



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 30 Number 3

March 2008

RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Jessie

The Lunar Eclipse: It was a pretty one, and we got to see it from the ACA observatory! Ron decided that the weather would behave for us and announced to the membership that the observatory would be open for business. Ron also called Cleveland weatherman, Mark Johnson, who announce it on the news. Lou Poda called WNIR radio talk-show host, Tom Erickson, and made the announcement there, as well. It was 8°F, but clear. To my surprise, we had seven Club members and approximately 10-15 public show up. The brave winter-farers from the ACA were: Ron Kalinoski, Freddy Huffman, Lew Snodgrass, John Shulan, Carl Hervol, Rosaelena and me. Did I mention it was cold? The 14" SCT in the observatory didn't much care for the frigid temperatures and let us know by misbehaving at every opportunity. When we decided it was time to close up for the night, the roof refused to close. Some quick thinking and Ron's frozen fingers did some rewiring of the motor-control panel and voila! the roof finally began to close. We (Ron, Freddy and me) held our collective breath until it finished closing. We locked it down and went to our cars. All in all, a great night of observing the last total lunar eclipse for this area until 12/21/2010 - but that one doesn't start until 2:39am. The next one at a convenient time isn't until Sunday 9/27/2015 at 10:10pm - 7 years, 7 months and 7 days after the one two weeks ago. When I was young, I remember thinking there should be a total lunar eclipse once a month. As with many of my beliefs when I was younger, that one was totally wrong, too!

Our Ten Year Lease with the State of Ohio - The Saga Continues: I wish I had something to report, but I don't. The situation remains precisely as it was when I wrote about this for last month's newsletter. The ball is in the State's court and I have heard absolutely nothing from them since 2/1/08 when I received an email acknowledging receipt of the lease agreement as modified by us.

ACA Elections are Coming! - Want to run for an ACA elected office? Of COURSE you do! All you need to do is decide which elected office you'd like to have: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer or Newsletter Editor and then contact one of the three Nominating Committee members and let them know your intentions. The Bylaws require that nominations have to be in our hands by the close of OUR NEXT MEETING on

Friday 3/28/08.

Our Nominating Committee members are:

- 1) Ron Kalinoski - 330-837-5848
- 2) Glenn Cameron - 330-833-6343 and
- 3) Lou Poda - 330-773-8160.

We need you to run for office, so **DECIDE! CALL! and RUN!!**

Jim Anderson's Equipment - We've recently received correspondence from Darlene Patterson, long-time next-door neighbor of Jim Anderson and his mother in Cuyahoga Falls. Darlene was appointed the executor of Jim's estate when he passed away two years ago without a will. Many Club members that knew and observed with Jim had wondered what had become of his telescopes, eyepieces, etc. The law designated Jim's mother, Ruth, as beneficiary of all Jim's possessions, but a further complication developed when Ruth also passed away last summer. Darlene Patterson is now settling Ruth Anderson's estate and selling all of Jim's equipment. She has provided our newsletter editor, Justin Phillips, a comprehensive list of what is available and the prices being asked for each item. The Club **is not involved** with the sale of this equipment, so do not contact the Club for additional information. If you are interested in anything on the list, **contact Darlene Patterson directly. Again, the ACA is not involved with selling this equipment. Darlene Patterson is selling this equipment to settle Ruth Anderson's estate.**

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

Gala ACA Dinner: Sunday 3/16/08 at 7:30pm - Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, 2819 S Arlington Rd, Akron, OH 44312 330-645-9740. Approx \$10/person at the door.

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.

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OFFICERS 2007 – 2008

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OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

Activities Calendar

Club

Celestial

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

March 21, Full Moon

Mar. 29, Open House and Star Party and
Messier Marathon 8:00 pm

April 5, New Moon

April 5, Open House and Star Party 8:00 pm

April 20, Full Moon

April 25, ACA General Membership Meeting
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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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

On Wednesday, February 20th, ACA held a public star party to observe the lunar eclipse. Notwithstanding a freezing temperature of 8 F, seven club members and ten public attendees joined the event. Lou Snodgrass and Fred Huffman set up telescopes and binoculars for wide field views of the Moon. The eclipse started at 8:43 pm with totality at 10:00pm. The Moon displayed a reddish hue, although the deepness of the color varied significantly across its face. With the Moon in the Earth's shadow, stars could be seen skirting above the Moon's limb. One star of particular interest was TY 840 934, an optical double with the brighter component shining at magnitude 8.9. Although we could not resolve the pair, the stars seemed to dance just out of reach of the Moon. And then suddenly they disappeared, as the Moon continued its advance among the stars. We marked the exact time of the star's disappearance and later Dave Jessie used software to identify the star and its properties. The Moon wasn't the only celestial object we viewed. We had several requests for Saturn and The Great Orion Nebula. Saturn was near the Moon and its rings are currently just a few degrees from edge-on as viewed from Earth. The tilt of the rings will increase to a maximum of 10 degrees in May and then decrease to one degree by the end of the year.

M47, and M48. We then pointed the 14" telescope to the east to view Saturn. And Saturn received its usual exclamations with a few new ones. Saturn's moons Titan, Rhea, Tethys, and Dione were all on one side of the planet. Next, we observed The Great Orion Nebula. The 14" telescope displayed amazing detail of the nebula and it also received its usual exclamations. We then slewed the telescope to our featured celestial object, NGC 2392, the Eskimo Nebula, a dying star in the constellation Gemini, that is slowly blowing off its stellar atmosphere into space. About halfway through the observing list, Jennifer asked, "How long do you guys stay out here?" Our seasoned members must have cringed when I answered, "All night." I didn't realize at the time, but our seasoned members were freezing. We continued down the observing list with galaxies M81, M82, M77, NGC2903, and NGC1023. After observing the Double Cluster and open clusters NGC 1502 and NGC 2301, Jennifer threw in the towel and her boyfriend took her home. It was then I learned our two seasoned members were freezing but didn't want to leave before Jennifer left. Manly pride, I guess! We really had a good laugh about that!

Three observatory issues to note. During the heavy rains we experienced weeks ago, water entered the observatory un-

On March 1st, ACA held a scheduled public star party at our observatory. The skies were cloudy during the day. Breaks in the clouds started to show up by late afternoon and by 7:00pm the skies were cloudless. With the temperature at 23 F, only three club members and three non-club members attended the star party. The seeing conditions were good, as a high pressure system moving into the area pushed the relative humidity into the 40's. One public attendee was a high school junior named Jennifer, who was dressed in a skirt and high heel shoes, with no gloves and no hat. I didn't think she would last longer than 10 minutes as I was already hearing complaints about the cold from two of our seasoned members. So we started at the top of the observing list with open cluster NGC2244, followed by open clusters M46,

Treasurer's Report: 2/1/08 - 2/29/08	
Steve Rohweder, Treasurer	
Total Beginning Assets	\$8,721.27
Income	
Interest on balances	\$1.64
50/50 Drawing	\$12.00
Dues	\$30.00
Expenses	
Newsletter Expense	(\$9.00)
Total Ending Assets	\$8,755.91

Remember: ACA meeting is March 28!

(Continued from page 3)

der the north wall of the building as found by Fred Huffman. The plywood construction of the north wall absorbed water as well. Our long-term solution to this problem will be to set up the roof roll-off area concrete pad in a way that channels water away from the building. Our short-term solution is to install a plastic sheet at the base of the north wall to prevent water from entering the observatory. The second observatory issue is bearing noise coming from the opposite drive end of the roof roll-off motor. Our plan is to pull the motor and have the bearing replaced. We may have to send the motor to a motor shop since the bearing will need to be pressed onto the motor shaft. The shop repair price will determine whether we have the motor repaired or just purchase a new motor. The third issue is a problem with the 14" telescope. At our lunar eclipse party, the 14" telescope

refused to find a GPS fix. We initially convinced ourselves the low temperature (8 F) was the cause of the problem. The following week, I went out to the observatory to determine if the telescope would find a GPS fix when the temperature was 20 F. I allowed the telescope three attempts to find a GPS fix. Each time the telescope timed-out, failing to obtain GPS information. At our March 1st star party, the telescope also timed-out, failing to obtain GPS information. This is a problem, but not a show-stopper. After hand-entering the required information, the telescope performed flawlessly. GPS data will give better accuracy for finding celestial objects, but I couldn't discern a difference from the accuracy obtained by using the hand-entered information. The observatory staff will discuss a plan to resolve the GPS issue.

No Place Like Home

Last week I was in Tucson, AZ for work and a star party. For those who do not remember, two years ago I wrote, Scopeless in Tucson, lamenting not having a scope with such a dark sky. This year, Claudia Kretchmere and I coordinated a star party for my trade group with Tucson Astronomy Club (they do this on a fee basis). It was a cold night but I was fired up to see what this club would do. The sky was great, even with the hotel and pool lights, the Milky Way was splashed across the night sky. The scopes the Tucson club brought were an 8" (no dew shield—it froze) a bunch of

Nexstar 4 and a Meade ETX 90. There was one Vixen with the new Ethos eyepiece that gave some great views in Orion. It was a nice program but I wished our club was there. We should be proud of the quality of programs the ACA does along with the impressive variety of optical instruments. From binoculars, APO, dobs and goto scopes, our club does a great job of showing the sky with a variety of equipment and skill levels. A newcomer to astronomy gets a great introduction at our events. I look forward to this season of star parties even with the Akron Borealis.

John Shulan

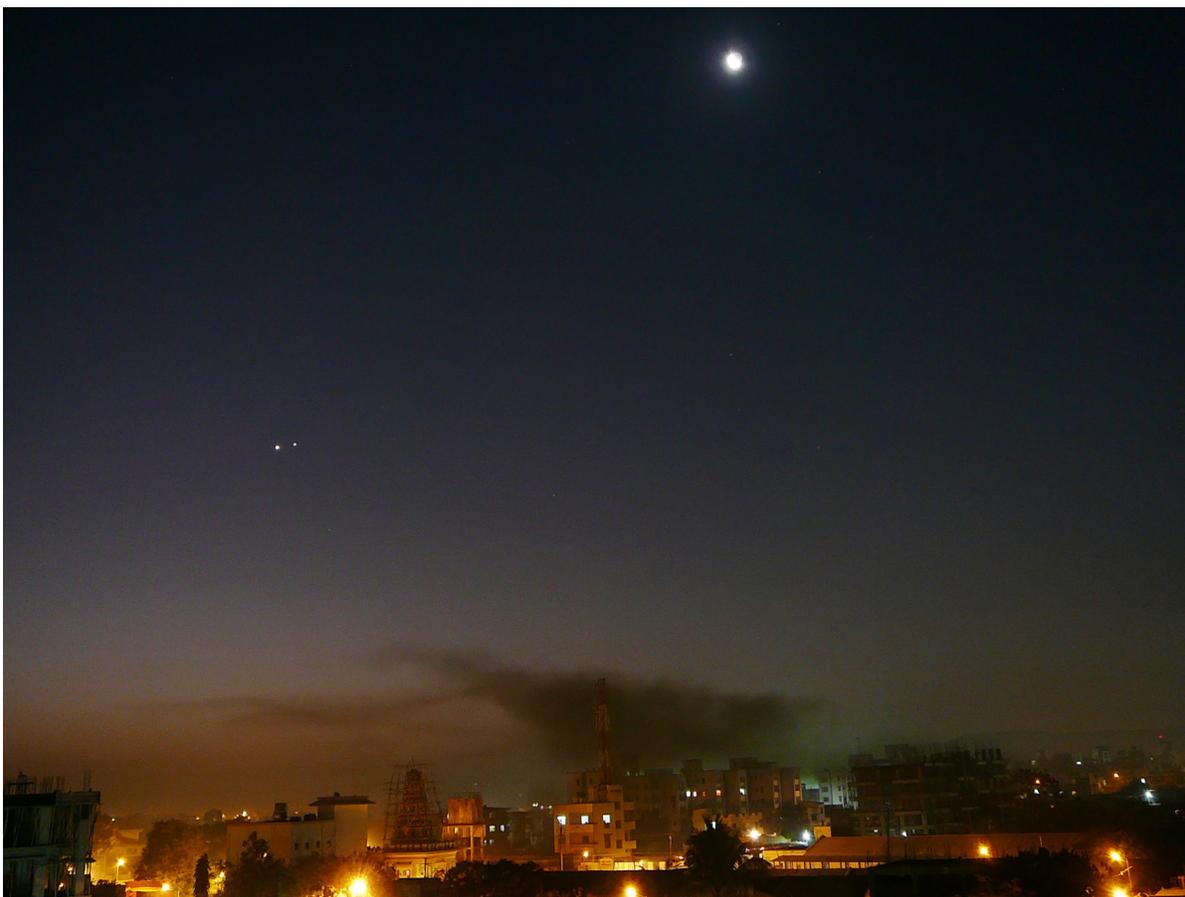


Photo of the Jupiter-Venus conjunction taken on February 1, 2008 from Pune, India by Anirudh Walvekar. The separation between the planets was 1/2 degree.

Dear Astronomy Club of Akron,

As friends of Jim Anderson's I thought you might appreciate hearing some updated news and I was hoping you may be of some help.

As most of you probably know, Jim died peacefully in his bed in January of 2006. At that time, his mother, Ruth Anderson, was left to care for herself. At 89 years of age, this would be difficult for the best of us, but Ruth did pretty well. No family members stepped forward to help after Jim's passing. My husband, Don, and I decided someone needed to do something to help her. After all, I'd grown up next door to the Andersons, so, basically, I've known them all of my 37 years. With the exception of two years around the time of my marriage, I remained Ruth's neighbor—even when we moved back on the other side of Ruth's house from where I had grown up.

In helping Ruth settle Jim's estate, we came upon a bunch of astronomy equipment that Ruth really had no use for, but didn't have the heart to sell because of the connection to Jim. Unfortunately, Ruth died on August 6,

2007. The astronomy equipment remains, however. This is where I'm hoping the Astronomy Club of Akron might be able to help us.

In trying to settle Ruth Anderson's estate, it has become necessary to sell Jim's astronomy equipment. Since Jim loved the Astronomy Club of Akron, it seemed only fitting to offer it to club members first. Some of you may have seen Jim use this equipment in the past and may have even used it yourselves. Everything is still in the condition Jim left it in. It's just been in storage until now.

Our goals are twofold: To help settle Jim's mother's estate and also to put the astronomy equipment into the hands of people who can use it.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact me either via e-mail at bigmac25@aol.com or by phone. (H) 330-928-5837 (C) 330-256-0015

Thank you.

Darlene Patterson

Meade 8" LX200 Classic – Made in USA - \$1,200
Including:

- Deluxe field tripod
- Scope-saver plate
- JMI hardshell case
- Baader solar filter
- Astro Zap aluminum dew shield
- Original shipping box
- Telrad finder
- Meade 8x50 finder
- Kendrick heater system
- Manual
- Bob's Knobs
- Electric focuser
- 80mm refractor – Vixen Brand – Made in Japan
- Meade electronic eyepiece
- 12 volt to 18 volt converter
- Williams optics (2) 2" mirror diagonal

Denkmeier II Binoviewers - \$600
with Optical Correction System
with 2" & 1 1/4" adapter
For DOB

~~Hardin Optical 10" DOB - \$250 Sold~~
~~Working Telrad finder~~
~~Parts Telrad finder~~
~~Crayford Focuser~~
~~9x50 Stellarvue finder~~

Celestron C90 1000mm lens telescope / camera w/ finder - \$100
Apogee 20x80 binoculars - \$150
Meade equatorial wedge - \$100
Orion Accutrack equatorial mount – Made in USA - \$50
Orion Shorty Barlow lens - \$25

Orion LaserMate Deluxe - \$30
~~Majestic Heavy Duty Tripod - \$50 Sold~~

Anti-vibration pads (3) - \$15
Kendrick dew remover system (8" dewcap) - \$30
Empty metal equipment case - \$10
Pelican Case - \$30
Battery Jump Pack (2) - \$25 each
Adjustable Chair - \$30

Meade Eyepieces – Series 4000 Plössl - \$25 each

32mm
20mm
15mm
12.4mm
6.4mm
Pair 13.8mm

(2) Tele Vue 19mm Panoptics - \$130 each
Tele Vue 2" Barlow - \$125
~~Tele Vue 9mm Nagler - \$100 Sold~~
Proxima 31mm eyepiece - \$50
GSO 42mm 2" eyepiece - \$40
Case of miscellaneous Orion & Meade camera astro adapters - \$300
Meade 90° Prism Diagonal - \$15

Filters

Astronomic OIII Filter 1 1/4" - \$50
Astronomic UHC Filter 1 1/4" - \$50
2" Orion Variable Polarizer & Moon Filter w/ case - \$15
Set of 2" Mirrored & various colored filters w/ case - \$80
Light Pollution filter, (4) colored filters, & variable polarizer moon filter - \$90

No reasonable offer refused

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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.