



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 31 Number 3

March, 2009

Ramblings of the President

By Glenn Cameron

Hello fellow ACA members. I would like to remind everyone about our free raffle to club members in good standing. We have two Orion 90mm refractors that will be raffled to the membership. Each member that attends a monthly business meeting will receive one free ticket. Each member that attends a star party will also receive one free ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased by club members for \$5.00 each. The drawings for these two fine portable telescopes will be held on June 27th at our annual Solar & Lunar program and hot dog roast. So come on out and support your club! Unfortunately I missed my first two opportunities to get my free tickets. Work obligations prevented me from attending our last club meeting and star party.

And now from the "Blast from the Past" department, I would like to recognize a former ACA member. Jimmy Wood is turning 90 on March 10th. His son Don forwarded me some pictures and newsletters of his father's past ACA membership. Jimmy was instrumental in securing a permanent meeting place for the club back in the 90s. Jimmy also helped to build our Observatory in Portage Lakes State Park. I have posted a copy of the April 1993 newsletter on our web site. Thank you Jimmy, for your past and future friendship and membership.

Figure 1-From the April 1993 Newsletter



Figure 2-Jimmy Wood framing in the observatory



Outreach requests (I haven't heard from anyone on these 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.

Crown Point Ecology Center is planning a labyrinth walk the evening of April 9th at 7:30pm. We would welcome some telescopes for stargazing after the walk. A group walk typically takes 45 min to an hour. You could join us for the walk or come around 8 or 8:15. For questions contact Marguerite at Crown Point at 33-667-7882 or mchandler@crownpnt.org.

Don't forget, 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy. Let us go out and spread the astronomical word!

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Lou Poda		

Activities Calendar

,Celestial:

Club

Sat., March 21- Messier Marathon, Observatory, 8:00 PM Inclement weather date- March 28. Speaking of inclement weather, be sure to check out the March speaker info below and on page 5!

ACA Membership Meeting!!!!
Friday March 27, 2009, Kiwanis Hall.8:00 PM
Phil Creed will speak on “Weather or Not!”
 See speaker info on p. 5 of this Newsletter

Friday, June 5 - Camp CHOPS at Camp Christopher

Friday, June 12 - Camp WUNDERLUNG at Camp Christopher

March 20, Vernal Equinox @ 11:45 UT (:45 EDT)

March 26– New Moon

March 27-Venus reaches inferior conjunction with the sun and passes into the morning sky.

March 15-31- Comet Lulin passes through Gemini For finder chart, see <http://www.cometchasing.skyhound.com/>

April 9- Full Moon

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

On February 28th, ACA held a public star party and outreach program for the Cub Scouts of Pack 3158. The skies were cloudy at star party time; however, we got together anyway to talk about stars. About 20 people showed up for the event including seven Cub Scouts. The star party presentation was called Introduction to Astronomy and discussed constellations, star formation, the size of the Universe, and Mt. Wilson Observatory. Thanks to Ray Hyer, Lew Snodgrass, and Fred Huffman for helping to setup the presentation and answer questions by star party attendees.

It's that time again, time for our Messier Marathon! For a period of a few weeks around Vernal Equinox, it is possible to view all 110 Messier objects during a single night. This is a good opportunity for observers to test their celestial object finding skills: star hopping, right angle sweep, and the use of setting circles. Last year we had a great time with very good membership turnout. John Shulan's home-cooked chili kept the members warm while they logged one Messier object after another. John plans to cook up another pot of chili for this year's event. And the observatory coffee pot will be working overtime to provide members with a perfect cup of coffee. So, will Dave Steele's re-engineered 13" Dobsonian be ready for the marathon? Will Rob Watkins have the observatory 5" refractor rebuilt to observe the spiral galaxies in Virgo? Will Tom Alexander choose manual or computer-aided telescope class this year? Will Jeff Kreidler finally be able to use his home constructed Messier Marathon route finder? And will Dave Jessie's 12" Schmidt Cassegrain fit inside Rosaelena's new car or will Dave be forced to haul the telescope from Stow to the observatory with his lawn tractor? We'll find out! The date of our Messier Marathon will be March 21st, one day after Vernal Equinox with Moonrise not until 4:58am. Our make-up Messier Marathon date will be March 28th, two days after New Moon. This year we will encourage some friendly competition by offering a first place prize to the observer logging the most Messier objects. There will be two observing classes, manual telescope and computer-aided telescope. First place prize winners will need to log at least the class minimum number of Messier objects. The class minimum numbers for manual and computer-aided telescopes are 25 and 35 objects, respectively. The first place prize will be a year's subscription to Sky & Telescope Magazine paid through the observatory budget's miscellaneous fund as we discussed at our February club meeting. Second place finishers will receive a Messier Marathon Observing Certificate. So please come out to the observatory for our Messier Marathon event. Whether you want to compete, watch,

causally observe the night sky, or try John's chili, we'll have a great time.

If you have looked at our 2009 Observatory Schedule, you have noticed some changes in the timing of our star party presentations. In past years, star party presentations started in March and continued until November. This year our presentations start in May and continue until the middle of September. I decided to implement this change to maximize the number of star party attendees for each presentation. The colder temperatures of March, April, and October generally result in lower public attendance. Star party presenters dedicate a great deal of time to create presentations and I want their effort to match the benefit received by star party attendees. If you would like to present one of the topics listed on our 2009 schedule, please contact me. The presentations should be between 20 and 30 minutes in duration. This timeframe works in coordination with star party and telescope observing start times to allow maximum informational and observing pleasure for our public attendees.

Special Thanks to Lou Poda for donating *Observer's Handbook 2009* and *The Old Farmer's 2009 Almanac*. Hey Lou, maybe we'll be able to find Pluto this year with the detailed star map provided in *Observer's Handbook 2009*.

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance, 2/1/2009=	\$ 8695.66
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Income

50/50 Drawing	\$40.00
Bank Interest	\$1.13
Magazine subscription paid to ACA	\$34.00
Total income	\$75.13

Expenses

Raffle Tickets	\$7.44
Speaker Dinner	\$11.70
Total Expense	\$19.14
Closing Balance, 1/31/2009	8751.65
Savings total	\$5914.58

Scopeless is Tucson, Part Three

By John Shulan

Back in Tucson again for work and a star party. This year the weather co-operated and the Starizona Astronomy Store brought out three great scopes. Unlike the group from the previous year, Starizona brought out a 14" Celestron, 10" Mead, and a 9.5" Celestron cat scopes. Of the 250 guest at the business event, about 100 people stayed out four hours enjoying the program these fellow astronomers presented. They were also very knowledgeable and I learned a lot.

First of all, a warm up for the evening, my group had Dr. Chow speak at the breakfast seminar. Dr. Chow flew the space shuttle three times and was Captain of the space station for six months. Dr. Chow shared his experiences and also told us about the Russian program. He was in the spaced station when the shuttles were grounded; hence he flew via the Russian program. Of the many interesting facts, the Russians have every cosmonaut (including Americans who fly Soyuz) plant a tree when they return from space. There is a boulevard near the cosmodrome lined with these trees.



Astronaut Dr. Chow and yours truly

Back to astronomy! Starizona has perfected the Celestron concept of the Faststar. The Starizona version is called Hyperstar. It easily converts the F-10 scopes of Mead and Celestron to F2!! I was shown photo's taken with a CPC-.8 and what they did with ten 20 second stacked pictures look like many hours on other set-ups. No guide scope, no wedge, no focal reducers, no exposures over 30 seconds. They also have a computer driven automatic motofocus for these scopes when using the Hyperstar. For those interested in deep space photography, I highly recommend checking out Starizon.com and the Hyperstar set up.

ONE last big astronomy tip from Starizona. Celestron cat. Scopes should NOT be stored with the tube pointing down. Celestron has been putting too much lubricant in the focus mechanism and a hot day will get it dripping onto your corrector plate. I have one small gob of the stuff on my plate and now I know where it came from!

Has it stopped snowing yet?

Sincerely,

John Shulan

The ACA would like to extend a warm welcome **Robert Shultz** to membership!
We are thrilled to have you with us and look forward to seeing you at ALL club functions!

March Meeting!!!!!!!!!!!! Friday, March 27th,

Speaker- Phil Creed

Talk Title- "Weather or Not"

Abstract: Weather presents the most difficult challenge for the Ohio stargazer. "Weather or Not" is for those that have wondering exactly just how good (or not) Ohio's weather prospects are, where the greatest challenges lie, and how to approach dealing with them. The presentation will include a discussion on cloud climatology, transparency, seeing, and the importance of proper site selection.

Bio:

Phil Creed has been a member of the Wilderness Center Astronomy Club, the Astronomy Club of Akron and the Columbus Astronomical Society. He was seen over 50 comets in his lifetime and is a frequent visitor to dark-sky sites in Ohio and West Virginia. In addition, Phil has done presentations at the Hidden Hollow, EPOCH and Black Forest Star Parties.

Due to the length of some drives to remote spots, Phil has had a keen interest in meteorology, especially cloud climatology and the effects of haze on deep-sky observing. Phil's article on the latter subject, "Clear (er) Skies Ahead" appeared in the August 2008 edition of "Sky & Telescope" and was based on a talk given at the ACA in January 2007.

Magazine Subscriptions

Our treasurer Lew Snodgrass is now collecting money for Astronomy and Sky & Telescope magazines; the cost is \$34.00 and \$32.95 respectively for a one year subscription; these prices are good for new or renewal subscriptions.

Make out checks to The Astronomy Club Of Akron and may be mailed to Lew at: 1865 Stabler Rd. Akron, Ohio 44313.

Classified- For Sale:

Like new in boxes Televue Nagler Eyepieces:

27mm Panoptic \$280

20 mm Type 5 \$380

16mm Type 5 \$280

Contact email address at : nmihiylov@aol.com

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

The deadline for article submission is **6th 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, we will get it published.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES to hana_aloha@hotmail.com!!!!

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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Tom/Leigh Alexander, Editors

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For Club information, please visit our website: www.acao.org. Astronomy Club of Akron annual memberships renew in the month of May.

To join the ACA, **or to renew your membership**, please fill out the form below, place in an envelope and mail to:

Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer, Astronomy Club of Akron
1865 Stabler Rd
Akron, OH 44313-6124

Yes! I want to become a member of the Astronomy Club of Akron
(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please be sure to enclose payment for the membership level desired.

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 sent by email to , but I would rather have a B&W version mailed to my address via USPS.