



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

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May, 2009

Ramblings of the President

By Glenn R. Cameron

Hello my fellow ACA members. I had a mini-vacation recently. We went down to Cincinnati to visit one of our college attending kids. In general we played tourists.

One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to the Cincinnati Observatory. They claim to be the "Birthplace of American Astronomy." I got to look through the old telescope and the new telescope. Unfortunately I was only able to see a blurry bright blob of moon through the clouds. The old telescope is 167 years old. It is a 12 inch Merz und Mahler refractor. At the time it was the second largest telescope in the world. It is the oldest continuous use telescope in the world. Apparently it has been out of service for a total 3 years for various servicing needs. There are other older telescopes but they have been mothballed during their lifetimes and haven't had as much actual use.

The newer telescope is 105 years old. It is a 16 inch Alvan Clark & Sons refractor. The drive is mechanical and powered by a 350-pound weight while the telescope itself weighs 1200 pounds. The descender at the observatory describes the chromatic aberration as, "Awful." Still, it's a fun telescope to use. The observatory itself is nicely maintained

and is used by area college students for training in astronomy and astro-imaging.

The Cincinnati Observatory is well worth a visit if you find yourself down at that end of the state.

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.

Once last thing. Don't forget that **May is our annual dues renewal month.** Please pay your dues promptly. As a reminder, for those of us in the raffle for the two 90mm refractor telescopes to be given away during the June Hot Dog Roast event, you must be a member in good standing (dues paid) to win. Good luck to all!

Also, Don't Forget- Membership Meeting, Friday, May 21. 8:00, Kiwanis Hall, Ron Kalinoski will speak on the Crab Nebula. Details on p. 4

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Calendar

Club

Friday, May 22, ACA Membership Meeting!!!!
Kiwanis Hall.8:00 PM- Speaker- Ron Kalinoski, Subject- "The Crab Nebula" See speaker info on p. 4 of this Newsletter

Saturday, May 30- Annual Telescope Seminar! Portage Lakes State Park Observatory, 8:00 PM- Members will describe the different types of telescopes.

Friday, June 5 - Camp CHOPS at Camp Christopher

Friday, June 12 - Camp WUNDERLUNG at Camp Christopher

Saturday, June 13- Star Party, Portage Lakes State Park Observatory, 9:00 PM - Saturn, last chance to see the rings before they are completely edge on!

Celestial

All month- Saturn at the feet of Leo. Rings almost edge on.

May 24- New Moon

May 31- Moon near Saturn

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

Increasing clouds was the forecast for our star party on April 18th. Regardless, the observatory grounds were scattered with half assembled telescopes at sunset. With high thin clouds at star party time, Saturn was the only target within reach of our telescopes. Even with cloud filtered light, Saturn charmed star party attendees numbering about thirty. About 45 minutes after sunset, the clouds dissipated a bit and gave us a window to many more celestial objects as well as a stunning view of Saturn with edge-on rings and orbiting moons. At this point in Saturn's orbit around the sun the rings are inclined at only 4 degrees to our sight. We had the opportunity to see The Great Orion Nebula before it set. M37, an open cluster in Auriga was well placed in the sky for viewing. The public was also able to view the double star Mizar and the globular cluster M3 before clouds from an approaching weather system drew closed the curtains to our window to the Universe.

On April 25th, ACA held a public star party at the observatory. The featured celestial object was Mercury. Clouds increased at star party time making Mercury a challenging target. Mercury was available in the 14" telescope for about 30 minutes for attendees to view. We were also able to find Mercury with binoculars. Saturn occasionally poked through the clouds and even less occasionally gave a spectacular view. On one of those rare displays, five Saturnian moons were visible, huddling around the planet with table listed magnitudes ranging from

7.9 to 11.7. The western sky offered the best viewing with three open clusters in Auriga and the Eskimo Nebula in Gemini. Late staying attendees were treated to NGC3242, the Ghost of Jupiter and M3, a beautiful globular in Bootes. It wasn't the best night for observing, but members and public attendees made the best of it.

Fred Huffman, Jeff Kreidler, John Phillips, Rob Watkins, Fred Fry, and Ed Howe restarted work on the observatory brick pad. We removed soil from outside the perimeter boarding and refilled the trench with crushed limestone. This should help prevent weeds from growing into the pad area from outside the perimeter boarding. We will continue work in the coming weeks.

Monthly Meeting- Friday, May 22 Lecture on the Crab Nebula by our Observatory Director, Ron Kalinoski

(Information obtained from Dave Jessie's website with the assistance of Gary Smith)

Bio of Mr. Ron Kalinoski.

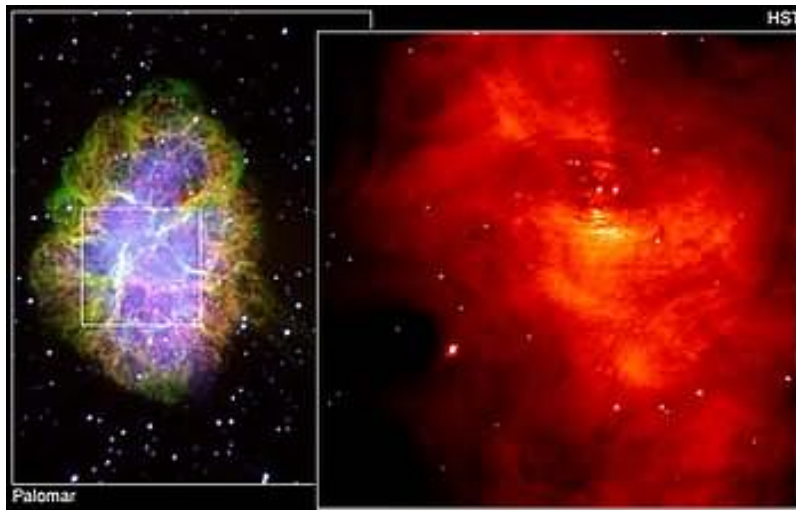
"Ron's stargazing days began at age 10, when he successfully petitioned his father for his first telescope, a 60mm Sears refractor. A member of the ACA since 1995, Ron is also a member of The Planetary Society and The Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomical Society. In his spare time, he enjoys travelling to the southwest to camp in the desert and observe the night sky. His favorite locations include Big Bend National Park, VLA, Kitt Peak Observatory, Chaco Canyon, Mount Wilson Observatory, and Death Valley National Park."

Ron will share his knowledge about the Discovery of the Crab Nebula and how M-1 earned its nickname, as well as Star Formation and Synthesis of Elements inside large stars, and the Mechanism of Supernova Explosion. Ron will also talk about the Anasazi Indians and their Solar Observatory atop Fajada Butte, and their Observation of the 1054 Supernova". For more information please visit Dave Jesse's Website at www.StowAstronomy.org ...then Click on the moving banner that reads "Next event: Lecture on Friday 5/22/09 at the ACA meeting. Click this banner for details..".

And also a reminder that our ACA Treasurer, Lew Snodgrass, will be here to take our Dues for the ACA Member Year of 2009-2010. Let us all make this coming May 22nd, 2009 ACA Monthly Meeting a large success. Be sure to attend this coming Fridays ACA Meeting at Kiwanis Hall at 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319. The Meeting starts at 8:00 PM.

Note- The Treasurer's Report will return next month.

Crab Nebula Images from the Hubble Space Telescope (hubblesite.org)



Crab Nebula from the Ground (Left) and showing the pulsar at the center (Right)

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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:

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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.