



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron
www.acaoh.org

Volume 37 Number

May, 2015

Next Meeting: Friday - May 22, 2015 - 8:00 PM - Kiwanis

Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



Randy Leeson sets up his 17.5" Dobsonian Telescope at our May 7th impromptu star party. Randy recently had the mirror refigured and the results are impressive.

Our observing season has started out well with many clear nights for our impromptu star parties and scheduled events. Jupiter has been the showcase celestial object displaying some spectacular features and rare events occurring during the our observing sessions. Jupiter's placement in the sky at high elevation due to location of ecliptic has enabled us to see good surface detail. In just a few star parties we have seen the Great Red Spot, festoons within equatorial belts, and transits of Galilean Moons. On April 18th, Europa occulted Ganymede while stargazers watched through the 16" observatory telescope. The event was actually part of an eclipse where Europa cast its shadow on Ganymede. The occultation occurred hours before the eclipse as we watched Ganymede disappear, then reappear minutes later. This is just the start; we plan many more star parties this season including a couple of solar viewing events. Our May 16th star party will start with a telescope

seminar explaining the different types of telescopes; their advantages and disadvantages.

Our observatory needs some maintenance work to keep it in good condition. Mark Kochheiser is consulting with the park service to get permission to install two sections of fence on the east observatory grounds to shield that area from car headlights. We will need help from our membership to make these repairs and installations. Further information will be sent out by e-mail concerning observatory maintenance events. Your help is appreciated.

*Article By Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director*

OFFICERS 2014 – 2016

President

John Shulan
Phone: 330-836-0800 E-mail: john@shulans.com

Vice President

Ann Ferrell
Phone: 330-697-7279
E-mail: annhagemaster@gmail.com

Treasurer

Glenn Cameron
Phone: 330-737-1472 E-mail: glenn@cameronclan.org

Secretary

Lew Snodgrass
Phone: 330-867-4800 E-mail: CHRPLY@aol.com

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Cathy Loboda
Phone: 330-655-2923 E-mail: cnloboda@aol.com

Observatory Director

Ron Kalinoski
Phone: 330-837-5848

ACA Webmaster

Dave Jessie
E-mail: DJessie@neo.rr.com

Publications Secretary - Editor, Night Sky Newsletter

Jason Shinn
Phone: 330-685-5382 E-mail: jgshinn2014@gmail.com

Trustee

Fred Huffman
E-mail: trusstube2@gmail.com

Trustee

Trustee

Statutory Agent

Mark Kochheiser
Phone: 330-882-3713 E-mail: mkochheiser@neo.rr.com

OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

April Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Cameron

4/1/2015 Through 4/30/2015

Checking Beginning Balance	\$2,429.45
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Income

Magazine Subscriptions	66.95
Dues	220.18
Donations	25.00

Total Income	\$312.13
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Expenses

Metisentry web hosting	-57.81
Go-Daddy name renewal	-31.14

Total Expenses	-\$88.95
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Income Less Expenses	-\$223.18
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Checking Ending Balance	\$2,652.63
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$2,580.20
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Earned Interest	0.00
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Savings Ending Balance	\$2,580.20
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Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$50.00
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	0.00
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Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$50.00
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Petty Cash	50.00
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Savings	2,580.20
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Checking	2,652.63
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Grand Total	\$5,282.83
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Article by Glenn Cameron

ACA Treasurer.

SWAP & SHOP



FOR SALE:

22mm Orion Epic ED-2 ED Eyepiece
25mm Orion Epic ED-2 ED Eyepiece

Asking: \$25 each
Contact: Glenn Cameron
Phone: 330-737-1472
Email: glenn@cameronclan.org



FOR SALE:

Orion Sirius 40mm Plossl

Asking: \$25
Contact: Glenn Cameron
Phone: 330-737-1472
Email: glenn@cameronclan.org

FOR SALE:

Meade LXD75 Mount

- Tripod.
- One counterweight.
- Autostar and battery box power supply.
- Cigarette lighter power cable.
- Selling because of upgrade to LX80 mount.
- LOCAL PICKUP is necessary.

Asking: \$325 OBO
Contact: Glenn Cameron
Phone: 330-737-1472
Email: glenn@cameronclan.org

FOR SALE:

Celestron CPC Deluxe 800 HD Telescope with tripod.

Accessories:

- Celestron 1.25" eyepiece and filter kit.
- Tele Vue nebula filter.
- Celestron UHC/LPR filter.
- Celestron 15mm 1.25" 82 degree wide field eyepiece.
- Stellarvue 1.25" Dielectric Diagonal.
- Stellarvue 1.25" erecting prism.
- Celestron power tank and dew shield.
- Astrozap sun filter.
- Celestron AC adapter.
- JMI custom hard shell case for telescope.

All 8 months old, brand new condition.

Asking: \$2200
Contact: Jim Hall
Phone: 330-268-8695

FOR SALE:

Celestron NexStar 8i computerized to go 8" F/10 Schmidt-Cassegrain

Focal length 2032 mm with 406x highest useful power.

Includes:

- GPS module.
- Five multicoated Plössl eyepieces.
- 2X Barlow lense.
- Seven filters.
- A/C adaptor.
- Night vision flash.
- Celestron star pointer.

All rarely used and in new condition.
Cost \$1,689 new.

Asking: Best Offer
Contact: Nick Bade
Email: nb@tribco.com
Phone: 216-486-2000 weekdays and 440-585-8687 evenings and weekends.

FOR SALE:



Pentax XW 20mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.
- Small mark on 1.25" barrel.
- Always used in a compression clamp.

Asking: \$220 (cash)
Contact: Fred Fry
Email: riverfry@gmail.com

FOR SALE:



Televue Radian 12 mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.

Asking: \$180 (cash)
Contact: Fred Fry
Email: riverfry@gmail.com

FOR SALE:



Televue Radian 18 mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.

Asking: \$180 (cash)
Contact: Fred Fry
Email: riverfry@gmail.com

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

Advertise in the Swap n Shop!

Send a picture of your ASTRONOMY RELATED item and relevant information to the newsletter editor: jgshinn2014@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jason Shinn

It is with regret that we must announce the resignation of the club president, John Shulun. We thank him for his service and wish John the best. He is still of course always welcome at club meetings and at the observatory. The following is a short synopsis in his own words as to the reasoning.

"First of all I wish to thank Ann for putting together another great club meeting. It was the best attended one I can remember. On another note, the board of directors has chosen not to accept the Rotary grant for a solar telescope. With that vote, I am personally resigning from the ACA. The bylaws of the club call for outreach. The solar scope had plenty of members willing to do so and has already brought one new member into the club to assist. It would have been a great opportunity to get the public aware of what the ACA does and get people interested in the sciences. The majority of astronomy clubs I know work very hard to expand their outreach and they are healthy and fulfill a real public need. The ACA has shrunk by 30% over the years. I personally was inspired by Dave Jessie and his love of astronomy and the sharing of it. I am still motivated by that outreach and have met so many people with a like interest whom have never heard of the ACA. I guess that is the crux of the problem I wished to address as president. I wish the club the very best and have enjoyed to comradery of all but now I must follow my motivation and work to bring a new group into the wonderful world of astronomy.

Sincerely,
John"

*Article by Jason Shinn,
ACA Publications Secretary*

General Membership Meeting

By Ann Ferrell



ACA Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski with the ACA's 16" Meade LX200ACF computerized Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope.

*Article By Ann Ferrell,
ACA Vice President*

This month our guest speaker will be our very own Ron Kalinoski, ACA Observatory Director and he will be presenting a talk on how to grind your own telescope mirror. Have you ever wanted to grind your own telescope mirror? With time and dedication, you can create a telescope mirror of higher optical quality than many of the commercial mirrors available today. We'll cover all the elements required to make your own mirror: rough grinding, fine grinding, polishing and correcting. The presentation will be part lecture and part demonstration. The audience will have the opportunity to read the curve of a mirror using a knife edge tester.

Ron's interest in astronomy began at age 10 when his father bought him a telescope and he has been observing the night sky ever since, including countless nights at desert locations of southwestern United States. Ron works for Firestone Polymers as an engineer. Ron is passionate about the environment and leads the volunteer Wildlife Habitat Group at Firestone Polymers. The group's goal is to increase awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship.

NOTE!! Tonight is the last meeting prior to our three month summer break. If you need to renew your dues, please come prepared to do so and make our Treasurer happy. ;^)

Meteorite Hunting Trip

By Marissa Fanady

Well it's finally time! A week from now, May 21st, I'll be in Nevada to hunt for meteorites for the very first time. I'll be hunting the Stewart Valley dry lake bed near Pahrump Nevada for three days in search of stone meteorites. For those of you who don't know, I'm a meteorite nut! Ever since I learned that people could actually look for these visitors from space I've been dreaming about hunting for my own and always I'd find some but only to wake up to realize that it was all just a dream. But thanks to an amazing community on Club Space Rock, an online forum to discuss meteorites, as well as the scientific community in general my dream will come true!



Meteorite hunting gear and equipment. Image by Marissa Fanady

With the help and generosity of the community we were able to raise \$5,786 to cover all the costs of the trip including meteorite hunting equipment and gear. Since I'll be hunting in the desert a backpack that carries water was essential. I also received a magnet cane, a cane with a powerful magnet on the end, to pick up the meteorites. Also among my equipment was a GPS, bags, scale to weigh my finds, a loop to look at smaller meteorites, and a scale cube. Among my gear I received a special shirt for extremely hot weather that's lightweight and designed to cool, a bag to carry equipment in for easy access, and a sun visor. The funds were also used to buy a bubble chair that goes over sand in case my wheelchair can't perform on the terrain. Everything is now purchased and ready to go, all that's left is to start packing!!! Hopefully I come home with meteorites in hand.

Article By ACA Member,
Marissa Fanady

Pluto Safari

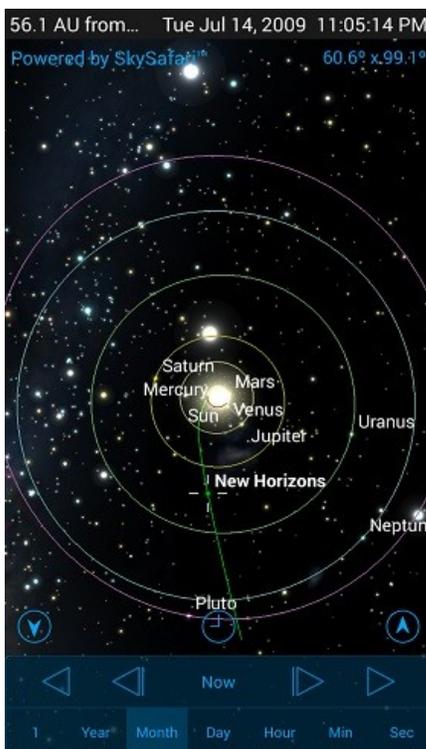
By Bob Benedict

Pluto Safari is a great, free, interactive guide to the first mission to Pluto. It's a free app from the developers of SkySafari 4. There are versions for Android, IOS and web browser based (web browser does everything but interactive views). You can follow the New Horizons spacecraft on its historic mission to explore the icy worlds at the edge of our solar system. New Horizons will fly by Pluto and Charon on July 14, 2015. It will then venture out even further and attempt to visit one or more objects in the Kuiper Belt region beyond Neptune.

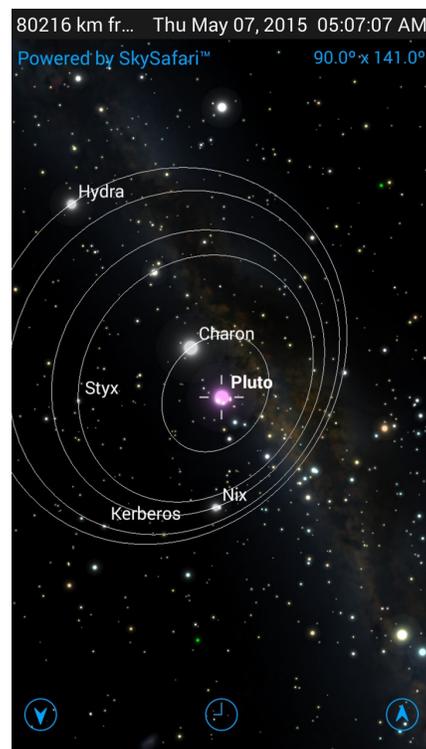
There are four sections in Pluto Safari:

Countdown Timers: Track when New Horizons will reach Pluto - down to the second - with the Closest Approach to Pluto countdown clock. The distance to Pluto in miles is also displayed.

Location: Provides interactive views on the latest position of New Horizons and Pluto. Get a bird's-eye view of our Solar System as New Horizons approaches Pluto. The bird's-eye view



Screen shot of the New Horizons' trajectory via Pluto Safari. Image by ACA member By Bob Benedict.



Screen shot of Pluto and its moons via Pluto Safari. Image by ACA member By Bob Benedict.

is great fun when used with the time functions to follow the New Horizons' trajectory across the solar system. Rotate around a detailed 3D model of the New Horizons spacecraft, explore the Pluto system and its moons. Find Pluto in the sky from your home location, or even fly through some of the objects in the Kuiper Belt. These graphics should be familiar to Sky Safari users.

Timeline: Explore detailed New Horizons mission event dates and view select milestones in the interactive solar system simulator.

Guide: A multimedia guide to Pluto, its discovery, the first mission to explore it, and the controversy generated by its demotion to dwarf planet status.

News: Updated information on the latest mission news, data, and discoveries. I particularly enjoyed the news item on how amateur astronomers assisted the New Horizons team.

Poll: On the IAU's decision in 2006 to reclassify Pluto as a "dwarf planet".

Available at:

IOS app at iTunes

Android app at Google Playstore

Web based app at: <http://app.plutosafari.com/>

*Article By ACA Member,
Bob Benedict*

May Astronomical Events

5/4/15 4:00am FULL MOON
5/5/15 4:00pm Saturn 2° S. of Moon
5/7/15 5:00am Mercury greatest elong. E. (21°)
5/11/15 11:00am LAST QUARTER
5/12/15 1:00am Mercury 8° N. of Aldebaran
5/12/15 9:00pm Neptune 3° S. of Moon
5/15/15 12:00am Moon at perigee
5/15/15 12:00pm Uranus 0°.2 N. of Moon Occn.
5/18/15 4:00am NEW MOON
5/19/15 7:00am Mercury 6° N. of Moon
5/19/15 11:00am Mercury stationary
5/21/15 7:00pm Venus 8° N. of Moon
5/23/15 2:00am Saturn at opposition
5/24/15 7:00am Jupiter 5° N. of Moon
5/25/15 5:00pm FIRST QUARTER
5/26/15 10:00pm Moon at apogee
5/30/15 5:00pm Mercury in inferior conjunction
5/30/15 5:00pm Venus 4° S. of Pollux

*Information Credited,
Her Majesty's Nautical Almanac Office,
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office*

Featured Object

The Crab Nebula is the shattered remnant of a massive star that ended its life in a supernova explosion. Nearly a thousand years old, the supernova was noted in the constellation of Taurus by Chinese astronomers in the year 1054 AD.

The energetic cloud of electrons is driven by a rapidly rotating neutron star, or pulsar, at its core. The nebula is about 6,500 light-years away from the Earth, and is 5 light-years across.



The Crab Nebula M1 taken via Slooh.com with robotic telescopes. Image taken by ACA member Marissa Fanady.

*Information Credited,
http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_567.html*

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor
1026C Rocky Brook Dr.
Akron, OH 44313

The Astronomy Club of Akron
c/o Glenn Cameron
8019 Glendevan St. NW
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

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