

# **ACA NEWS AND NOTES**

## **March 2018**

### **ACA Meetings**

The next ACA membership meeting is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on March 23rd at New Franklin City Hall. This month's speaker is Jason Davis, Planetarium Director at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Hope to see you all at the meeting!

### **May Elections**

A slate of officers is being prepared for the April 2018 elections. The slate must be presented to members at the March meeting, so if you are interested in serving ACA in this capacity, there is still time to contact nominating committee members Ron Kalinoski, Fred Huffman, and Ann Ferrell. Voting takes place during the April meeting and our new officers begin their term on May 1st. Please consider serving as ACA celebrates its 69th year!

### **Star Parties**

It is with sheer excitement that I announce the first scheduled star parties of 2018! These mark the promise of spring and warmer days/nights that follow: March 17 @ 7:45pm, April 7 @ 8:00pm, and April 14 @8:00pm. All star parties are held at the ACA Observatory located in Portage Lakes State Park.

## **ACA Meeting Minutes February 23, 2018**

**Venue:** New Franklin.

**Attendance:** 25.

“Live Face Book feed today”

**Guest Speaker:** 7:59, Dave Jessie introduces our guest speaker Tom Benson, retired NASA Glenn Engineer. Subject: “Project Gemini”.

Break: 9:28.

**Business Meeting:** Called to order at 9:40.

Vice President report: In light of the late hour, postponed officer reports.

Freddie: Our slate of new officer candidates is nearly full, next meetings we will conduct formal nominations.

A vote was taken to continue with the newsletter format, all voted yes.

Big thanks to Terry for the refreshments.

Adjourned: at 9:44 by voice vote.

*Lew Snodgrass*  
*ACA Secretary*

## March 23, 2018 General Membership Meeting

**Speaker:** Jason Davis, Planetarium Director at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

**Presentation:** "Bad Astronomy!" Life in the planetarium business is tricky. The scope of the knowledge required spans millennia. More importantly, we are up against an enormous amount of awful astronomy. "Mars will look as big as the full moon!" "Lock your pets up or they'll go blind during the eclipse!" "That moon landing stuff was totally fake!" "Earth rotates around the Sun." It's terrible. Please join me in a presentation with numerous examples of bad astronomy out in the world of movies, TV shows, and even articles written by scientists followed by a discussion on how to cut through the misconceptions and get our message across.

**Biography:** Jason Davis is the Planetarium Manager at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Nathan and Fanny Shafran Planetarium. He joined the staff at the Museum in 2001 as the Astronomy Programs Coordinator and was promoted to his current position in 2009. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign in 2000 with a major in astronomy and a minor in geology. After a year-long internship at the Strasenburgh Planetarium in Rochester, New York, Jason joined the team here in Cleveland.

### Meeting Location:

**New Franklin City Hall**  
**5611 Manchester Road**  
**Akron, OH 44319**

Please note that we ALWAYS encourage the public to attend ANY of our events, including meetings. Come and enjoy the lecture and talk to us about astronomy!

## March Astronomical Events

Day Hour(UT)

1 06 Regulus 0 °.9 S. of Moon Occn.  
2 01 FULL MOON  
4 14 Neptune in conjunction with Sun  
5 18 Mercury 1 °.4 N. of Venus  
7 07 Jupiter 4 ° S. of Moon  
9 10 Jupiter stationary  
9 11 LAST QUARTER  
10 01 Mars 4 ° S. of Moon  
11 02 Saturn 2 ° S. of Moon  
11 09 Moon at apogee  
15 15 Mercury greatest elong. E. (18 °)  
17 13 NEW MOON  
18 01 Mercury 4 ° N. of Venus  
18 18 Mercury 8 ° N. of Moon  
18 19 Venus 4 ° N. of Moon  
19 16 Uranus 5 ° N. of Moon  
20 16 Equinox  
20 21 Ceres stationary  
22 17 Mercury stationary  
22 23 Aldebaran 0 °.9 S. of Moon Occn.  
24 16 FIRST QUARTER  
26 17 Moon at perigee  
28 14 Regulus 1 °.0 S. of Moon Occn.  
31 13 FULL MOON

*Information Credited,  
Her Majesty's Nautical Almanac Office,  
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office.  
US Naval Observatory.*

## April Astronomical Events

Day Hour(UT)

1 18 Mercury in inferior conjunction  
2 12 Mars 1 °.3 S. of Saturn  
3 14 Jupiter 4 ° S. of Moon  
7 13 Saturn 1 °.9 S. of Moon  
7 18 Mars 3 ° S. of Moon  
8 06 Moon at apogee  
8 07 LAST QUARTER  
12 23 Neptune 1 °.9 N. of Moon  
14 04 Mercury stationary  
14 09 Mercury 4 ° N. of Moon  
16 02 NEW MOON  
17 19 Venus 5 ° N. of Moon  
18 02 Saturn stationary  
18 14 Uranus in conjunction with Sun  
19 05 Aldebaran 1 °.1 S. of Moon Occn.  
20 15 Moon at perigee  
22 22 FIRST QUARTER  
23 02 Pluto stationary  
24 20 Regulus 1 °.2 S. of Moon Occn.  
29 18 Mercury greatest elong. W. (27 °)  
30 01 FULL MOON  
30 17 Jupiter 4 ° S. of Moon

## The Astronomical League

Join The Astronomical League!

As was noted in February NEWS AND NOTES: At the last ACA Board Meeting (02/04/18) the idea of ACA joining the Astronomical League was discussed.

The Astronomical League (AL) is composed of over two hundred and forty local amateur astronomical societies and clubs from all across the United States. These organizations, along with Members-at-Large, Patrons, and Supporting members form one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world.

Some of the benefits of joining the AL are:

Full voting privileges.

The Reflector quarterly newsletter mailed direct to each paid member.

Liability insurance to protect the society and its officers.

The Book Service through which your members can buy astronomy-related books at a 10% discount if not already sold through League Sales.

Observing awards for your members to work toward, promoting observing and the study of the sky.

National and regional conventions

The cost of joining the AL consists of a member society fee of \$10.00 yearly and \$5.00 per year per member if all members join or \$7.50 per year if less than 95% join. The member fee is to cover the cost of the Reflector newsletter/magazine which can be sent hard copy or as a PDF download. A minimum of 5 members is required.

The Reflector newsletter/magazine is a full color 30+ page quarterly written by amateurs talking to other amateurs about their activities.

We will discuss joining the AL at the March 23 ACA monthly meeting.

## OFFICERS 2016 – 2018

### President

Cathy Loboda  
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### Vice President

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### Treasurer

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### Secretary

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### Publications Secretary - Editor, Night Sky Newsletter

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### Trustee

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### Trustee

### Statutory Agent

Mark Kochheiser  
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### OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

## February Treasurer's Report

By Nick Mihiylov

2/1/2018 Through 2/28/2018

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Checking Beginning Balance	\$1,310.56
<b>Income</b>	
Memberships	40.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
State Farm - Observatory Insurance CK#1218	525.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-525.00</b>
<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>-\$485.00</b>
Checking Ending Balance	\$825.56
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$2,566.68
Earned Interest	0.04
<b>Savings Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,566.72</b>
<hr/>	
Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$50.00
	0.00
<b>Petty Cash Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
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Petty Cash	50.00
Savings	2,566.72
Checking	825.56
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,442.28</b>

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Article by Nick Mihiylov  
ACA Treasurer.