



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 37 Number 11

November 2015

Next Meeting: Friday - November 20, 2015 - 8:00 PM - Tudor House

Vice Presidents Column

By Ann Ferrell

The Astronomy Club of Akron is proud to host Michael Blair, a geologist with Tetra Tech, Inc., an environmental consulting firm which provides technical support to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Previously he served as an aerospace lecturer and coordinator of the 3rd Saturday Event series at the NASA Glenn Visitor Center from 2004 to 2008 and he's a member of the NASA Glenn Speaker's Bureau. Presentation Topic: Ten Years At Saturn: What we have learned from the Cassini Mission.

Mr. Blair will present an overview of the Cassini mission to Saturn in particular Saturn's moons. The Cassini spacecraft has now been at Saturn for 10 years, exploring the planet, its moons and its magnificent ring system. Mike will explain what we've learned and what we need to know. He promises a great talk and many beautiful photos from the mission! 3D glasses will be provided for his presentation.

Enceladus is a place of mystery. It's cold but home to a warm ocean, it's speckled with plumes spewing weird stuff into space, and it bears long gashes dubbed "tiger stripes". Tomorrow, Oct. 28th, Cassini will scream over the South Pole at approximately 19,000 mph, just 30 miles above the surface and actually go right through a plume sniffing for hydrogen. How exciting it that!



Michael Blair, Geologist and Aerospace Lecturer at NASA Glenn Research Center.

Meeting Location: Franklin Civic Center "The Tudor House" (in the Portage Lakes Park) 655 Latham Lane, Akron 44319, 8:00 p.m. No reservations and plenty of free parking.

Clear Skies!

*Article By Ann Ferrell
ACA Presiding Officer and Vice-President*

OFFICERS 2014 – 2016

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October Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Cameron

10/1/2015 Through 10/31/2015

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Checking Beginning Balance | \$3,262.57 |
|----------------------------|------------|

Income

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Dues | 110.25 |
| Donations | 9.00 |
| 50/50 Raffle | 8.00 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Total Income | \$127.25 |
|---------------------|-----------------|

Expenses

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Speaker Dinner | -26.42 |
| Web Hosting | -57.81 |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Total Expenses | -84.23 |
|-----------------------|---------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Income Less Expenses | -\$43.02 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Checking Ending Balance | \$3,305.59 |
|-------------------------|------------|

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Savings Beginning Balance | \$2,580.53 |
|---------------------------|------------|

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Earned Interest | 0.04 |
|-----------------|------|

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Savings Ending Balance | \$2,580.57 |
|------------------------|------------|

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Petty Cash Beginning Balance | \$50.00 |
|------------------------------|---------|

| | |
|--|------|
| | 0.00 |
|--|------|

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Petty Cash Ending Balance | \$50.00 |
|---------------------------|---------|

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Petty Cash | 50.00 |
|------------|-------|

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Savings | 2,580.57 |
|---------|----------|

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Checking | 3,305.59 |
|----------|----------|

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Grand Total | \$5,936.16 |
|--------------------|-------------------|

Article by Glenn Cameron
ACA Treasurer.

SWAP & SHOP



FOR SALE:

Orion Sirius 40mm Plossl

Asking: \$25

Contact: Glenn Cameron

Phone: 330-737-1472

Email: glenn@cameronclan.org

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:

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:



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

Meteorite Of The Month

By Marissa Fanady

My sincere apologies for the lack of a featured MOTM in the October newsletter. Life has been very unkind lately and things in my world are a bit uncertain. But things have calmed a bit, thankfully, and the show must go on! So without further ado I give you the Sylacauga meteorite, the only meteorite in modern recorded history to have ever struck a human being. Yes folks you read that correctly.....a human was struck by a meteorite on November 30, 1954 but don't you worry because this person did survive. At 2:46pm local time a meteor, several kilometers in size, fell over Sylacauga Alabama almost completely burning up except for a few pieces, one of which was 8.5 pounds. This main mass crashed through the roof of a house, into the living room, hit and bounced off a radio and struck the hand and hip of Mrs. Elizabeth Hodges who was sleeping on her couch. The now meteorite left a huge bruise on her hip and became one of the most famous meteorites in history all in a matter of seconds!

When a meteorite hits a manmade object, animal or person we call it a hammer stone. Meteors aren't rare, we see them all the time especially during meteor showers. Earth is constantly being bombarded by dust and debris from the leftover materials when our solar system was very young and new some 4.6 billion years ago. But it is rare when an object, kilometers in size, hits earth and some of the object manages to survive the fiery entry through our protective atmosphere. When that object strikes a manmade object it becomes extremely rare and sought after by collectors. Some people only collect hammer stones. Even the objects the stone hits, if there's damage, are worth thousands of dollars. Only two fragments of the meteorite were found, the one that hit Mrs. Hodges and another that was found by a farmer who sold the fragment. To give you a good idea of how much this meteorite was worth the farmer that sold his piece bought himself a car and a house!!! Sadly after a legal battle over the meteorite between Elizabeth and the landlord of the house nobody wanted to buy the stone. Mrs. Hodges won the battle but ended up using the rock as a doorstop until she donated it to the Alabama Museum of Natural History where it still remains. Small crumbs of the meteorite can still be purchased in the meteorite market of which I own one.

The meteorite was classified as an H4 ordinary chondrite stone meteorite meaning it contains spherical dust grains called chondrules, which were the first materials to form in the solar nebula some 4.5 billion years ago, and the meteorite has a higher concentration of iron and nickel than some other stone meteorites. If you're ever in Alabama I highly suggest making a stop to visit this legendary meteorite, someday me and this meteorite will meet face to face. So if a rock smashes through your house, garage, car, barn or even your mailbox don't get angry. The universe just literally gave you money right in your lap!!! Of course, for those who know me, that meteorite would be mine forever...no amount of money could make me give that up. We meteorite lovers wish that something like these events would happen to us! Until next time clear skies, look up and remember to watch out! For more information about meteorites or if you'd like to purchase your own contact me at speedymissy@yahoo.com.

Information credited:
www.slate.com
www.history.com
www.lpi.usra.edu

*Article By ACA Member,
Marissa Fanady*



Moody Jacobs showing the massive bruise that the meteorite left after hitting his patient Elizabeth Hodges in 1954. Image credited Jay Leviton, Time and Life Pictures/Getty



The Sylacauga meteorite aka the Mrs. Hodges Meteorite which is now housed at the Alabama Museum of Natural History. Image credited www.valleywx.com.

Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



ACA members and friends starting the first stages of building the observatory fence to block car lights during observing sessions. Image by ACA member Glenn Cameron.

On October 31st, members gathered at the observatory to start erecting the observatory fence. There are two fence sections that are strategically located to block car headlights coming from and going to the boat dock area. We decided to increase the size of the north fence section to provide extra coverage. Gary Ciesielczyk and his son Ben used their tractor and auger to dig post holes while other members mixed concrete to set the posts. At noon we took a break for some grilled hotdogs & hamburgers, then continued setting posts. Thanks to Gary Ciesielczyk, Ben Ciesielczyk, Gary Smith, Don Bennington, Freddy Huffman, Glenn Cameron, Ron Money, and Russ Ferrell for their extraordinary effort on this project. We plan to let pickets and cross members dry this winter before staining and completing the fence this Spring. Our finished fence sections will have outside fence pickets back to

back and inside fence pickets gapped by 3.5". The objective here is to make the fence sections aesthetically appealing regardless of viewpoint.

Our 2015 observing season has come to an end this month. There are possibilities for additional impromptu star parties if allowed by sky conditions. Although weather and weather forecasts have been poor this year, we managed to hold a considerable amount of star parties to show the public the night sky. Here are the numbers: total attempted scheduled & impromptu star parties was 32 (19 scheduled events & 13 impromptu events). The number of actual star parties held was 20, with 12 star parties being canceled due to weather conditions. 42% of our scheduled events were held, while 92% of our impromptu events were held.

*Article By Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director*

November Astronomical Events

11/3/15 12:00pm LAST QUARTER
11/3/15 4:00pm Venus $0^{\circ}.7$ S. of Mars
11/6/15 4:00pm Jupiter 2° N. of Moon
11/7/15 10:00am Mars $1^{\circ}.8$ N. of Moon
11/7/15 2:00pm Venus $1^{\circ}.2$ N. of Moon
11/7/15 10:00pm Moon at apogee
11/11/15 6:00pm NEW MOON
11/13/15 1:00am Saturn 3° S. of Moon
11/17/15 3:00pm Mercury in superior conjunction
11/17/15 4:00pm Vesta stationary
11/18/15 9:00pm Neptune stationary
11/19/15 6:00am FIRST QUARTER
11/20/15 2:00am Neptune 3° S. of Moon
11/22/15 7:00pm Uranus $0^{\circ}.9$ N. of Moon Occn.
11/23/15 8:00pm Moon at perigee
11/25/15 11:00pm FULL MOON
11/26/15 10:00am Aldebaran $0^{\circ}.7$ S. of Moon Occn.
11/28/15 4:00pm Venus 4° N. of Spica
11/30/15 12:00am Saturn in conjunction with Sun

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

December Astronomical Events

12/3/15 8:00am LAST QUARTER
12/4/15 6:00am Jupiter $1^{\circ}.8$ N. of Moon
12/5/15 3:00pm Moon at apogee
12/6/15 3:00am Mars $0^{\circ}.1$ N. of Moon Occn.
12/7/15 5:00pm Venus $0^{\circ}.7$ S. of Moon Occn.
12/11/15 10:00am NEW MOON
12/17/15 8:00am Neptune 3° S. of Moon
12/18/15 3:00pm FIRST QUARTER
12/20/15 1:00am Uranus $1^{\circ}.2$ N. of Moon Occn.
12/21/15 9:00am Moon at perigee
12/21/15 12:00pm Mars 4° N. of Spica
12/22/15 5:00am Solstice
12/23/15 8:00pm Aldebaran $0^{\circ}.7$ S. of Moon Occn.
12/25/15 11:00am FULL MOON
12/26/15 11:00am Uranus stationary
12/29/15 3:00am Mercury greatest elong. E. (20°)
12/31/15 6:00pm Jupiter $1^{\circ}.5$ N. of Moon

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

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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

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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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