cars are permitted to move on the field after dark except in an emergency.
5. Pre-registration is **MANDATORY**; there will be **NO REGISTRATIONS** at the gate.
6. Pets are not permitted Service animals for disabled are permitted.
7. Individuals using this form to register are not allowed to sell items, you must register as a vendor to sell. Contact RAS if you wish to register as a vendor.
8. Not responsible for theft or accidents; No refunds.
9. Very Rustic bunk house style cabins first come, first served; bring your own sleeping bags "consider these as wooden tents". No heat, 200 maximum.
10. Wrist bands are mandatory

Please indicate your selections by placing a number in the appropriate box. If multiple people are applying from different postal addresses, please use a separate form for each address.

Number of Adult registrations @ \$40 each \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Family registrants @ \$60 each \_\_\_\_\_ immediate family only no extended family members at this rate.

Number of Children under 12 (must be accompanied by an adult) **free** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s):		
Name(s):		
Street Address:		
Street Address:		
City,	State	Zip Code:
Telephone Number:		
Email address (print clearly this is what we use to contact you!!)		
Bringing Telescope?	Type	
Club affiliation		
Using Bunk House Cabins	Yes	No
<b>SIGN AT X BELOW TO AGREE TO THE REGISTRATION PAPER</b>		
<b>X</b>		

Please print and send page along with your check (made payable to "R.A.S.") to:

**Richland Astronomical Society P.O. Box 1118 Mansfield Ohio 44901**

You will receive a confirmation email from [kmoore10@columbus.rr.com](mailto:kmoore10@columbus.rr.com) after your registration has been received.

Not responsible for misspelled, non-functioning, or blocked email accounts this is beyond our control.

Submit email questions about your already submitted registration form to [kmoore10@columbus.rr.com](mailto:kmoore10@columbus.rr.com), [hbreg@earthlink.net](mailto:hbreg@earthlink.net) all other questions should be directed to [theastronomer@webtv.net](mailto:theastronomer@webtv.net)