



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 35 Number 1

January 2013

Next Meeting: Friday - January 25, 2013 - 8:00 PM - Kiwanis

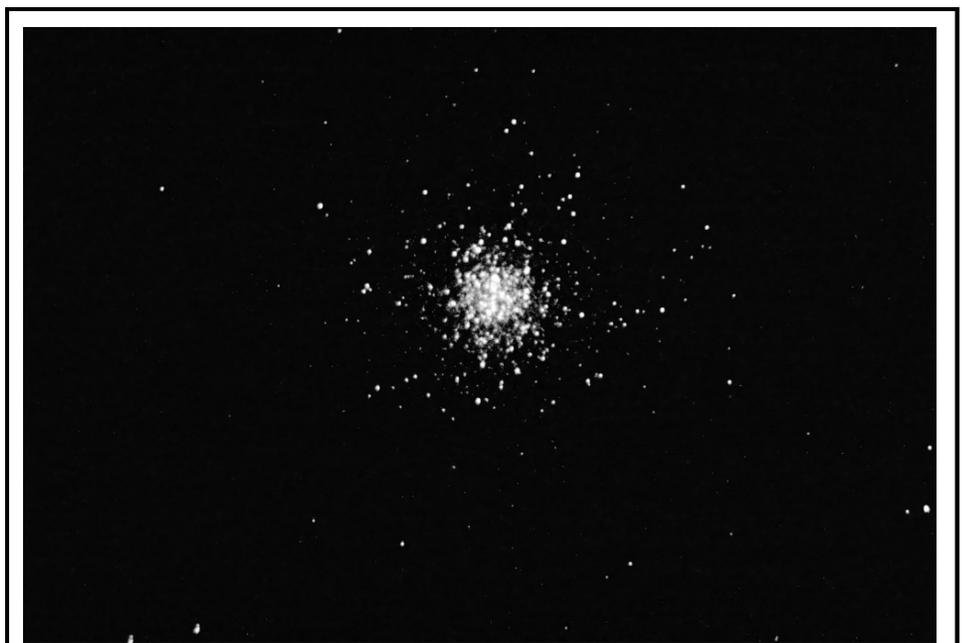
The President's Column

By Gary Smith

Greetings to all fellow Members of the Astronomy Club of Akron. I believe we can assume the Mayan prediction of doom for December 2012 did not occur. It is now a new year of 2013 and the range of activities and projects for astronomy, space exploration, star gazing, and any related fields will be booming for the upcoming year.

The ISS is busily orbiting planet Earth. I think many people now take it for granted, but it seems not so awfully long ago the idea of an orbiting space station was considered sheer fantasy. The long lived Russian Mir space station was a marvelous example of aerospace engineering. But the ISS has surpassed the MIR in nearly every way.

The VLT (Very Large Telescope) built & operated by the European Southern Observatory (ESO) is a superb example of the latest in ground based telescope engineering. The VLT is located at the high altitude (2635 meters) of the Atacama Desert on Cerro Paranal in Northern Chile. It is an array of four identical 8.2 meter telescopes. It is one of modern astronomy's leading research observatories. Perhaps the best part is that it has the potential for even more telescopic performance if the



Globular Star Cluster M2 - August 17, 2012 from the ACA observatory grounds. Celestron CPC-11, Cannon Rebel T1i, Backyard EOS, 10 frames stacked 30 second exposure, CCD Stacker, and Corel Draw. By ACA Member John Shulan.

challenges of interferometry can be overcome.

The Cassini probe is happily in orbit around the planet Saturn. This big budget planetary space explorer is essentially still fully functional. It is still sending pictures and data back to the earth based receiving stations, keeping planetary astronomers busy for years.

Perhaps the best surprise of 2013 for all amateur astronomers may be the comet ISON. It has been a few

months since its initial discovery, but it is offering good indicators that it will be a show stopper come this Thanksgiving holiday in November 2013.

By now I am sure you are asking, "what is visible in the sky" at this time of year. I know it is a little chilly outside, but the reward for the star gazer is literally "off the chart".

(Con't Page 4)

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For sale:

15mm Ultra-Wide Angle Eyepiece

Asking: \$40

Contact: Lew Snodgrass

Phone: 330-819-4886

Phone: 330-867-4800

Ask for Lew.

Email: chrply@aol.com



For Sale:

22mm Orion Epic ED-2 ED Eyepiece

25mm Orion Epic ED-2 ED Eyepiece

Asking: \$40 each or \$75 for both

Contact: Glenn Cameron

Phone: 330-737-1472

Email: glenn@cameronclan.org

Advertise in the Swap n Shop!
Send a picture of your item and relevant information to the newsletter editor:

truemartian@aol.com

November Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Cameron

11/1/2012 Through 11/30/2012

Checking Beginning Balance	\$5,964.56
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Income

Dues	40.00
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Total Income	\$40.00
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Expenses

Checks	45.00
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Total Expenses	\$45.00
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Income Less Expenses	\$5,959.56
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Checking Ending Balance	\$5,959.56
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$6,436.27
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Earned Interest	0.26
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Savings Ending Balance	\$6,436.53
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Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$47.56
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Postage	0.45
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Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$47.11
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Petty Cash	47.11
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Savings	6,436.53
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Checking	5,959.56
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Grand Total	\$12,443.20
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Article by Glenn Cameron
ACA Treasurer.

December Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Cameron

12/1/2012 Through 12/31/2012

Checking Beginning Balance	\$5,959.56
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Income

Magazine Subscriptions	60.00
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Total Income	\$60.00
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Expenses

Magazine Subscriptions	60.00
------------------------	-------

Total Expenses	\$60.00
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Income Less Expenses	\$0.00
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Checking Ending Balance	\$5,959.56
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$6,436.53
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Earned Interest	0.27
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Savings Ending Balance	\$6,436.80
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Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$47.11
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	0.00
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Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$47.11
----------------------------------	----------------

Petty Cash	47.11
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Savings	6,436.80
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Checking	5,959.56
----------	----------

Grand Total	\$12,443.47
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Article by Glenn Cameron
ACA Treasurer.

President's Column (con't)

The king of the planets, Jupiter is the dominant bright object in January's sky. Jupiter is patiently waiting for January's star gazer in the south-east at sunset. But its patience will come to an end if you try to ignore it. The size of Jupiter is enormous. It has a diameter of 88,846 miles (about 11 earth diameters). A mass equal to 317 Earths. This gas giant planet has no solid surface, but the estimated surface gravity is 2.5 times that of Earth's. It has 63 known moons. The largest Jovian moon (Ganymede) is huge! It is larger than the planet Mercury (but not heavier). Jupiter's magnetic field ranges from 4 to 14 times stronger than Earth's. It has trapped belts of radiation that are lethal to a future traveler to Jupiter in an unshielded spacecraft. The list of Jupiter's dimensions goes on and on. Some of these facts and figures come to mind whenever I see the king of planets thru an eyepiece.

January's Sky is also host to two remarkable stars that are similar in appearance. Aldebaran (a red giant) is only 65 light years distant. Betelgeuse (a red super-giant) is approx 643 light years distant. Under very good viewing conditions they both stand out from their background like red lights on a Christmas tree.

Notes From The Editor

By Jason Shinn



The 2013 observing season is upon us and I am excited at what the new year will bring! From opportunities to observe the classic Messier Catalogue all over again to the prospects of a new and wonderful comet, Comet ISON! Whatever your plans or goals are for astronomy in your life this year, please make a point to include the Astronomy Club

Aldebaran's fiery red appearance led it to be called the "Eye of the Bull" in the constellation of Taurus.

The constellation of Orion (the hunter) is probably the most recognized constellation by anyone who has gazed up to the Sky. Four well known stars of Orion (Rigel, Betelgeuse, Bellatrix, Saiph) form an irregularly shaped four cornered box. At the middle lies the famous "Belt of Orion" (comprised of the three stars Mintaka, Alnilam, Alnitak) which appear to be the same brightness and lie in a straight line. The human tendency to see patterns in a random distribution is well rewarded in the Constellation of Orion. I would like to quote the characteristic appearance from Wikipedia.

"In artistic renderings, the surrounding constellations are sometimes related to Orion: He is depicted standing next to the river Eridanus with his two hunting dogs Canis Major and Canis Minor, fighting Taurus the bull. Orion is sometimes depicted hunting Lepus the hare. He is sometimes depicted to have a Lion's hide in his hand."

Three other famous features are Orion's sword (that hangs from his belt) and Orion's club (stretching north from Betelgeuse with Mu

of Akron in them! I want to thank each and every member for their participation and attendance at club meetings and observatory outings last year and I look forward to seeing you all at club events in the coming year!

I would also like to remind you that we do still have a certificate program and that all club members are welcome to participate in earning a certificate. I will repost the certificate program to the member list again so that you can refresh your memories.

Orionis forming the elbow). The Shield of Orion are several stars that lie west of Bellatrix. The Orion Nebula (M-42) is one of the most famous and spectacular objects in the entire sky. It is a diffuse nebula that lies in Orion's Sword (and therefore south of the Belt). Under good seeing conditions, it is a naked eye object. It is one of the brightest nebula in the entire Sky. M-42 lies at approx 1344 light years and is the closest region of "massive Star Formation" to the Earth. The Orion Nebula is estimated to be 24 light years across. M-42 offers a truly marvelous appearance to those fortunate to see it thru a larger telescope. It will appear in colors. There are areas with a greenish tint, and areas of red, along with regions of blue-violet. The Orion constellation offers other notable features: Barnard's Loop, the Horsehead Nebula, De Mairan's Nebula (M43), M78 (a beautiful reflection nebula), and the Flame Nebula (emission nebula a distance of 900-1500 light years away).

The January Sky offers at least 100 well known celestial objects. Your night sky is a gold mine of celestial treasures, waiting for you to make its discovery!

*Article by Gary Smith,
ACA President*

I would also like to ask members to regard the deadline for article submission to the newsletter a little more faithfully, myself included. I do like to try getting the newsletter out at the most by a maximum of the 9th. There have been incidences where I've not been able to publish until the 12th.

All in all 2013 looks to be an exciting year, especially as summer comes to a close. And I look forward to sharing it with you all! Clear Skies!

*Article by Jason Shinn,
ACA Publications Secretary*

New Year Surprise

By Marissa Fanady



Although I didn't know it at the time, in New York, at the Northeast Astronomy Forum, I made a new professional friend who has once again shown his kindness, Geoffrey Notkin. Co-

host of the hit TV show *Meteorite Men*, award winning author of "Rock Star Adventures of A Meteorite Man" and "Meteorite Hunting", and soon actor in the upcoming movie "Unfinished Business". Traveling to this event was a dream come true for me, to get to meet professionals in astronomy and related fields, scope out new equipment and telescopes, shop for attire, and travel to New York City. I felt at home and also very intimidated at the same time, but I mustered up the courage and approached Steve Arnold and Geoff Notkin. They showed me amazing kindness and to this day Geoff still shows it.

I used my Christmas money to buy a Gao-Guenie meteorite on Geoff's eBay auctions, and to my surprise I was the winner. The day the auctions were ending, on December twenty sixth, we had a blizzard and I could not make it to a bank to deposit my money, and I didn't have enough to cover the meteorite. I contacted Geoff explaining my situation, checking to make sure that if I won that I could pay in a few days and not lose the meteorite or get some sort of late fee. He replied saying, "of course, Marissa, you're a friend! Take as long as you wish." With the storm over, and the meteorite paid for, I waited for my package to arrive. On January second the wait was over and I quickly opened the package, anxious to see the meteorite up close. Upon opening it I noticed something was different, there was a large piece of paper in the bag that contained the identification card and the wrapped up



The personalized letter, meteorites, and signed picture from Geoffrey Notkin as received by ACA Member Marissa Fanady.

meteorite. Puzzled I unfolded the paper to find that it was a note, it said "Dear Marissa- Thank you for bidding! We thought you should have a complete Gao-Guenie stone to go with the slice that you won. A little New Year's gift from us! Cheers and happy 2013! Geoff". I could not believe it, I quickly unwrapped the meteorite and there it was, a nice little complete stone along with the slice that I won! Geoff was being way too generous, I had only met him once and talked with him very little on Facebook and Twitter, he barely knows me. Why he gave this to me I'll never know. When I thought this was too nice I discovered two other items in the bag, a trading card and a picture personally signed by Steve and Geoff. I was very humbled by their generosity and that they had remembered me when I was just

another fan and collector. Well I had to thank him, so using Twitter I thanked him, Geoff said "You are so welcome, happy 2013 and enjoy your space rocks."

Without astronomy I would have never met the people I know today and would not be pursuing a career, I also wouldn't know where I fit in and would still be afraid of the world. To the ACA I would like to say thank you so much for everything you've done. For teaching me, helping me, and accepting me as I am. I owe you everything, thank you.

Article by ACA Member
Marissa Fanady

2013 TARGET LIST

List your target goals for observing during the 2013 season. Bring them to the next club meeting and share with us.

THE ASTRONOMY CLUB OF AKRON

JANUARY 2013 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Earth at Perihelion (Closest) at 5h UT.	2	3 QUADRANTID METEOR SHOWER PEAKS AT 13H UT.	4	5 Last Quarter 3:58UT 
6	7	8	9	10 Moon at perigee (closest) at 10h UT.	11 New Moon 19:44UT 	12
13	14	15	16 11	17	18 First Quarter 23:45UT 	19
20	21 Moon at apogee (farthest) at 11h UT.	22	23	24	25 ACA MEMBERSHIP MEETING (KIWANIS) 8:00p	26
27	26 Full Moon 4:39UT 	27	28	29	30	

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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

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c/o Glenn Cameron
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Massillon, OH 44646-9018

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

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