



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 30 Number 4

April 2008

RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by *Dave Jessie*

I write this article with mixed emotions: I find it awfully difficult to accept that I've been writing this 'Ramblings of the President' column for four years now. It's been a lot of fun, but all things come to an end. I've had a great deal of help from the Board and I'm proud of our accomplishments. I believe we have a much more family-friendly atmosphere at our public events than in the past and that's the change for which I'm most happy. We have a great Club and I'll be thrilled to be a member under our new administration - and I'm sure you will be also.

Our Ten Year Lease with the State of Ohio: Sorry, still nothing to report. The situation remains precisely as it was when I wrote about this for last month's newsletter, and the one before that. 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. More to follow...

ACA Elections are HERE! - Nominations officially closed at the end of our last meeting, but one position (possibly two) are currently open (see below). 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, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer or Newsletter Editor and then contact one of the three Nominating Committee members and let them know your intentions ASAP.

Our Nominating Committee members are:

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

To the best of my knowledge, these are our nominations:

President.....Glenn Cameron
Vice President.....Gary Smith
Secretary.....John Phillips (not a firm commitment)
TreasurerSteve Rohweder
Assistant Sec/TreasurerRosaelena Vil-laseñor
Newsletter Editor.....OPEN - No one has volunteered (no Editor, no Newsletter!)

Messier Marathon - I have a feeling that Ron will be writing a report of this year's first attempt at our annual marathon, but I wanted to include my own thoughts on it. It was great! The weather was cold and damp and the sky was pretty awful. Nobody got the minimum requirement of M-objects to receive the prizes generously offered by Ron; although John Shulan came awfully close to that first-place prize in the computer-assisted observing category. Given the weather conditions, how could it have been great? In short, the People. Many Club members came out, set up equipment and gave it all they had. We laughed a lot and helped each other to the best of our abilities. Ron has rescheduled the event so we can try again. John Shulan's hot chili was a tremendous addition to the night and was much appreciated by all. The sky totally socked-in by midnight and we all gave up the chase.

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OFFICERS 2007 – 2008

President		
Dave Jessie	330-688-9043	djessie@neo.rr.com
Vice President		
John Crilly	330-334-6668	jcilly@neo.rr.com
Treasurer		
Steve Rohweder	330-896-2849	srohwerd@neo.rr.com
Secretary		
John Phillips	330-784-7922	jphillips1@neo.rr.com
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer		
Rosaelena Villaseñor		revillasenor@hotmail.com
Observatory Director		
Ron Kalinoski	330-837-5848	jones_ronbo@worldnet.att.net
ACA Webmaster		
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Justin Phillips	330-784-7922	phillipsaca@gmail.com
Trustee (term through 2008)		
Freddy Huffman	330-535-8009	atmos@netzero.com
Trustee (term through 2009)		
Tom Mino	330-923-7704	tjmino@neo.rr.com
Trustee (term through 2010)		
Ray Hyer	330-784-3970	rhyer@neo.rr.com
Statutory Agent		
Mark Kochheiser	330-882-3713	mkochheiser@neo.rr.com
OTAA Representative		
Lou Poda		

Activities Calendar

Club

Celestial

April 25, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm	April 20, Full Moon
April 26, Open House and Star Party 8:00 pm	April 21-22, Lyrid Meteor Shower
May 3, Open House and Star Party 8:30 pm	May 5, New Moon
May 23, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm	May 5-6, Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower
	May 19, Full 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)

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

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 - Our speaker will be Phil Hoyle from the Wilderness Center. His talk will be on "**Basics of Astrophotography**" and you won't want to miss this one. Don't forget, it's **time to renew your membership!** Also, **ACA elections will 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 March 29th, ACA held a public star party at the observatory. The skies started out marginal, but increased in quality as twilight turned to night. We postponed Fred Huffman's presentation on Constellations, but our scheduled Messier Marathon continued as many members arrived early to set-up their equipment. Dobsonians, refractors, Matsutovs, Schmidt-Cassegrains, equatorial mounts, clock drives, and computer controls, all unloaded and assembled for the night's event. No cameras unpacked; this was an observing program where a good plan and skill at navigating the night sky was essential. John Shulan started us off right by firing up his 60-cup coffee maker and large crock-pot of homemade chili. We did have some public attendees. They must have been astonished by the enthusiasm of our club members who worked their way through the sky in sub-freezing temperatures. The rhythmic sounds of Bach, Mozart, and Vivaldi rolled across the observatory grounds to provide the right atmosphere for observing the stars. We changed the format for this year's marathon. For some friendly competition, we added 1st and 2nd place prizes for observers recording the most observations above a mini-

mum required number. Observers were divided into two groups: computer-aided and manual telescope. Separate prizes were available for each group. To qualify for the prizes, observers were required to write a brief description for each Messier object they observed. Writing descriptions of celestial objects follows a task practiced by a long list of historic astronomers including Messier, Herschel, and Parsons. This exercise hones one's ability to extract fine detail at the eyepiece, often not re-

Treasurer's Report: 3/1/08 - 3/31/08	
Steve Rohweder, Treasurer	
Total Beginning Assets	\$8,755.91
Income	
Interest on balances	\$1.75
Dues	\$30.00
Expenses	
Newsletter Expense	(\$9.00)
Insurance	(\$789.00)
Total Ending Assets	\$7,989.66

producible in photographs. Dave Feltner counted 19 members at the event. Some of the members participating in the marathon were Christina and Andy Marek, field testing their new telescope, Tom Alexander, Jerry Unroe, Steve Rohweder, Terry Gleason, Ken Kear, Lew Snodgrass, Dave Jessie, and Rosaelena Villasenor. One member missing from the event was Jeff Kreidler due to illness. Jeff constructed an intricate working model of the night sky he planned to use at the marathon to map out the most efficient route across the celestial sphere. Jeff presented his model to the mem-

bership at our March 28th meeting. Well Jeff, it looks like you may get another chance to use your model. Clouds moved in around midnight before anyone reached the minimum required number of observations. John Shulan was closing in on the minimum when clouds obscured number 46. The only thing left to do at that point was head for another cup of good coffee! We plan on rescheduling the Messier Marathon for April 26th or May 3rd. Thanks to Dave Feltner, Gary Smith, Lou Poda, and Ray Hyer for helping to run the observatory during the marathon.

Final Words from the Veep

John Crilly

It's that time again; the April newsletter deadline is fast approaching. It's election time at the Club so we can look forward to some new officers taking charge of things very soon; this will be my last article as "the veep". I'll offer my support to the new crew, and will be glad to help them in any way to get going in their new positions. I won't be there for the election, though – it conflicts with the North East Astronomy Forum in New York and I have obligations there I can't easily escape.

I want to thank the Club and its members for the opportunity to serve for the last several years. It's been both fun and challenging, and I look forward to many more years of association with the Club. I know I haven't recently been as regular a visitor to the Club site as in the past, primarily due to a conflict of interest between spending what time I can in the observatory here grabbing images and spending time meet-

ing with friends at Portage Lakes. I'll continue to make the Club a priority and will get out to the site as frequently as I can manage.

Imaging has been a terrific ride for me. I've gone through a bewildering array of cameras, optical tube configurations, software, and mounts within a few short years. I think things are going to stabilize for now; I'm not likely to ever invest in anything better than what's on hand so I plan to stick with this setup for a while. I recommend it to anyone who is considering giving it a try. I'll provide advice to any who request it; chances are I've used something similar to whatever you may be using or thinking of. Those who fear the attempt due to light pollution at their locations can take heart; I've not seen a worse site than mine and I have a ball imaging from here.

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

Ron Brooks

We are thrilled to have you with us and look forward to seeing you at ALL club functions!

Note: We currently have 95 members!

**Remember: ACA meeting
is April 25!**

**Make sure you come, It's
election time! And please,
somebody run for newslet-
ter editor!**

Core of Omega Centauri from the Hubble Space Telescope



<http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/releases/2008/14/> Credit: NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)
Acknowledgment: A. Cool (San Francisco State University) and J. Anderson (STScI)

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
(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.