



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

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October/November 2008

RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by Glenn R. Cameron

Hello once again all you stargazing clubbers. I continue to wish many pulchritudinous night views to you.

I am very grateful to Lew Snodgrass for agreeing to be the club's new treasurer and to the membership that voted unanimously to approve his election in last month's business meeting. This will be a great relief to my already very busy life.

This past month has seen a lot of progress on the project to lay a brick patio under the roof roll-off area at the observatory. There have been several Saturdays and even a Monday where club members have volunteered to work on this project. Unfortunately, more help would have been even better. Please try to make a point of coming out and helping when the call goes out. My hat is off to Ron Kalinoski for his continued great work in keeping the observatory maintained, in managing the brick patio project, and in his continued dedication to host the observatory at our many star parties throughout the year. I also want to thank all those who have helped Ron in the observatory upkeep and with the patio project. My warmest advanced thanks go out to all of you who will come out and help at future work days at the observatory.

The ACA donated \$225.00 to the annual Kiwanis Rose Remembrance Day last month. This is always appreciated by our generous donor of our monthly meeting place.

Astronomy in the news:

The Hubble Space Telescope broke and got fixed again. Too bad the repair mission got delayed from this month to next February. It's good to know that

we may still be using the Hubble for another few years.

India has launched a lunar probe! The race to the moon is heating up.

China is aiming to put a man on the moon by 2020. We need to get on the ball.

And this one isn't about astronomy but it blows my mind. There is a new way to convert waste heat to sound and then to electricity. Wow! This could be in use within two years and could replace photovoltaic cells.

Outreach requests:

- Minerva Public Library would like a speaker some time in 2009 as part of an astronomy exhibit they are planning for the International Year of Astronomy.
- The Akron Audubon Society would like a speaker on the subject of light pollution at one of their monthly meetings.
- A 5th grade science class in Coventry would like a presentation about solar system astronomy basics.

Please let me know if any of you can help out with any of these outreach requests.

I've rambled on long enough. Please let me know how I can help you to help me keep our club great!

ACA Membership Meeting!!!!

Friday Nov, 21, Kiwanis Hall. 8:00 PM

Roy Kaelin, Cleveland Museum of Natural History will present "What's Up with the Moon?"

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OTAA Representative		
Lou Poda		

Activities Calendar

Club	,Celestial:
November 21- Membership Meeting, Kiwanis Hall, 8:00 PM Roy Kaelin will speak on "What's Up with the Moon?" See speaker info on p. 4 of this Newsletter	Jupiter and Venus in the southwest at Sunset Saturn overhead at sunrise
November 22- Star Party, Observatory, The Blue Snowball , 6:30 PM	November 12- Full moon Leonid meteor shower- Nov. 17
December 6- Star Party, Observatory, The Moon! 6:30 PM	November 27 New moon December 12- Full moon
December 20-, Star Party, Observatory, Venus ; the best viewing of Venus during this apparition, 6:30 PM	Geminid meteor shower- Dec. 14 Ursid meteor shower- Dec. 22
	December 27- New moon Quadrantid meteor shower- Jan. 3
	January 10- Full moon

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

We continued to work on the brick pad installation on 9/20, 9/27, and 10/4. After surveying the area, we realized we needed to remove another 2-3 inches of soil from the pad site. Fortunately, park maintenance supervisor Jerry Davenport let us borrow the state park's John Deere Gator to haul the soil away from the pad area. The combination of John Phillips' tiller to loosen the soil and the state park's tractor to haul it away greatly improved the speed of soil removal. We touched up the site to accommodate 3.5 inches of #57 limestone, 1.5 inches of crushed limestone and the Belden bricks. John Phillips led the effort to replace the baseboard on the north wall of the observatory. The siding behind the baseboard was in poor condition due to inadequate drainage of storm water. We removed about ten inches of the siding and installed the new baseboard. John installed a 2x4 board 16 feet long inside the observatory building to lock the siding and the baseboard together. We received a load of 5.5 tons of limestone from Ohio Beauty Cut Stone and loaded it onto the pad area to serve as part of the base. Thanks to all the members who have helped out these past weekends including, John Phillips, Rob Watkins, Mark Kochheiser, Ray Hyer, Nick Mihiylov, Pat Phillips, Justin Phillips, Glenn Cameron, Barry Ganoe, Fred Huffman, and Cathy Laboda.

Jim Watson started off our September 20th star party with a presentation on Radio Astronomy. In addition to a lecture on the history of radio astronomy, Jim set up one of his radio telescopes and aimed it at the radio galaxy Cygnus A. Data from the radio telescope was recorded on a strip chart recorder. Exact pointing of the telescope is crucial for receiving a signal. We must have been off alignment with the radio galaxy as we did not record its signal on the strip chart recorder. Jim did record other radio signals coming from radio sources and these signals were displayed on the strip chart recorder for the public to view. After Jim's presentation, our star party got underway and attendees were treated to clear and transparent skies with wisps of the Milky Way being visible. Lou Poda reported an International Space Sta-

tion (ISS) pass almost directly overhead during the 9 o'clock hour followed by a pass of the Jules Verne ATV (Automated Transfer Vehicle) twenty minutes later at the same trajectory.

The Jules Verne ATV is an unmanned space cargo vehicle developed by the European Space Agency (ESA). The Jules Verne ATV has docked with the ISS several times and has even been used to boost ISS to a new orbit.

At our October 4th star party, I gave a presentation on Globular Clusters. The star party had good attendance of members and public. Sky conditions were excellent. We observed many globular clusters, open clusters, planetary nebulae, and double stars.

Lou Poda reported another pass of the ISS.

This pass had a northwest to northeast trajectory and reached a maximum elevation of about 30 degrees.

Glenn Cameron started off our October 18th star party with a presentation on Double Stars. Notwithstanding heavy cloud cover during the day, the skies at star party time were clear with good seeing. We viewed many of the double stars Glenn showed the public and members during his presentation. The 14" telescope was plagued with power supply problems and required re-alignment a few times during the star party. The 12VDC connector appears to be the source of the problems.

And yes, we got the bricks moved into the observatory building. On our second attempt, Barry Ganoe, Jason Shinn, John Phillips, Lou Poda, Ian Cameron, Glenn Cameron, Mark Kochheiser, and Rob Watkins moved two cubes of brick in about 30 minutes. Thanks Barry for supplying the group with high friction gloves to get the job completed safely.

ACA Meeting November 21

Roy Kaelin, manager of astronomy education at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will present a PowerPoint presentation titled:

“What’s Up with the Moon?”

Abstract:

Since the last of the Apollo missions successfully explored the Moon more than thirty-five years ago, we haven’t been back there to visit in person. Since then, though, unmanned spacecraft have explored the Moon, and, more recently, several nations are contemplating piloted missions to the Moon. In the interim, astronomers and engineers are re-evaluating some of the original Apollo observations and subsequent visual data about the Moon in light of accumulating reports that our nearest neighbor in outer space may still hold a few celestial secrets. For example, just what causes peculiar changes in light and shadow observed on the Moon? Are these phenomena for real? Do they pose a threat to future visits to the Moon? Pertinent observations and data are presented for you to answer these questions for yourself.

Bio Sketch:

Roy Kaelin (B.S., Geology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1978; M.B.A., Iowa State University, 1984) brings to The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) a background of teaching astronomy and other natural sciences at Loyola and DePaul universities and valuable administrative and sky-show experience from his years at Chicago’s Adler Planetarium.

As Manager of Astronomy Education at CMNH, Roy joined the Astronomy Department at the start of 2007 to head up efforts to augment its educational offerings in astronomy, to enhance the production of sky shows presented at its Shafran Planetarium, and to establish a steady program of observation and imaging from its Mueller Observatory. Roy

also conducts an astronomy seminar at Case Western Reserve University.

Roy is an active member and an elected Fellow of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association, a member of the Cleveland Regional Association of Planetariums, a member of the governing board of the Cleveland Astronomical Society, and is also a sustaining member of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers.

A native of Illinois, Roy enjoys encouraging his astronomy students to appreciate the splendors of the night sky from Midwestern locales. Too, he’s written popular and scientific articles on observational astronomy, telescope construction, and planet classification. He is also the author of *The Star Machine and Other Tales*, a collection of science fiction stories released in 2005.

Treasurer's Report: 9/1/08 - 10/31/08

Glenn Cameron, Acting Treasurer

Total Beginning Assets	\$10,051.19
Income	
Interest on balances	\$2.46
Dues and 50/50 income	\$213.71
Total Kiwanis Rose Sales (paid by members)	\$225.00
Total 50/50 income	\$12.00
Expenses	
Newsletter (printing/ mailing)	\$69.00
Total Kiwanis Rose Sales (paid to Kiwanis)	\$225.00
Dues pro-rating	\$13.33
Total Ending Assets	\$10,185.03

Editor's Corner

It's never easy to admit that you haven't lived up to expectations, but your editors have not been as timely with the publication of the Newsletter as we, or you, would have liked. However we are determined to distribute a high quality Night Sky **on time** during 2009. We will do our part, but we do need articles, photos, and any other commentary from the membership submitted to us for publication.

The Board has decided on a fixed deadline for material submissions and publication for the Night Sky. Thus, all articles or other material for publication must be in our hands by the **6th** of the month of publication. The Newsletter will be sent out by email by the **13th** of each month. Mailed hard copies will be sent out as soon as possible after that date, should the Board decide to continue that practice.

We would like to revisit a goal we had in the July Newsletter and that is to assemble a list of equipment that members in the club own or have direct experience with. We are often asked about our setups at Star Parties and asked for opinions on various instrument and accessories. Having a reference list of individuals willing to discuss their equipment with others would be of great benefit to prospective members or current members looking to add to their collection. Those interested can forward the info to us at hana_aloha@hotmail.com.

Happy Holidays and Clear Skies to all!

Tom and Leigh

New Submission Guidelines:

The deadline for article submission is **6th of the month**. There will be no December Newsletter, thus the next deadline is January 6th. 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, we will 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

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Tom/Leigh Alexander, Editors

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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 Glenn Cameron

8019 Glendevan St. NW

Massillon, OH 44646

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.