



# The Night Sky

The Newsletter of  
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 34 Number 3

March 2012

Next Meeting: Friday, March 23, 2011 8:00PM.

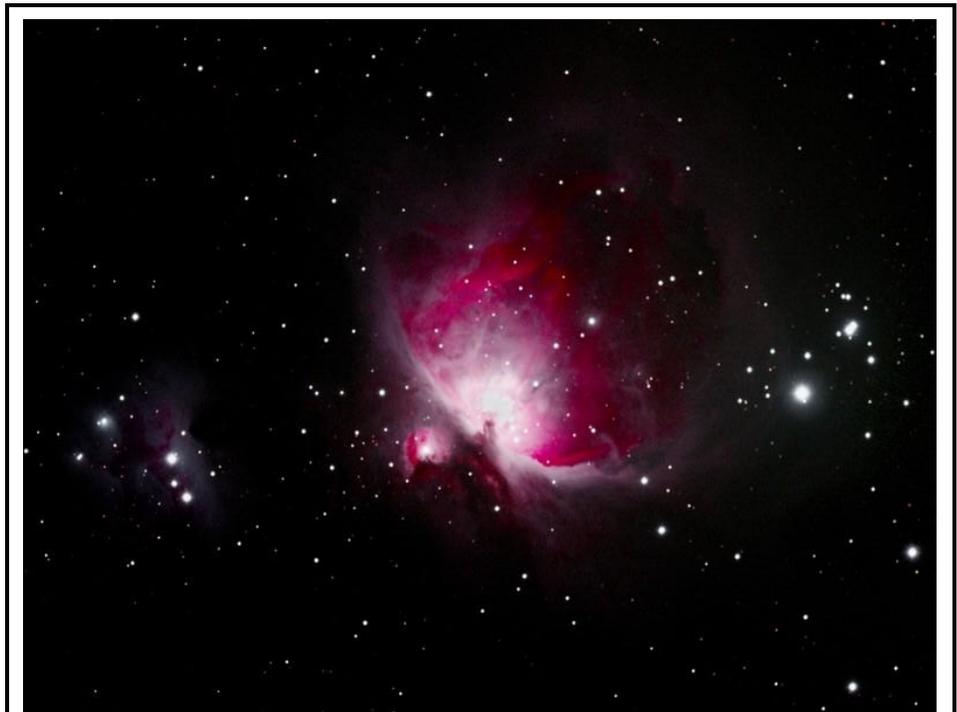
## This and That

By Tom Mino



We had our February monthly meeting on the evening of the 24th at the Portage Lake Kiwanis community center. We had less than the prescribed amount necessary for a quorum, so no official business was conducted. The meeting lasted about 2 hours with the members present talking about plans for a possible Spring Equinox get-together as well as possible sites to observe the Venus transit a little later this year. I am working on a couple possible speakers for the next couple of months. At time of publication, one speaker is not sure whether March or April will work out best for his schedule. I will contact the member email list when I receive the details. Quite a few members will be traveling to New York in April to attend the NEAF conference and equipment show.

All members should be considering a role as a club officer. Elections will be held in April, with new officers



**M42 - The Great Orion Nebula. Captured with a Takahashi FSQ 106C and an SBIG ST8300XM By ACA Member Len Marek.**

taking the helm at the May meeting for a 2 year stint. I think that it is very important to get new blood to run the club. Everyone gets tired of the same old folks standing up front yapping about this or that. (See, I know what people are thinking!) Competition is a good thing, so if the desire moves you, please consider throwing your

hat into the ring. I can think of only a few times in my tenure as a club member when we had a contested election. For the most part, we have to beg folks to do the work. I imagine that this is the same dilemma that many organizations face.

(con't Page 3)

**SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR**  
SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 11 @ 2:00AM

## OFFICERS 2010 – 2012

### President

Tom Mino

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### Vice President

Tom Mino

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### OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

## February Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

2/1/2012 Through 2/29/2012

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Checking Beginning Balance	\$3,804.34
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### Income

50/50 Drawing	18.00
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Dues	100.00
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Magazine Subscriptions	133.90
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>251.90</b>
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### Expenses

Insurance	375.00
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Outstanding Check	45.00
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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$420.00</b>
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<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$168.10</b>
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Checking Ending Balance	\$3,636.24
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Charter One Ending Balance	\$3,636.04
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<b>Bank Error</b>	<b>\$.20</b>
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Savings Opening Balance	\$6,433.89
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Earned Interest	0.25
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<b>Savings Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$6,434.14</b>
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Petty Cash	50.00
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Savings	6,434.14
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Checking (Charter One Balance)	3,636.04
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,120.18</b>
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Article by Lew Snodgrass  
ACA Treasurer.

## This and That Con't

Please review the by-laws and look at the position descriptions to gain a full understanding of each officer's job duties. Please contact our secretary with your interests in running for a club office!

In the next few weeks a few club officers will be making a field trip out to the Crown Point Ecology Center in Bath, Ohio to offer the Crown Point folks advice on placement of an observatory complex. While this project is in the planning stages, there may be an opportunity for the Astronomy Club to expand its reach into an area within the Cuyahoga Valley. It is hoped that the Crown Point center may create a facility that is similar to other science centers located around the country. If you are interested in taking a look at this project in more detail, please email me. It is possible that this facility will encompass cooperation from the

University of Akron, the ACA, as well as other entities. More to follow.

We have received sad news of the passing of our former Observatory Director, Ray Paul. Ray was one of those really great guys that was so instrumental to our club on so many different levels and for so many years. He was the main designer of our club observatory and his expertise was absolutely key in getting the observatory built. I have many fond memories of Ray, observing with him on many nights out at the observatory. Inevitably we would end up at the Waterloo restaurant after a meeting or after an observing session (especially if we were chased away by the clouds). I recall the time when I talked with Ray to see if he was interested in continuing his role of observatory director and I was so relieved when he said that he would reprise his role. Throughout the years there seems to be a few key folks who constantly step up to the plate at do

the lion's share of the work. Ray was one of those people. He was so talented and at the same time, very gracious. I remember the time that I was at the observatory showing the telescope to a few of my guests when I closed the roof without lowering the telescope first. Of course, the scope was caught in the roof and started to bind before I could hit the panic (stop) button on the electric winch. I was mortified. I was on the verge of freaking out. Actually, I believe I was freaking out, when Ray pulled up in his candy apple red Camero. I ran up to him to confess my blunder. He casually walked into the Observatory, looked at the damage, shrugged his shoulders and said, "that's no big deal, it's happened before". I went from panic to feeling a whole lot better in about two seconds! I will never forget that moment. He will be missed.

*Article by Tom Mino,  
ACA President.*

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## PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES AND IMAGES

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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 .txt or .rtf FORMAT TO MINIMIZE IMPORT PROBLEMS. ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .jpg FORMAT. SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

[truemartian@aol.com](mailto:truemartian@aol.com)

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## SWAP & SHOP

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**For sale:**

15mm Ultra-Wide Angle Eyepiece  
2 inch barrel  
FOV: 80°  
Eye Relief: 20mm

**Asking: \$40**

**Contact: Lew Snodgrass**  
**Phone: 330-819-4886**  
**Phone: 330-867-4800**  
**Ask for Lew.**  
**Email: chrply@aol.com**

## Minutes of the February 24, 2012 General Meeting

By Mary Pickelsimer

**8:15PM** No presentation for the evening, the discussion was informal and various topics were discussed. Again there were not enough non board members present for a quorum.

### Topics discussed:

Google stats – 10,000 hits to the ACA website in the last month!! That is amazing! We are able to track search keywords that led them to our site and what pages they are looking at once there.

The moon phases seems to be a big hit.

Venus transit – This is an event that will happen June 5, 2012. We are looking for a western/north-western sky for proper viewing... tree's seem to be an issue....

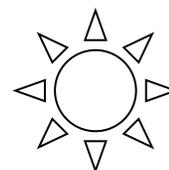
The Spring dinner has been moved to Saturday, March 31, 2012. Location is yet to be determined. Any ideas where 30 or so people can fit, let Tom know.

Membership Cards will be issued to all current members. Jason is working hard on reincorporating this. Also, he is working on developing recognition awards for a variety of celestial viewings.

**Treasures Report:** Reporting for January. Also, if you are interested in a magazine subscription to Sky & Telescope and/or Astronomy, ACA offers great discounts.

**9:52PM** Meeting adjourned. Next general meeting will be March 23, 2012

*Article by Mary Pickelsimer, ACA Secretary.*



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## Notes From The Editor

By Jason Shinn



### Venus and Jupiter

I hope you all have been watching or will be watching this month's meeting of two mythical giants in the sky. Jupiter, king of the gods pursues lovely Venus, goddess of love in the evening March sky. In the past few days even friends who are not normally privy to celestial happenings are asking me, "What's that bright star in the evening sky?" As the days progress this fabulous "courtship" of the majestic Jupiter and beautifully brilliant Venus draw closer forming a very close magnificent pair on the 12th and 13th. Lets just hope mother nature will give us a weather break!

### Membership Cards Are Here!

Membership cards for all current members are here! Having discussed the idea at the February meeting I have implemented that idea and ran the first print of membership cards for all current ACA members. You may

pick your membership cards up at the next ACA meeting or during summer break at the observatory. Please see me for any and all questions you might have about the membership card program.

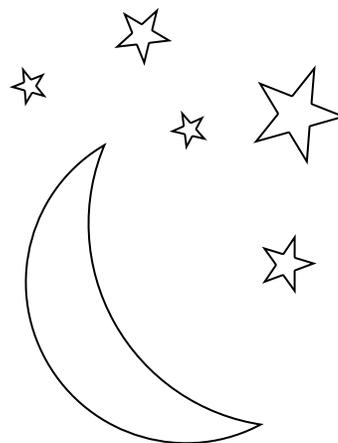
### Introducing the ACA Observing Certificate Program

In other news, this promises to be a very exciting summer for every member in the club. For a long while I among others have thought that we need to implement some sort of program to involve our members in observing projects. This was also discussed at the February meeting and to that end I have created our first observing program designed to teach and reinforce basic knowledge. The program consists of several certificates to be earned by members completing the requirements for each. The program has varying levels of difficulty and there are even certificates for those of you who faithfully attend all of our scheduled club meetings and public observatory events. You will soon receive a copy of the program as a PDF file via e-mail over the member list for review. Print it out if you like and bring it to

the March membership meeting. I will be going over each of the certificate programs for those in attendance. I also hope to have a sampling of the certificates that participants can earn through each program available for your review. I look forward to sharing in this program with you and getting in some quality star gazing time this summer!

Come join us at club meetings and observatory events in 2012! Make this your year for starry skies! Until next time, I wish you all a very, very clear skies!

*Article by Jason Shinn, ACA Publications Secretary.*



## Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



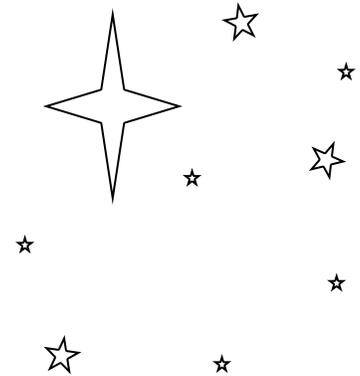
We started off our observing season with a star party on February 18th. Only six stargazers showed up, but all were treated to clear skies and a list of celestial objects not normally seen due to their seasonal nature. Among the treats was the Orion Nebula. We observed the stellar nursery with and without nebula filters. This object is an amateur astronomer favorite with four closely spaced stars at the center illuminating bands of gas extending beyond the field of view. Although faint, we also observed the Crab Nebula, the remnant of a star that exploded in 1054 AD. The light from that cataclysm is still able to be seen by a relatively modest telescope. Our new

31mm Nagler eyepiece arrived just days before the star party and we put it to use by examining the cloud bands of Jupiter. The star party theme was binocular objects. Four binocular observers viewed Pleiades, Bee Hive Cluster, Herschel's Double Cluster, Hyades, and Kemble's Cascade.

If you have been watching the evening skies, you probably noticed the spectacular display by planets Jupiter and Venus. During the month of February, the two planets have been moving closer to each other as viewed from Earth and conjunction will occur on March 15th when only three degrees will separate them. The conjunction will occur high in the sky with the planetary pair setting four hours after sunset. We have a public star party on March 17th when their appearance will still astonish observers. Also on the 17th, Mars has a close encounter with spiral galaxies M95 & M96. Mars will pass just 1/2

degree north of the galactic pair and all should be visible in a wide field of view eyepiece. And finally on March 24th, our star party features Venus just three days before greatest eastern elongation. Venus will appear 40 degrees above the horizon at sunset. So come out to see the Planet Parade this month!

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,  
ACA Observatory Director.*



## Making Astronomy Accessible

By Marissa Fanady



As a person with disabilities I found it very difficult to find an activity or hobby that I could participate in and have a good time. During my high school years I was not involved in any extracurricular activities because I was physically unable to do most and the rest did not interest me. Months after graduation, and a few celestial events, I discovered that astronomy was a hobby that interested me and that it was something I could participate in! Since then I have become a novice amateur astronomer with a little experience under my belt. With some advice from ACA members I also quickly learned how to make astronomy accessible and enjoyable.

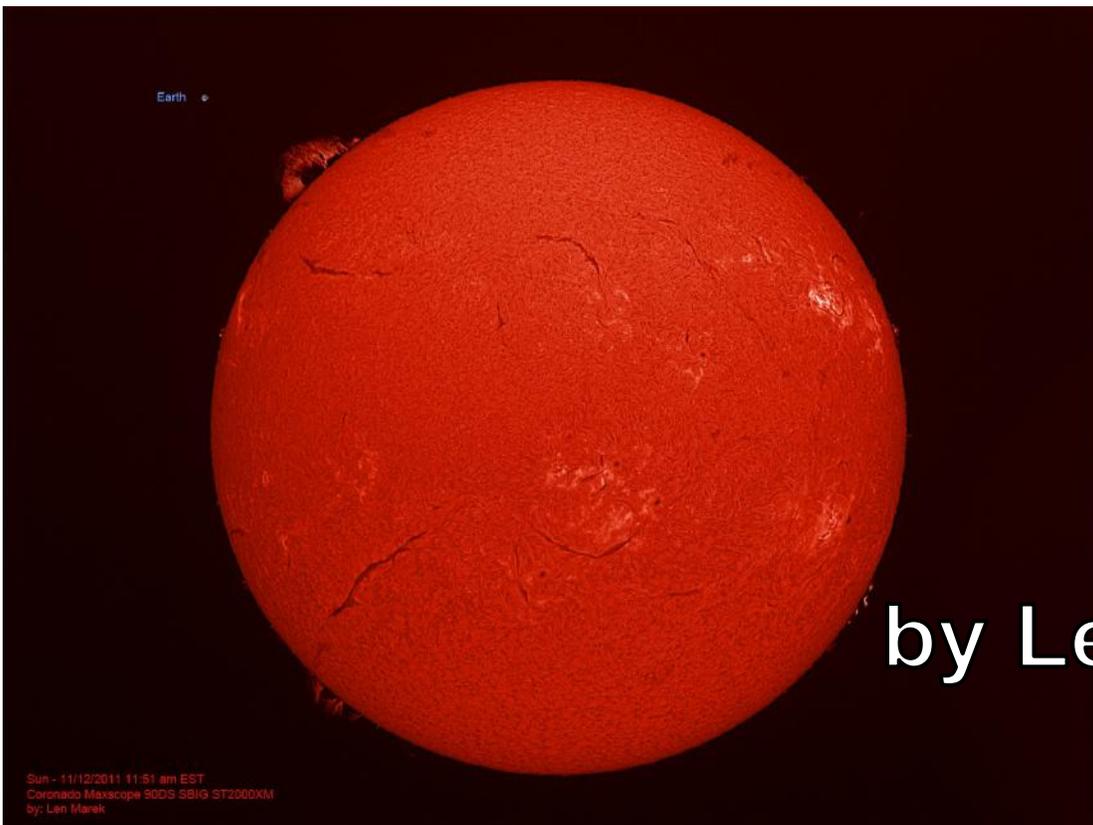
Since getting into astronomy I've learned a few tricks and about the types of equipment to purchase to enjoy the hobby to its fullest. If you or someone you know is disabled and wants to get involved in astronomy here's some advice to get you going. People who are more able bodied than me and use a manual wheelchair should purchase a tabletop telescope or if you have deep pockets a refractor. While a tabletop telescope may be somewhat limiting when it comes to deep space, it will do just fine for the moon, planets, and sun (with the proper safety solar observing equipment like a solar filter). If you want to view star clusters, some galaxies, nebulae, and other deep sky objects then I recommend a 4" or larger refractor. People in power wheelchairs can benefit from this advice as well. If you own a laptop you can buy a CCD camera to display and record live images. Being in a power chair has its benefits as well, I am able to get a special feature installed on my chair

that allows my seat to raise and lower so I can reach eyepieces much better! My insurance wouldn't cover that feature so I have to make monthly payments on it. That's \$78 per month but it's well worth it. I highly recommend this feature if you use a power wheelchair. You can ask your chair provider about it.

Well I'll leave it at that for now but I'll be back with more advice and tips. For advice on quality equipment to purchase contact a local club like the Astronomy Club of Akron and attend a star party. Just because you may be disabled does not mean you can't participate in astronomy, there's always a way. The key to remember is never give up; with astronomy the sky's the limit!

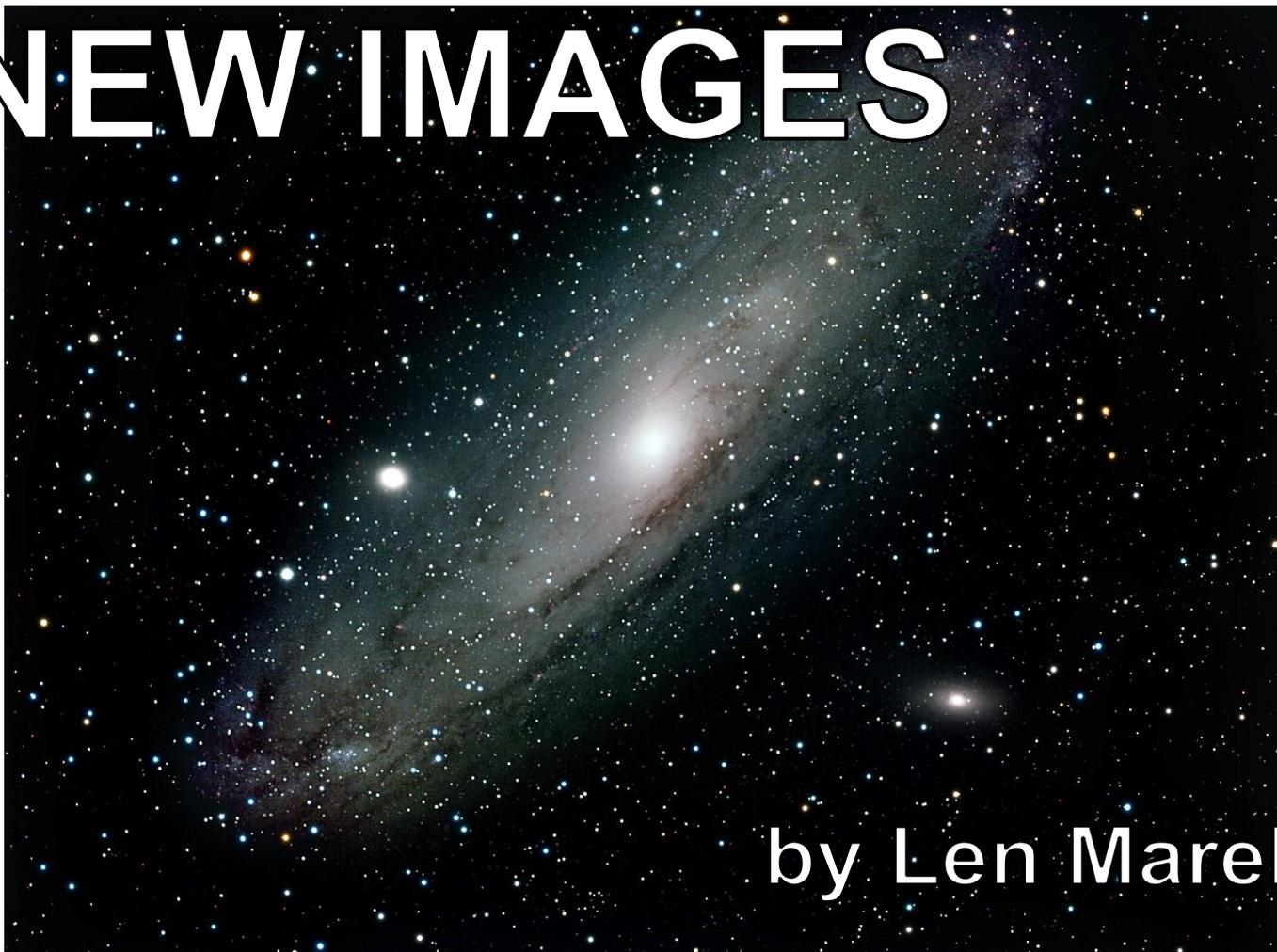
*Article by ACA member  
Marissa Fanady.*

# NEW IMAGES



by Len Marek

# NEW IMAGES



by Len Marek

The Leo Triplet by Rick Burke  
Tele Vue NP127is with Canon EOS Rebel XS (1000D)  
25 minutes of exposures, unguided, captured with Backyard EOS  
processed with ImagesPlus and Photoshop CS3

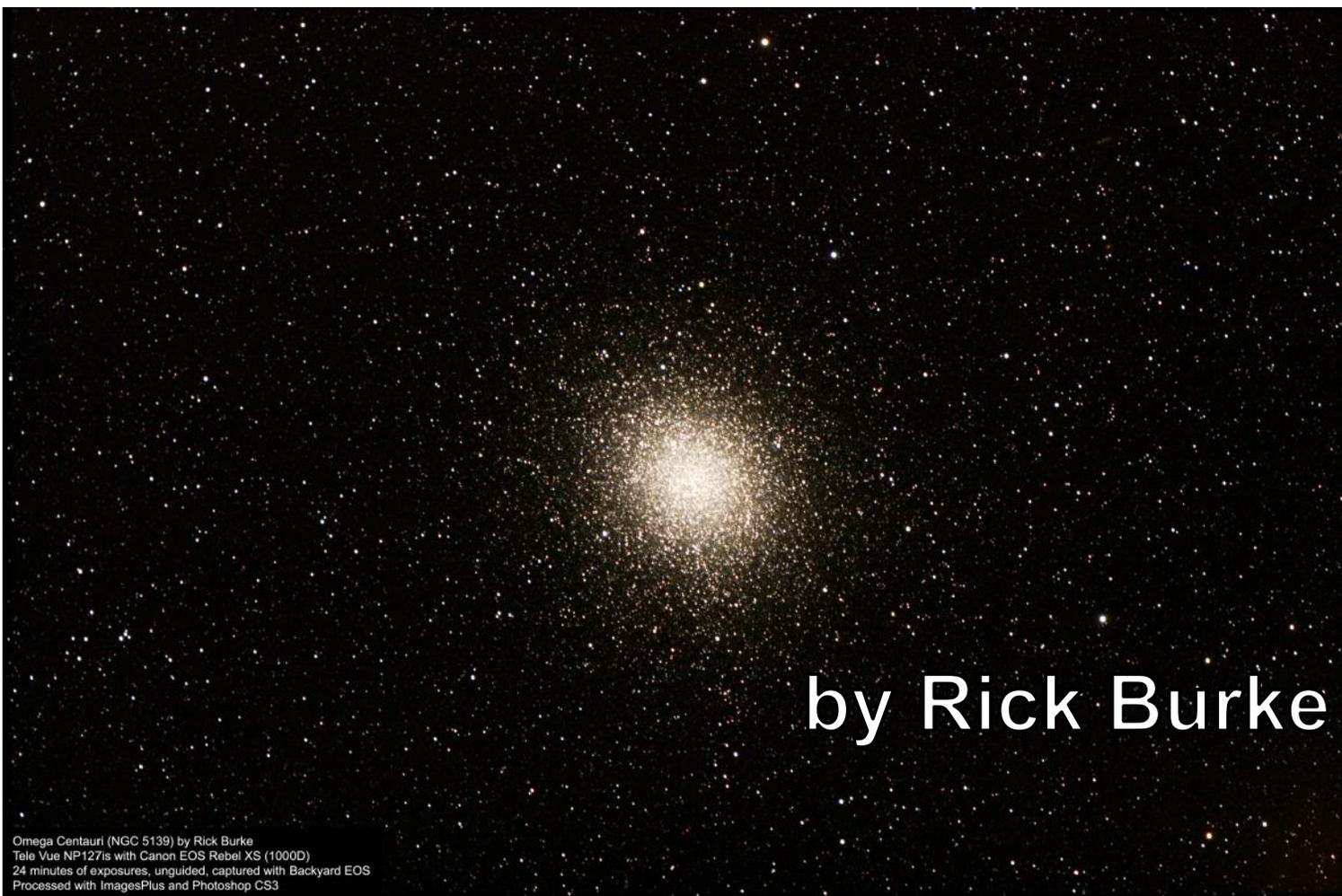


by Rick Burke



# NEW IMAGES

IC 434, B 33 (Horsehead Nebula), NGC 2024 (Flame Nebula),  
NGC 2023, & IC 435, with Alnitak by Rick Burke  
Tele Vue NP127is and Canon EOS Rebel XS (1000D)  
126 minutes of exposures, guided by PHD, captured by Backyard EOS  
Processed with ImagesPlus and Photoshop CS3



by Rick Burke

Omega Centauri (NGC 5139) by Rick Burke  
Tele Vue NP127is with Canon EOS Rebel XS (1000D)  
24 minutes of exposures, unguided, captured with Backyard EOS  
Processed with ImagesPlus and Photoshop CS3

THE ASTRONOMY CLUB OF AKRON

# MARCH 2012 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5 Mercury at greatest elongation 9h UT. (evening sky)	6	7	8 Full Moon 09:41 UT 	9	10 Moon at perigee. (closest) 01:22 UT
11 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 02:00a SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR	12	13	14	15 Last Quarter 01:26 UT 	16	17 ACA OBSERVATORY PUBLIC EVENT 07:30p
18	19	20 VERNAL EQUINOX 05:13 UT	21	22 New Moon 14:38 UT 	23 ACA MEMBERSHIP MEETING (KIWANIS) 08:00p	24 ACA OBSERVATORY PUBLIC EVENT 07:30p
25 Moon at apogee. (farthest) 01:22 UT	26 Moon at apogee. (farthest) 01:22 UT	27	28	29	30 First Quarter 19:41 UT 	31
				1 First Quarter 01:22 UT 	2	3 Mars at opposition. 20h UT

# *The Night Sky*

*Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron*

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor  
1025C Hemlock Hills Dr.  
Akron, OH 44313

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**The Astronomy Club of Akron**  
c/o Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer  
1865 Stabler Rd  
Akron, OH 44313-6124

Yes! I want to become a member of the Astronomy Club of Akron

[www.acaoh.org](http://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](http://www.acaoh.org).