



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 48 Number 6

June/July 2026

ACA MEETING - Sunday, September 20th, 2026 at 2:00

Member Photos of May 30th ACA Picnic

By Diwakar Chandrasekaran



Member Photos of May 30th ACA Picnic (continued)



President's Column

By Diwakar Chandrasekaran

Clear Skies & Summer Greetings

Dear ACA Members,

I hope you are all having a fantastic summer! As we look ahead to September and the start of our regular public lectures, I want to take a moment to highlight what's happening in our community and the incredible work taking place behind the scenes.

Building ACA Together: Continuing the Momentum

As I mentioned previously, our primary focus this term remains bridging the gap between our scheduled events and our club members. We truly want to see more of you actively involved in the heartbeat of the club! This year, we plan to create small committees to tackle key projects, and we hope to see our members working alongside our leadership team to volunteer and take part in ACA activities.

We welcome your input, suggestions, and feedback on how we can make our activities as engaging as possible for everyone.

2nd Summer Club Picnic: Volunteers Needed

Our May 2026 Club Picnic was a great success, and it was wonderful seeing everyone gather together in the daylight! Building on that momentum, we are excited to start planning a 2nd Summer Club Picnic.

While these gatherings are a fantastic way to meet outside of our dark-sky sessions, they do require a team effort to pull off. We are currently looking for volunteers to join the Picnic Committee to help with planning, location, and coordination for this next event. If you are able to lend a hand, please let us know!

Behind-the-Scenes Preparation

Our leadership team and volunteers have been working hard in the background to set us up for a great year ahead:

- **Speaker Lineup:** An engaging slate of speakers is currently being finalized for our upcoming

presentations, with the full schedule expected by mid-August.

- **Star Parties & Outreach:** We've already hosted several successful star parties this season, with many more on the calendar—keep an eye out for upcoming dark-sky dates!
- **Spreading the Word:** Active updates and event details are regularly being posted on our Facebook page to keep our community connected.
- **Newsletter & Communications:** Our print updates and monthly newsletters continue to be compiled and delivered to keep everyone informed.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Club accounts and operational logistics are running smoothly behind the scenes to support all our upcoming activities

Please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to the entire leadership team for their dedication and hard work.

Exploring Astronomy Together

Most importantly, I want to thank you—our club members. Your passion, presence, and shared love for the night sky is what drives this organization forward. Together, let's keep building this community with our common goal in mind: exploring the wonders of astronomy together.

Clear skies, and I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Ad Astra

OFFICERS 2026 — 2028

President: Diwakar Chandrasekaran

- E-mail: president@acaoh.org

Vice President: Gary Smith

- E-mail: vice.president@acaoh.org

Treasurer: Dave Hartsook

- E-mail: treasurer@acaoh.org

Secretary: Christina Hoehn-Shackelford

- E-mail: secretary@acaoh.org

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Drew Carlson

- E-mail: secretarytreasurer@acaoh.org

Observatory Director: Ron Kalinoski

- E-mail: observatory.director@acaoh.org

ACA Webmaster: Earl Rodd

- E-mail: webmaster@acaoh.org

Publications Secretary: Glenn R. Cameron

- E-mail: newsletter.editor@acaoh.org

Trustee: Nick Mihiylov

- E-mail: trustee@acaoh.org

Trustee: position vacant

- E-mail:

Trustee: position vacant

- E-mail:

Statutory Agent: Mark Kochheiser

- E-mail: statutoryagent@acaoh.org



Latest meeting video available on YouTube

By Glenn R. Cameron

2026-05-17 ACA Public Meeting Speaker Jeff Woytach <https://youtu.be/EALJHFZVJNI>



Meeting Minutes: May 17th, 2026

Submitted by Christina Hoehn-Shackelford

Meeting called to order by President Diwakar Chandrasekaran: 3:31 PM

Officers' Reports

President report by Diwakar Chandrasekaran: Welcomed all to the meeting. No report.

Vice President report by Gary Smith: Reported that SpaceX Starship Flight 12 is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th and discussed this event.

Secretary Report by Christina Hoehn-Shackelford: Secretary minutes are presented to members via the Night Sky Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections to the report. Briefly discussed minutes from the previous meeting. Reminded members of upcoming picnic on May 30th, and if a member would like to volunteer for the picnic committee, they can contact President Diwakar Chandrasekaran. Discussed the first board meeting of the new board on May 16th and topics discussed, including purchasing a new tote for sound system equipment and social media ideas to improve engagement.

Treasurer Report by Dave Hartsook: Treasurer reports are presented to members via The Night Sky Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections to the report. Discussed financials and provided information about accounts. April did not have much financial activity. Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski was reimbursed for refreshments. Informed members that Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Drew Carlson will be set up with financial account access. The club purchased the refreshments for the meeting - thanks go to Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski for making the purchases.

Observatory Director Report by Ron Kalinoski: The air conditioner was cleaned, but was unable to be started, so a new air conditioner needed to be purchased. Described the new unit and improvements this has made. Discussed Dave Jessie's TEC140 telescope that was used at the recent star party on May 11th. The TEC140 has

replaced the club's Tele Vue TV102 as the wide field telescope mounted on the 16 inch observatory telescope. Described how this is different from the Tele Vue TV102.

Old Business: President Diwakar Chandrasekaran reminded members that the picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th. Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski will send out an email reminding people to RSVP to get final numbers. Picnic committee is still looking for volunteers.

New Business: President Diwakar Chandrasekaran suggested creating a public lecture committee so that there are volunteers to help with setting up the Kiwanis room prior to meetings as this is currently falling on Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski to do prior to meetings. Ron described what is currently done, which includes cleaning tables, moving tables and chairs, and prepping coffee and snacks. Ron discussed how Vice President Gray Smith arrives early to set up the sound system for the speaker, and although this will improve once a tote is purchased so that this is not hauled to and from meetings, volunteers would still be appreciated.

Public lectures will not be held in June, July, and August. The next lecture and member meeting will be in September.

Star parties will continue throughout the summer. Watch for emails, Facebook posts, and the website for notifications.

Member Observations: No report.

Member Inquiries: Member shared information about Pints of Science, an event in which scientists discuss recent research and news, which is occurring on May 18, May 19, and May 20 at North Water Brewing Company in Kent.

Member reported that Venus and Jupiter will reach conjunction on June 9th and to watch the sky.

Member asked about the date for the second summer picnic. Two possible dates are Sunday July 19 at 2pm or Sunday August 16 at 2pm. Members chose Sunday, August 16th as the date. Secretary

Christina Hoehn-Shackelford will reserve the pavilion for that date.

Member reported that he has been using an app called Astrospheric for space weather and sky conditions, and wondered if others would be interested in using the app as well as there is a cost for certain features. Another member reported that he developed an app of his own called AstroNexus. Member described his app, which consists of space weather, launch activity, social media, clubs across

the country, news sources, etc. Member reported that he shared his app with Publications Secretary Glenn Cameron so that it could be added to the newsletter. President Diwakar Chandrasekaran and Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski discussed needing to have these ideas shared with the board so that they can discuss prior to these being added to the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned by Diwakar Chandrasekaran:
3:59 PM

The Astronomy Club of Akron Welcomes New Members

- Sharon Stefanovic and son Nathaniel
- Andy Paquet
- Fred & Sally Marquinez
- Nicholas & Brandy Smith

We look forward to seeing you in future club events.

Updated Facebook Link For the Astronomy Club of Akron

By Christina Hoehn-Shackelford

(Editor's note: This article is from an email sent to the ACA Board by our new club secretary, Christina Hoehn-Shackelford.)

At our board meeting, we discussed updating the link for our Facebook group, as it was previously just a grouping of numbers.

I just updated the link to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/astronomyclubofakron/>

If you have any questions, please let me know.

May 2026 ACA Treasurer's Report
By Dave Hartsook
6/2/2026

Checking Beginning Balance	\$ 1,418.24
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Inflows

Transfer from Savings	\$ 500.00
Dues - Pro rated	\$ 20.00
Contribution from Oaks of Righteousness Homeschool Group - unrestricted	\$ 84.00
Transfer from PayPal Account	\$ 35.00

Total Inflows	\$ 639.00
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Outflows

Speaker Honorarium - March 2026 ACA Meeting	\$ (75.00)
Speaker Honorarium - April 2026 ACA Meeting	\$ (50.00)
Speaker Honorarium - May 2026 ACA Meeting	\$ (75.00)
Reimburse Secretary for May 2026 ACA Picnic Pavilion Rental	\$ (56.50)
Reimburse Observatory Director for refreshments at March & April ACA Meetings and Board Mtg	\$ (50.03)
Reimburse Observatory Director for replacement Window A/C Unit for Observatory	\$ (219.00)
Reimburse Observatory Director for fasteners, parts to mount TEC 140 piggyback on 16" scope	\$ (67.14)
Transfer to PayPal Account	\$ (35.00)
Annual Domain Name Renewal fee - GoDaddy	\$ (23.19)

Total Outflows	\$ (650.86)
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Inflows Less Outflows	\$ (11.86)
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Checking Ending Balance	\$ 1,406.38
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$ 1,769.45
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Transfer to Checking	\$ (500.00)
Interest Income	\$ 0.01

Savings Ending Balance	\$ 1,269.46
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Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$ 50.00
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No Activity

Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$ 50.00
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Grand Total	\$ 2,725.84
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**June 2026 ACA Treasurer's Report
By Dave Hartsook
7/1/2026**

Checking Beginning Balance

\$ 1,406.38

Inflows

Dues - Pro rated	\$	17.50
Donations (Unrestricted)	\$	47.50
Cash from Observatory Director- refund of math error on picnic receipt reimbursement	\$	5.00

Total Inflows

\$ 70.00

Outflows

None	\$	-
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Total Outflows

\$ -

Inflows Less Outflows

\$ 70.00

Checking Ending Balance

\$ 1,476.38

Savings Beginning Balance

\$ 1,269.46

Interest Income	\$	0.01
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Savings Ending Balance

\$ 1,269.47

Petty Cash Beginning Balance

\$ 50.00

No Activity

Petty Cash Ending Balance

\$ 50.00

Grand Total

\$ 2,795.85

Member Photos - Heart and Soul Nebulae

By Niladri Kar

Sculptor Galaxy (NGC253): A starburst galaxy, star formation regions are highlighted by narrow-band H α filter (imaged in Aug-Sep 2025).



Member Photos - Great Globular Cluster in Hercules (M13)

By Niladri Kar

Great Globular Cluster in Hercules (M13): With 150 light years diameter, it contains 700 million stars (imaged in 2024).



Member Photos - Great Globular Cluster in Hercules (M13)

By Niladri Kar

Whirlpool Galaxy (M51a/NGC5194) and interacting dwarf galaxy (M51b/NGC5195)

80mm Refractor, IMX585 Color Camera; 4hr RGB; 3hr 33min Ha-Oiii; stacked and processed in Siril; final adjustment in Darktable; Bortle 5. (imaged over 5 nights in June 2026)



Member Photos - Venus-Jupiter Conjunction

By Ron Kalinoski

Attached are photos of a special celestial event; the August 2025 Venus-Jupiter conjunction. In the telephoto image, you can see three of the four large moons of Jupiter. All images were taken with an ordinary DSLR camera. This was a naked eye backyard event, no telescope or binoculars needed.

On June 9th this conjunction will again occur in our northwestern sky just after Sunset. At this conjunction of Venus and Jupiter the two planets will be separated by only 1.5 degrees.

Planets on inside orbits around the Sun travel faster than planets on outside orbits and they have less distance to travel around our Sun. The end result is planets on inside orbits overtake planets on outside orbits. Since all planets in our solar system lie within the same plane (our solar system is disk shaped), all planets travel along the same path in the sky and we call that path the ecliptic. So, when one planet overtakes another in its orbit around the Sun, they both appear very close together; and that is what will happen on June 9th. Right now is a great time to start watching as Jupiter and Venus slowly get closer and closer each night in the coming weeks.

(Editor's note: This article was submitted on May 23rd which is why the June 9th event is referred to in the future tense. Sorry about that Ron.)



Member Photos - Venus-Jupiter Conjunction (continued)

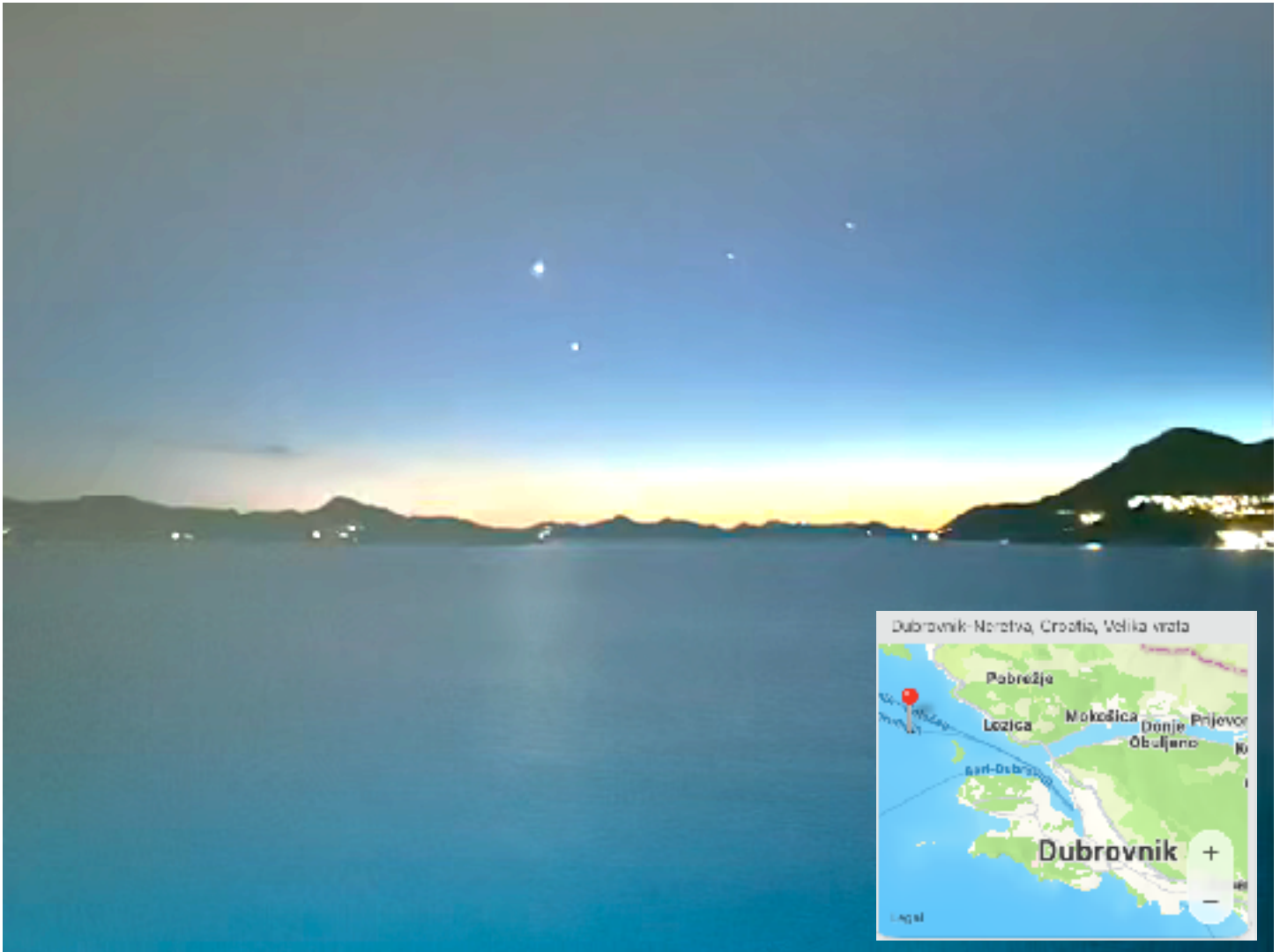
By Ron Kalinoski



Member Photos - Venus-Jupiter Conjunction-ish

By Glenn Cameron

I missed the conjunction of Venus and Jupiter on June 9th this year but I took this picture from the deck of the Viking Vesta cruise ship the evening of June 12th as we were departing Dubrovnik, Croatia. Venus and Jupiter were about 3.5 degrees apart. A pretty site! The two less bright objects on the right of center are Pollux and Castor in the constellation Gemini.





Astronomy Club of Akron

2026 Activity Schedule

View Celestial Objects through the area's Largest Amateur Club Telescope

5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH www.acaoh.org

Astronomy Club of Akron has been a distinguished northeast Ohio organization since 1949. The objective of the ACA is to promote the education of the public in the area of astronomy and related sciences through our public star parties and public lecture meetings.

STAR PARTIES: Portage Lakes State Park Observatory featuring a computerized 16 inch telescope

- Please join us for stargazing and educational activities. Our Star Parties are free and open to the public. Please arrive on time to avoid headlight distraction.
- For notice of “impromptu star parties”, send e-mail to ACAstarparty@att.net to request e-mail notification of our observing sessions.
- Events will be cancelled if skies are cloudy. Always check website for star party status two hours before event.
- This is an outdoor activity in an unheated environment. A general rule of thumb is to dress for 15 degrees cooler than predicted nighttime low temperature.
- Please, **No Smoking** on observatory grounds. Smoke reacts with optical surfaces, damaging optical coatings.
- Please, no use of cell phones or tablets in observatory (to preserve night vision).

Public Lecture Meetings: Free and open to the public featuring professional speakers

Meeting Place: Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center

725 Portage Lakes Drive Akron, OH

2026 Winter/Spring Schedule

January 18, 2026 2:00pm

Astronomy Club of Akron Members: John Crilly, Phil Creed, & Ron Kalinoski

Telescope Seminar

Our members will explain the science and operation of optical equipment including binoculars, reflectors, refractors, and catadioptric telescopes. Some classic telescopes will be on display.

February 15, 2026 2:00pm

Gary Kader, Baldwin Wallace University, Director of Burrell Observatory and Lecturer

Hertzsprung Russell Diagram

Stars are born, live their lives, and experience death. Gary Kader will explain how data represented on the Hertzsprung Russell Diagram tells us about the lives of stars.

March 15, 2026 2:00pm

Dr. Patrick Durrell, Youngstown State University

Topic to be announced soon. Dr. Durrell is a professor of Physics, Astronomy & Geology at Youngstown State University. He has used the Hubble Space Telescope to research galaxies and globular star clusters.

April 19, 2026 2:00pm

Dr. Cyrus Taylor, Case Western University

Global Warming

Dr. Taylor, a String Theorist and Particle Accelerator Scientist, has now decided to take on an even more challenging role. Dr. Taylor will explain how emissions into our atmosphere impact planet Earth.

May 17, 2026 2:00pm

Jeff Woytach, Space Systems Consulting, LLC

James Webb Telescope: Looking Back to the Edge of Creation

Jeff Woytach will explain the complexities of the James Webb Telescope and how it is being used to discover history of the earliest times after the Creation of the Universe.

*** We hold unscheduled star parties when skies are clear. For an e-mail notification of impromptu star parties send a message to ACAstarparty@att.net to be added to the list. For private star parties (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Groups, School Groups, etc.) send a request to the same e-mail address.

Swap-n-Shop

Glenn Cameron

Email: glenn@cameronclan.org

- Astro-Tech AT60ED 60mm F6 ED Doublet. Contains one FPL53 lens by Ohara in Japan which minimizes chromatic aberration. Price is \$300



Swap-n-Shop

Freddy Huffman

Phone: 330-535-8009

Email: trusstube2@gmail.com

- 8" Dobsonian
- 8" SCT
- 6" SCT
- 6" Refractor
- 5" Refractor
- 100 mm Binoculars
- EQ Mount w/ dual axis tracking
- iOptron SkyTracker and tripod

Call to set up appointment to see if you are interested.

Thank you,

Freddy



Swap-n-Shop

Sue Neal

Email: sn419.sn@gmail.com

Meade ETX 125 Observer Series telescope for sale!

Includes:

- Meade Super Plossl 9.7 mm eyepiece
- Meade Super Plossl 26 mm eyepiece
- Astromania Plossl 40 mm eyepiece
- Meade Autostar Suite Astronomer Edition 2014 V.1.0 software
- 1.25" 90° diagonal

Original packaging available. Assembled once, used about 10 times, dusted regularly.

Asking \$300.00.



July Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
01	05:00	Mercury at Aphelion
04	02:51	Moon at Ascending Node
06	13:00	Earth at Aphelion: 1.01664 AU
07	14:29	LAST QUARTER MOON
09	09:36	Venus 0.9°N of Regulus
10	17:54	Pleiades 1.1°S of Moon
12	20:00	Mercury at Inferior Conj
13	02:50	Moon at Perigee: 359111 km
14	04:43	NEW MOON
16	19:07	Regulus 0.5°N of Moon
16	19:27	Moon at Descending Node
17	11:31	Venus 2.0°N of Moon
20	22:21	Spica 2.4°N of Moon
21	06:06	FIRST QUARTER MOON
24	16:00	Antares 0.6°N of Moon
25	11:45	Moon at Apogee: 405549 km
28	05:00	Delta-Aquarid Meteor Shower
29	07:00	Jupiter in Conj with Sun
29	09:36	FULL MOON
31	06:54	Moon at Ascending Node



August Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
02	03:00	Mercury at Grtst Elong: 19.5°W
05	21:21	LAST QUARTER MOON
07	01:23	Pleiades 1.2°S of Moon
09	00:31	Mars 4.4°S of Moon
10	06:18	Moon at Perigee: 363288 km
10	17:38	Pollux 3.6°N of Moon
11	07:48	Mercury 2.1°S of Moon
12	12:37	NEW MOON
12	12:46	Total Solar Eclipse; mag=1.039
12	21:00	Perseid Meteor Shower
13	04:56	Moon at Descending Node
14	04:00	Mercury at Perihelion
15	01:00	Venus at Greatest Elong: 45.9°E
16	03:47	Venus 2.1°N of Moon
17	06:49	Spica 2.4°N of Moon
19	21:46	FIRST QUARTER MOON
20	23:18	Antares 0.6°N of Moon
22	03:20	Moon at Apogee: 404644 km
27	12:00	Mercury at Superior Conj
27	13:47	Moon at Ascending Node
27	23:13	Partial Lunar Eclps; mag=0.930
27	23:18	FULL MOON



Sky Event Almanacs Courtesy of Fred Espenak, www.AstroPixels.com

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Glenn R. Cameron, Editor

The Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Dave Hartsook

4174 Meadow Wood Lane

Uniontown, OH 44685-7717

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

Check one: ☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

www.acaoh.org

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Astronomy Club of Akron annual memberships renew in the month of September.

Initial dues for New Members are prorated. If joining in Sep-Nov, pay full amount below; Dec-Feb pay 75%; Mar-May pay 50%; Jun-Aug pay 25%

Adult (ages 18 and older) ☐ \$30.00

Additional Adult Member ☐ \$15.00

Junior (ages 12 to 17) ☐ \$15.00

Family Membership ☐ \$40.00

Visit us on the Web at www.acaoh.org