



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 31 Number 6

June, 2009

Ramblings of the President

By Glenn R. Cameron

Hello my fellow ACA members. Thanks to those who have come out to the Camp CHOPS and Camp Wonderlung outreach programs. The kids love it and it is greatly appreciated by the camp staff.

I have not been on any other “mini-vacations” since last we met, but I will be the end of June and over Independence Day. I will be in Washington D.C. and the National Air and Space Museum will be getting a good chunk of my eyeball time. I can not wait.

Since last time, the Hubble Space Telescope has received its last repair job. This is monumentally exciting to me. I lamented the fact that there was not going to be any overlap between the Hubble’s retirement and the James Webb Space Telescope’s first light. Now, there is a chance of a little bit of overlap. The shuttle repair crew did an amazing job fixing up this venerable telescope.

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. Be sure and come to our annual Solar/Lunar/Hot Dog Roast on June

27th. If you have been attending monthly meetings and star parties, you should have received a free raffle ticket for each attendance. See Freddy Huffman if you are behind. You stand to win one of two 90mm refractor telescopes. The drawings will occur at the Hot Dog Roast. You need not be present to win since your name is on the ticket in the bucket. However, your dues must be paid and up to date in order to win. Seems fair. Good luck to all!

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Calendar

Club

Sat. June 20, Star Party, Portage Lakes Observatory, Asteroids! Ceres will be visible. 9:00 PM

Sat., June 27- Solar and Lunar Event- Annual Hot Dog Roast!! Portage Lakes Observatory . View sunspots, solar flares, and prominences on the sun and craters, mountains, and maria on the moon. Enjoy a Hot Dog for a small fee. 6:00 PM

Celestial

All month- Saturn at the feet of Leo, setting in the west. Rings almost edge on.

June 21- Summer Solstice at 12:45 EDT. Summer begins!

June 22- New Moon

June 27- Moon near Saturn

Treasurer's Report From Lew Snodgrass

Opening Balance, 5/1/2009= \$ 8135.37

Income

50/50 Drawing	\$45.00
Bank Interest	\$1.26
Dues	\$790.00
Magazine Subsc.	\$66.95

Total income \$903.21

Expenses

Magazine Subs.	\$268.85
Observatory Upkeep	\$110.39
Speaker Dinner	\$29.21

Total Expense \$408.45

Income less expenses	\$494.76
Closing Balance, 5/31/2009	\$8630.13

Account Breakdown-

Checking	\$2710.68
Savings	\$5919.45

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

Peter Clausen gave a talk about astro-photography at our May 16th star party. He discuss the different methods used to take images with a CCD camera. Peter had many examples of his work during the presentation including stunning images of The Veil Nebula and The Great Orion Nebula. Many members came out to the star party to hear the presentation and afterwards we observed the night sky under good seeing conditions.

Our annual telescope seminar was held on May 30th. Dave Jessie, Glenn Cameron, Fred Huffman, and I explained the different types of telescopes to the public as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each type. Attendance at this star party was good. Clear skies allowed the public to view the Moon, Saturn, some planetary nebulae, and three globular clusters in Hercules. NGC6229 was one of the globular clusters observed and is easily seen at a distance of 102,000 lightyears.

Progress on the brick pad beneath the roof roll-off structure is slowly moving forward. We installed new perimeter boarding to hold the brick in place. We decided to pour a small concrete pad between the observatory sidewalk and the roof roll-off structure man-way entrance. This modification will eliminate cutting brick to match the curvature of the existing sidewalk. We will pour the concrete pad after the brick pad is installed so elevations are consistent. The

roof roll-off structure is in need of stain to preserve integrity. Rob Watkins has volunteered to use his paint sprayer and compressor to assist the club with this task. Our goal is to start laying brick by the end of June.

Outreach News

A big thank you from the ACA

Our Club responded extremely well to the call for assistance at Camp CHOPS June 5! We had more members at this event than ever before, and the campers and staff had many telescopes they could look through - and look they did since we had a perfectly clear night. On behalf of the ACA, a very heartfelt THANK YOU to all those that came out and assisted.

Here's a list in alphabetical order of the members that participated:

Fred Fry
George Hooper
Terri Hooper
Ed Howe
Freddy Huffman
David Jessie
Ron Kalinoski
Andy Marek
Christina Marek
Nick Mihiylov
Tom Mino
Norm Schmidt
John Shulan
Rosaelena Villaseñor

Editors' Note: We attended the June 12th Camp Wonderlung session and had a great time! Thanks to all who were there. The kids were great, the sky was clear, and, if we hadn't forgotten our dew caps, Leigh's and Tom's scopes would have lasted longer!

A Diamond in the Rough

By: Rob Watkins 6/03/2009

Sometimes Astronomy can be more than just setting up a telescope and looking at the stars. If you're like me, I also enjoy learning about astronomy history and the people that were pioneers as well as hearing about the local history of our own club. That helps us pass the time when we are frequently disappointed with the local weather and have no choice but to strap on the waders and listen to some of the members stories.

One story is of a long time member that passed away years ago and left a telescope to the club, and his name was E.C. Zimmerman. The telescope is a five-inch refractor that hadn't been used since 1996, so I've been told. It was mounted on a homemade mount that was just lying on the ground gathering more than just a little dust. It was in bad shape when Ron was cleaning up the observatory one day asking what we should do with it.



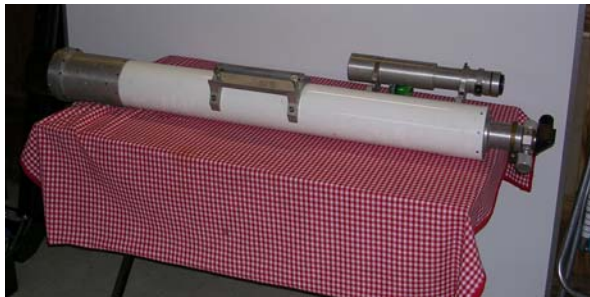
I looked at the telescope and mount and saw that under all the dirt and corrosion, it was made of aluminum and brass. I had a little experience with metal polishing and knew that it would clean up with a little elbow grease, so I said I would take a look at it. I started with the mount and first made a stand for it so it would be easier to work on.



As you can see, it left little to be desired. I started taking it apart and cleaning the parts with a couple of different methods. On parts that originally had a polished surface, I used fine steel wool with some Brasso cleaner. The parts with a rougher surface, I used a fine wire wheel brush on a drill, or for smaller parts a Dremel tool to clean off the corrosion. Some of the parts were painted black, so I used paint stripper and left it bare when possible. Here are some of the parts after I cleaned them up.



As you can see, it didn't take much to bring back the shine on these metal surfaces and they were actually quite beautiful. To help keep the parts from corroding again, I used Never Dull, which is a solvent-based polish/preservative. After a few weekends and quite a few beers, I put it back together and it started to look like a real instrument.



After finishing the mount, I started on the telescope, which was in better shape, but still need some work



The telescope had a better finish on the machined parts, so I didn't want to use a wire wheel on that. On aluminum, a wire wheel can burnish the finish and ruin it, so I cleaned it by hand with fine steel wool to get the majority of the corrosion off. I then polished the focuser and finder scope with a buffer wheel on a bench grinder and some red rouge polishing compound.



I also removed the black paint and polished up the brass and aluminum holding the lens on the end of the tube and polished the metal.

I cleaned the lenses by spraying a cleaning solution from a pump sprayer, then rinsing with distilled water from another pump sprayer and blowing off the excess water and dried it with a hair dryer. To finish the cleaning, I used my breath and a clean polishing cloth to clean off any remaining residue with only touching the lens when it was absolutely necessary.

There is a base for the mount out in the lawn by the ACA observatory at Portage Lakes State Park where we hope to get the telescope out for the Solar/Lunar event on June 27th. This will be the first the telescope has been used in over a decade, so I don't have a final assembled picture of it yet. You can stop by and take a look at it after we set it up and I'm sure we will be hearing more stories about this diamond in the rough.

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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.