



# The Night Sky

The Newsletter of  
The Astronomy Club of Akron

[www.acaoh.org](http://www.acaoh.org)

Volume 30 Number 2

February 2008

## RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by *Dave Jessie*

**Hot Off the Presses!** The members of the ACA have been invited up to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for a lunar eclipse event the evening of Wednesday, 2/20/2008. In Clyde Simpson's own words, "*Hi all, We'll be observing the eclipse from Wade Oval in front of the museum, across from the Cleveland Museum of Art, and from the observatory deck on the roof of the museum. If you could, please let your members know that they are welcome to come and set up telescopes either on Wade Oval or on the roof that evening. Partial eclipse begins at 8:43pm EST. If some of your folks decide they'd like to come, please let me know or have them contact me so I can get an idea of who will be here and the numbers. Thanks a lot, and I understand from the weather forecast that there's a 100% possibility of clear skies that night. Clyde*" Of course, Clyde was joking about the "100% possibility of clear skies that night", but it would be a lot of fun to observe the lunar eclipse from the Museum. Please let me know if you'd like to join us.

**Our Ten Year Lease with the State of Ohio - The Saga Continues:** As I write this, the ball is in the State's court. On 1/29/08, Kim Caris, Real Estate Manager of ODNR Division of Park & Recreation, with whom I've had numerous conversations re our lease; emailed me a copy of our 'new lease'. I was appalled to read the restrictions and requirements imposed on the Club. I sent it to the members of the Board and they, for the most part, had the same reaction. Subsequently, I again spoke to Mr. Caris and informed him that there was no way we were going to sign the lease as written. After speaking with two attorneys about this document and all it implied, we agreed to modify the proposed Lease to make it more palatable; and closer to the Lease under which we've lived for the past twenty years. I forwarded it to Mr. Caris on 2/1/08. I've heard nothing since. Let us all hope that the old adage "No news is good news" holds true. Based on the sad state of Ohio's budget, this lease

agreement is probably the last thing on the ODNR's mind. When I finally hear something, good or bad, you will all be made aware. In the mean time, we're going to proceed as normal with our scheduled events at our Observatory.

**Speaking of our Observatory...** Ron has again put together an ambitious schedule of events this year. Lots of great nights under the stars await us, and lots of public to educate. Each of us needs to support the Club by coming to as many events as possible - and to bring telescopes or binoculars, if you have them, to show the public what we're about. The Observatory schedules were included in last month's newsletter, are available on our website at [www.acaoh.org](http://www.acaoh.org) and also located in the Observatory. Come on out, we always have a great time together.

**ACA Elections are Coming!** - As VP John Crilly wrote last month, my term as President and John's term as Vice President are almost over and the By-laws specifically state that we can not run for these offices again. We've held these offices for four consecutive years. Decide which office you'd like to run for and go for it. The Club needs your talents and you know better than anyone else what your talents are and how best to benefit the organization. Nominations will occur at the meeting in March, election at the April meeting and the new officers will take over at the May meeting. We need you to run for office!!!

**Upcoming events** - not including all the programs and observing events at our Observatory:

*KSU Planetarium Shows:* Friday 2/15/08 & Saturday 2/16/08 Both shows are at 8:00pm

*Lunar Eclipse Viewing* at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History - evening of 2/20/2008

(Continued on page 3)

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Lou Poda

## Activities Calendar

### Club

### Celestial

Feb. 22, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm February 20, Full Moon

Mar. 1, Open House and Star Party 7:00 pm March 7, New Moon

Mar. 8, Open House and Star Party 7:00 pm March 21, Full Moon

Mar. 28, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm April 5, 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

(Continued from page 1)

**ACA Business Meeting:** Friday 2/22/08 - Honorary Member, Jim Watson, is going to be speaking about radio astronomy. The second reading of the proposed Bylaws changes will occur along with up-to-the-minute updates on our continuing saga of our Lease negotiations with the State of Ohio.

**KSU Planetarium Shows:** Friday 2/22/08 Show is at 8:00pm

**Daylight Saving Time** starts on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at 2:00 AM local standard time. Set your clocks ahead by one hour. Personally, I wish they'd just leave the time alone!

**Frontiers of Astronomy Lecture Series:** Next lecture on Thursday 3/20/08 at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History - Black Holes: Their Birth and Violent Interactions by Dr. Pablo Laguna, Pennsylvania State University.

**ACA Business Meeting:** Friday 3/28/08 - Phil Creed is going to be speaking about difficult-to-see objects. The third, and final, reading of the proposed Bylaws changes will occur and a vote will be taken to accept the proposed changes.

**Frontiers of Astronomy Lecture Series:** The fifth and final lecture in this series is on Thursday 4/24/08 at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History: Probing the Early Universe with Extremely Energetic Gamma-Ray Bursts by Dr. Dieter Hartmann, Clemson University

**ACA Business Meeting:** Friday 4/25/08 - Speaker not as yet decided. Time to renew your membership! ACA elections to take place.

**NEAF (Northeast Astronomy Forum):** Saturday 4/26/08 & Saturday 4/27/08 at Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY. See <http://www.rocklandastronomy.com/neaf.htm> for details.

**Astronomy Day 2008** - Saturday May 10, 2008 at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History - mark your calendars!

**ACA Business Meeting:** Friday 5/23/08 - Last meeting before the summer break. Time to renew your membership! Speaker not as yet decided. New ACA officers will be conducting the meeting. Come and give them your support.

**Camp CHOPS** - Friday 6/6/08 at Camp Christopher

**Camp WUNDERLUNG** - Friday 6/13/08 at Camp Christopher

# OBSERVATORY REPORT

Ron Kalinoski

We're getting ready for next year's star parties. ACA members are setting the foundation for a great year. Mark Kochheiser has submitted our 2008 Observatory Schedule to the Beacon Journal, The Suburbanite, and South Side News Leader newspapers to inform the public of our events. Jason Shinn has donated three signs to direct the public to the observatory from Manchester Road. Lou Poda has donated *Observer's Handbook 2008* and *The Old Farmer's 2008 Almanac* so we can plan great star parties. Patrick Gleason has donated a picture frame for the 2nd Place Astrophotography Award certificate ACA won at the Hidden Hollow Star Party on October 13, 2007. We will hang the certificate in the observatory for all to see. David Feltner has fabricated wooden shelves in his woodshop for our observatory storage cabinet. The cabinet was a storage cabinet for clothing, only having one shelf. As a result, our materials stored in the cabinet were piled on top of each other. David's design gives us an organized storage cabinet and has eliminated the clutter on top and around the cabinet. Thanks guys for your efforts to promote the club. And special thanks to Jason Shinn for managing the club's astrophotos and entering us into the Hidden Hollow contest.

There's more work to be done! If you're interested in giving a star party presentation, please contact me. Check our observatory schedule for presentation topics.

## Remember: ACA meeting is February 22!

<b>Treasurer's Report: 11/1/07 - 12/31/07</b>	
Steve Rohweder, Treasurer	
Total Beginning Assets	\$8,788.48
Income	
Interest on balances	\$1.75
50/50 Drawing	\$34.44
Expenses	
Observatory Schedules	(\$50.40)
Newsletter Expense	(\$53.00)
Total Ending Assets	\$8,721.27

# Imaging at the Winter Star Party 2008

*John Crilly*

February 9, 2008

I've always wanted to go to one of the major star parties. They usually last a full week (or longer – next year the WSP will be ten days!). The sites are chosen for darkness, seeing conditions, and low horizons. The Winter Star Party is located in the Florida Keys and is held in February so it's a particular favorite of many regular star party attendees and it's been on my list. This year I was able to make it!

Because the party lasts longer than a single weekend, I figured it'd be worth going to the effort of setting up to do some imaging. I've long wondered what difference a dark site would make in that regard (Urban Observatory does not have anything resembling dark skies). I took the Takahashi EM-200, the Takahashi FSQ-106N, and the Canon 300D. The camera was a bit outclassed by the rest of that list but I wanted to get some wide fields. It's also much easier to transport and to set up than the SBIG ST-10XEI I normally use. I used TheSky 5 from Software Bisque to control the mount, and Images Plus from MLUnsold to control the camera. I also brought a Tele Vue Pronto and a Meade DSI Pro to use as an autoguiding setup, but for reasons to be mentioned later I decided to trust the mount to run unguided.

We arrived Monday afternoon; fortunately a buddy had arrived earlier that morning and had saved us a spot right on the beach. That made a big difference; not only did we have a Southern horizon of zero degrees elevation, but we could sit outside the tent on the beach and watch the ocean all day! The only trouble was the steady 20 mile per hour wind roaring in. I set up and began to wait to see whether the wind would pass or not. In that wind, autoguiding would be a waste of time so I left the Pronto in the truck and left tracking up to the unassisted EM-200.

The wind continued through Monday night. I spent my time getting the field imaging setup debugged and operational but didn't attempt any imaging. I had all the usual aggravation to be expected when using unfamiliar gear. I didn't have all the necessary drivers on the laptop, for one thing. Fortunately, there was wifi internet on the field and that was quickly resolved. Once everything was working well I went to bed (that's another big advantage of a longer star party – there are more opportunities for a good observing night).

After a day on the beach, Tuesday night arrived. The 20 mph wind continued but I couldn't afford to blow off another night so I decided to see just how good the



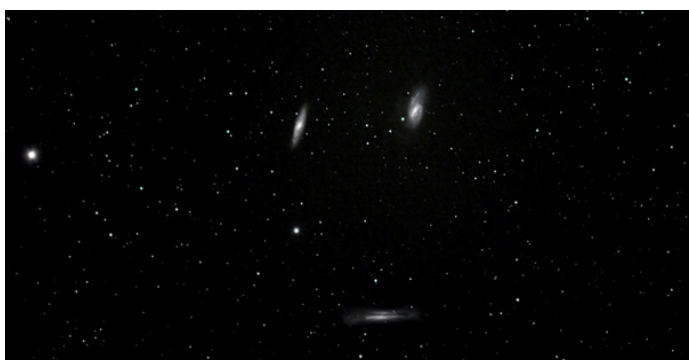
EM-200 really is. I don't know if anyone else was having any luck imaging Tuesday night, but I managed to get a few good ones. Here's the Horsehead and Flame nebulae.



Centaurus A



Leo Trio



I also got M42 that night:



M93



Wednesday night, the wind dropped to 5 mph. That's still enough to cause real issues imaging but with a short telescope and a burly mount I knew I was in good shape. I shot all night, acquiring several objects too Southerly to manage from Ohio. I also reshot some objects that had been troublesome in my light-polluted skies; those came out great. I think the ones I like best are:

Omega Centauri:



If you'd like to see more, there's a gallery of everything I captured during the star party at:

<http://www.lx200-14.com/WSP2008gallery>

# The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Justin Phillips, Editor

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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.