



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 30 Number 6

June 2008

RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by Glenn R. Cameron

Hi all.

Hi all. It's a new and busy summer for the club. We have plenty of star parties and outreach programs to keep us busy.

But even though September is a ways off, we already have a very important item on the agenda for our next business meeting. Our treasurer, Steve Rohweder, has been offered a job transfer that sounds very exciting. He hinted at it by giving the longitude and latitude of where he will be moving. Dave Jessie translated those coordinates to Luxembourg! Wow! Way to go, Steve! We will miss you and you're welcome back, if or when you move back from across "the pond." You're certainly welcome to continue to support the club from afar.

So, we will need to hold a supplementary election in September, to elect a new treasurer. Please let me know if you have a nomination or wish to run for the office yourself. In the mean time, with the approval of the board, and with the oversight of the trustees, I will be filling in.

With that in mind, if you haven't yet paid your 2008 membership dues, please do so soon. You may mail a check, made out to the Astronomy Club of Akron, to me at 8019 Glendevan St NW, Massillon, OH 44646. If you prefer, you may pay cash to me or to the assistant secretary/treasurer, Rosaelena Villaseñor. Be sure to get a receipt. Finally, we have a new payment option to offer. If you want to pay online and you have a PayPal account, you can send payment to paypal@acaoh.org. We have joined the 21st Century! Keep in mind, that with PayPal there is a fee of 2.9% plus 30 cents for a transaction that the club receives via PayPal. For example, the dues for an adult membership is \$30. If you find it most convenient to pay via PayPal, you need to send \$30, plus 2.9% of \$30 (which is 87 cents), plus 30 cents, for a grand total of \$31.17. It's up to you whether the \$1.17 is worth the trade off of an envelope, addressing the envelope, stamping the envelope, and mailing the envelope. It's way cooler to use PayPal!

Another reason that the club can benefit from a service like PayPal is that it is a new way to receive donations. I will update the club website with the PayPal information which gives donors another way to help the club. Additionally, if I want to

sell something via eBay, I may opt to have the proceeds sent to the club's PayPal account. I get rid of my old junk and I do some good for the club. Donors may decide that this is useful way of helping the club too. The club will issue a letter to the donor, acknowledging the donation so that the donor may claim it on his or her tax return.

So, go forth and talk up the club, its mission, and ways we can be supported.

Don't forget, it's **time to renew your membership!**

Upcoming Events

ACA

Star Party, Galaxies- Sat., July 5, 9:00 PM

Solar & Lunar Hotdog Roast Saturday July 12th starting at 6:00pm

OTAA

Here are dates for the various OTAA conventions going on in NE Ohio this summer (2008):

CAA	July 26 Letha House
MVAS	Aug 2 Mahoning Valley Cortese Observatory
BRAS	Sep 6 Strawberry Mountain

Two more public nights at Scenic Vista this year: July 5 and Sept. 27.

OFFICERS 2007 – 2008

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OTAA Representative		
Lou Poda		

Activities Calendar

Club	,Celestial:
July 5, Star Party, Star Atlases, 9:00 PM	July 2- New Moon
July 12, Solar/Lunar Viewing and Hot Dog Roast, 6:00 PM	Jupiter rising in the east at Sunset
July 26, Star Party, Nebulae, 9:00 PM	July 18, Full Moon
	July 29- Southern delta Aquarids Meteor Shower

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

On Astronomy Day May 10th, ACA held a public star party at the observatory. Seven members and three public attendees joined the event. This star party featured a tour through the solar system. First up was a five day old Moon. Even before sunset, the 14 inch telescope showed impressive detail of the lunar surface. At twilight, Mercury was in the field of view and appeared as a tiny first quarter moon. Lew Snodgrass was able to locate Mercury with binoculars and as darkness increased we were able to spot Mercury by naked eye. Mercury was four days from greatest elongation and this was the best viewing of Mercury for 2008. Saturn was the showstopper, as we all took repeated looks through the eyepiece at the giant gas planet and its family of moons. Mars completed the solar system tour and appeared as a small orange featureless disk set amid some scattered background stars.

May 24th was the date for our Annual Telescope Seminar. A large high pressure system was sitting directly over Ohio at star party time providing clear skies. Dave Jessie, John Crilly and I explained the design and operation of refractor, reflector, and compound telescopes and binoculars to a crowd of about twenty public attendees. After the seminar with the Moon out of the sky and good seeing conditions, fifteen of our members were able to demonstrate to the public the performance of each type of telescope on planets and deep sky objects.

Our annual Solar & Lunar Hotdog Roast and star party was scheduled for June 7th starting at 6:00pm. The skies were cloudy all day and NOAA forecasted thunderstorms for the afternoon and evening. Taking the sky conditions and forecast into account, I cancelled the Hotdog Roast. I would rather not take a chance on having someone get hit by lightning. One of our longtime members once told me a story about a star party when Bud Beale almost got hit by lightning. I occasionally think about that story and wonder if that is the reason why Bud's hair always stands straight up. Well, maybe. Clouds were forecasted to dissipate slowly and we still held out hope of having our star party. By 7:30pm the satellite image showed a little promise of possible clearing and the local news forecast decreased the chance of thunderstorms. I decided to open the observatory at 9:00pm for anyone wanting to observe the night sky. I really didn't expect any members to show up for the star party considering the sky conditions and no members did show up; however, to my surprise, the pub-

lic slowly starting arriving at the observatory and by 9:30pm, the observatory was filled with 30 public attendees ranging from children to senior citizens. These people wanted to see stars! I really couldn't believe it. The clouds did dissipate and clear skies prevailed. The Moon opened the show and many first time observers were astonished at what they saw. It was fun to listen to their expressions. We slewed to Saturn and the expressions increased in intensity. I could hardly field all the questions this group asked. As night continued, we slewed the telescope to the east to view M13. With the Moon to our back, the globular cluster looked beautiful. Mars, M57, and the Ghost of Jupiter all got their chance in the eyepiece. A view of Vega was requested by a young man who wanted to see the star Jodie Foster traveled to in Carl Sagan's novel turned movie - **Contact**. It was after 11pm when the last of the public observers called it a night. It turned out to be a pretty exciting night. We will reschedule our Solar & Lunar Hotdog Roast in July.

The deadline for article submission is **the second Tuesday of the month**. 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: Tom Alexander, 270 Harmony Hills Dr. Akron Ohio 44321 email: hana_aloha@hotmail.com

Photos from the May Meeting

*Photos of Jim Watson and Glenn
Cameron By Justin Phillips*



J



Editor's Corner!

We do apologize to the group for the late delivery of the June newsletter. We are still learning our ways and will strive for more timely publication in the future!

We would like to put together a list of equipment that members either own or with which they have experience. This could be put into a database that we all could access to obtain opinions, or demos from members. We are certainly fortunate to have an equipment expert, past VP John Crilly in our club, but I would like to expand the list of people willing to discuss different scopes, binoculars and accessories. Please email (hana_aloha@hotmail.com) with your equipment availability and/or expertise. We will compile the list and include the info in a future newsletter

Clear Skies

Leigh and Tom

Treasurer's Report: 5/1/08 - 5/31/08

Steve Rohweder, Treasurer

Total Beginning Assets	\$8021.03
Income	
Interest on balances	\$1.25
Dues	\$170.00
Expenses	
None Reported	
Total Ending Assets	\$8192.28

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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Tom/Leigh Alexander, Editors

270 Harmony Hills Dr

Akron, OH 44321-1111

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.