



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 33 Number 2

February 2011

Next Meeting: Friday, February 25, 2011 8:00PM.

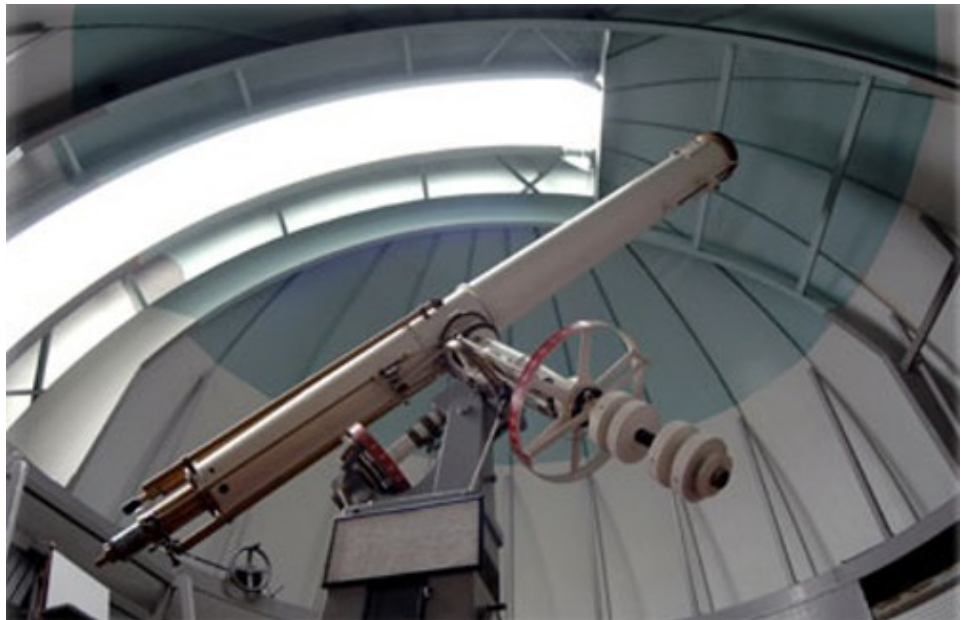
Ramblings of the President

By Dave Jessie



Mark your calendars NOW! - Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 7:00PM

Finally, after many attempts to make this happen, we have a special ACA MEMBERS-ONLY event at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. This event will include a private guided behind-the-scenes tour of the museum displays, the Mueller Observatory and the Shafran Planetarium. These presentations have been graciously offered and will be provided by Clyde Simpson, Observatory Coordinator, Department of Astronomy, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Clyde will give us a special presentation in the Planetarium geared toward our experience level rather than the shows presented to the general public. If you haven't seen the new planetarium, vastly improved in July 2010, you're in for a real treat! In addition, if the night is clear, we'll be able to view through the 10.5" refractor built by the Warner & Swasey Co. of Cleveland in 1899. Just seeing the observatory, telescope and mount are enough to bring tears to my eyes. We'll be able to visit the observatory even if the skies aren't



The Warner & Swasey Co. 10.5 inch refractor resides in the Ralph Mueller Observatory, Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

clear (Please, let it be clear!).

This event is EXCLUSIVELY for ACA members and family members. The cost is \$9 per adult and \$7 per child to be paid at the door upon entering the Museum. This fee includes admission to the Museum & Planetarium. Simply tell the clerk that you and your party are members of the ACA and that you're Clyde Simpson's guests for the evening. That's all there is to it. The normal costs are \$10 per adult to enter the museum plus \$4 per person for a planetarium show. Clyde has done the best he can for us on the cost. Parking? We're on our own. Parking

in the museum parking lot is \$2/hr per car with a \$15 maximum. For additional information on the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, visit: <http://www.cmnh.org> For additional information on the Mueller Observatory and Shafran Planetarium, visit: <http://www.cmnh.org/site/AtTheMuseum/PlanetariumandObservatory.aspx>

All this information and more is on the ACA Webpage at: http://www.acaoh.org/_events/2011/2011-03-16_CMNH_Tour.htm (or at a TinyURL link here: <http://tinyurl.com/4f4btoh>).

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2011 - February Activities Calendar - 2011

Club

February 25 - KIWANIS:

General Membership Meeting.

08:00 pm EST (13:00 UT)

Celestial*

February 3 - New Moon at 2:31 UT.

February 4 - Mars at conjunction 17h UT.

February 6 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 23h UT.

February 8 - ALPHA CENTAURIDS METEOR
SHOWER peaks at 11h UT.

February 11 - First Quarter moon at 7:18 UT.

February 18 - Full Moon at 8:36 UT.

February 19 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 7h UT.

February 24 - Last Quarter moon at 23:26 UT.

February 25 - Mercury at superior conjunction at 9h UT.

*Source: www.skymaps.com

The ACA wishes to welcome our newest member:
Marissa Fanady
 We look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!



The Skymaster ZKP3/S projector in the Shafran Planetarium, Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Ramblings (con't)

A Google map and directions are available at the aforementioned site.

What happens if yet another nasty winter storm hits making travel to Cleveland hazardous? We'll simply cancel and reschedule another Wednesday at 7:00pm. Since we'll pay at the door, no harm done.

When working with Clyde to schedule this visit, we really tried to make arrangements for either a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, but scheduling conflicts, personnel responsibilities and other restrictions at the museum rendered weekends unavailable. Wednesday evening turned out to be our only opportunity. Don't worry, we'll have a great time, and learn a lot in the process.

Clear skies, everyone!

*Article by Dave Jessie,
 ACA President.*

- PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES AND IMAGES -

THE NIGHT SKY NEWSLETTER IS LOOKING TO PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES! SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, EXPERIENCES, STORIES, OPINIONS, LATEST ASTRO-IMAGES, AND ADVICE WITH YOUR FELLOW AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS.

ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE SIXTH OF EACH MONTH. ARTICLES MUST BE RELEVANT TO OUR FORUM. ALL TEXT FILES SHOULD BE SAVED IN PLAIN ASCII FORMAT OR ANY VERSION OF WORD TO MINIMIZE IMPORT PROBLEMS. ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .JPG FORMAT. SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

truemartian@aol.com

OR VIA SNAIL-MAIL:

JASON SHINN
 1025C Hemlock Hills Dr.
 Akron, OH 44313

January Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

1/1/2011 Through 1/31/2011

Checking Beginning Balance	\$3,124.88
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Income

Total Income	\$0.00
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Expenses

Food	197.49
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Observatory Improvements	53.88
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Service Charge	3.00
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Total Expenses	\$254.37
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Income Less Expenses	\$254.37
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Checking Ending Balance	\$2,870.51
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Charter One Ending Balance	\$2,870.51
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Difference	\$0.00
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Savings Opening Balance	\$5,930.20
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Earned Interest	0.50
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Savings Closing Balance	\$5,930.70
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Petty Cash	50.00
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Savings	5,930.70
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Checking	2,870.51
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Total	\$8,851.21
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*Article by Lew Snodgrass
 ACA Treasurer*

Minutes of the January 28, 2010 General Meeting

By Mary Pickelsimer

8:00PM Call to order. Tom Mino introduced our presenter for the evening, David Richards, Director of the Hoover-Price Planetarium. Mr. Richards discussed our relationship with the universe and other light topics.

8:50PM Break

9:10PM Business meeting called to order.

- Possibility of banning green light laser pointers. Issue at hand is the light being shined into cockpits of planes flying by, temporarily blinding the pilot.
- **Observatory Director's Report:** 2011 Schedule is complete and printed. Distribution to local libraries and other area's of interest completed by members.
- **Treasures Report:** Reporting December and Year end 2010. Club account balances.
- Renewal of Sky and Astronomy magazines can be done through the club to receive a discount.
- A moment of silence in memory of the Challenger tragedy that happened 25 years ago today.
- **New Business:** Bob mentioned a program in Florida where individuals can go and borrow or check-out a telescope for the night. Program aimed at encouraging curiosity in astronomy. Wondering if there is any interest in adopting program here.

9:45PM Meeting adjourned.

Next general meeting will be February 25, 2011.

*Article by Mary Pickelsimer,
ACA Secretary.*

Librarian's Corner: A Book Review

By Robert Benedict

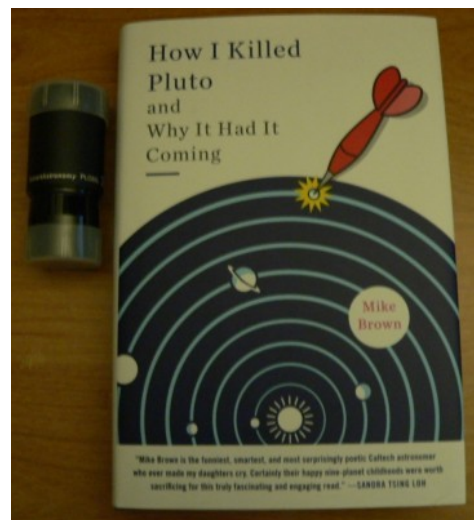


"How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming" By Mike Brown

Cal Tech astronomer Mike Brown has spent his professional career searching

for Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs). His team's discovery of several large objects set the stage for reclassifying Pluto from a planet to just another KBO. This book is intended for general audiences and is part story of the discoveries, part discussion of telescopes and techniques, part coverage of the scientific political controversy and part autobiography.

I found the book well written and entertaining. The historical discussion on the changing number of planets when the asteroid belt was being charted presaged the evolution of discovery in the Kuiper belt. The story of his professional life as an academic astronomer was interesting and the discussion of telescopes and methods very cool. The poor guy has to make do with the facilities of the Palomar Observatory. The heavy lifting of the search was done by the 48" Samuel Oschin Telescope with its QUEST camera rather than the 200"



Hale. The Oschin wide-field Schmidt telescope was designed for survey work and well suited Brown's need for the search.

Brown also discusses meeting and marrying his wife and the birth of their daughter. These passages humanize the scientist with life experiences most of us can relate to. The story of him communicating with his infant daughter in sign language about the moon was particularly heart warming.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and recommend it to anyone interested in how modern astronomy is practiced. For those want a shorter story Brown has a good web page at: <http://www.gps.caltech.edu/~mbrown/planetlila/>

*Article by ACA member
Robert Benedict.*

Editor's Note:

There is no observatory report for the February edition of the Night Sky newsletter.

**Jason Shinn
ACA Publications Secretary**

OBSERVATION LOG

DATE(UT):

:METEOR COUNT

TIME(UT):

OBJECT:

:SATELLITE COUNT

CONDITIONS:

NOTES:

SKETCH PAD:

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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

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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

Visit us on the Web at www.acaoh.org.