



Astronomy Club of Akron

2017 Observatory Schedule

5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH

www.acaoh.org

- The following events are open to the public. Please join us for stargazing and educational activities. Please arrive on time to avoid headlight distraction.
- Events will be cancelled if skies are cloudy. If skies are questionable, please check website for star party status.
- This is an outdoor activity in an unheated environment. Nighttime temperatures drop rapidly, even during summer. A general rule of thumb is dress for 15 degrees colder than predicted nighttime low temperature.
- Please respect those who bring their own telescopes. Children should be supervised at all times. The observatory grounds is no place for toys or tomfoolery.
- Please, no smoking on observatory grounds. Please, no use of cell phones or tablets in observatory (to preserve night vision).

March 18 – 7:45pm

See Orion Nebula with 16" observatory telescope, one of the most spectacular celestial objects. We'll also view Pleiades through wide field telescope. ACA member will take you on a Sky Tour of Winter Constellations.

March 25 – 8:00pm

Special Event: *Messier Marathon* – stay all night to observe all 110 Messier objects with ACA members. Best Free Coffee in Akron will be brewing all night.

April 1 – 8:00pm

We'll observe a 5 day old Moon and open star clusters of Winter & Spring Constellations including M37, M41, M67, & the Beehive Cluster.

April 22 – 8:30pm

Galaxy Night: Come out tonight to observe Bode's Galaxy, Cigar Galaxy, M106, M108, & M87 which hosts a 6 billion solar mass black hole.

May 20 – 7:45pm

Telescope Seminar: Our members will describe advantages & disadvantages of each type of telescope. Observing session to follow.

May 27 – 9:00pm

Jupiter is well placed for viewing. See Jupiter's equatorial belts, the Galilean Moons orbiting the planet, and possibly some festoons on Jupiter's surface.

June 17 – 9:00pm

The Great Hercules Cluster is near zenith at star party time. This is perhaps the best globular cluster for northern hemisphere observers.

June 24 – 8:45pm

Presentation: *Asteroids – in celebration of Asteroid Day*
Observing Session to follow – globular clusters

July 15 – 8:45pm

Presentation: *Mount Wilson Observatory Slide Show Tour* – followed by observing session: Ring Nebula and globular cluster M92 are near zenith and Saturn is well placed for observing this evening.

July 22 – 9:00pm

Saturn observing this evening and an ACA member will take you on a Sky Tour of Summer Constellations.

August 19– 8:30pm

Open Clusters of the Summer Constellations including M11, NGC 6633, M23, M39, and M26 star cloud.

August 26 – 8:00pm

Presentation: *Star Maps* – followed by observing session: The constellation Sagittarius is filled with Messier Objects and we'll try to find all of them tonight!

September 16 – 8:00pm

Planetary Nebulae Night: Ring Nebula, Cat's Eye Nebula, Blue Snowball, Blue Flash Nebula, & Blinking Nebula.

September 23 – 7:45pm

Classical Musical Night: Listen to the best musical selections of Mozart, Bach, & Vivaldi by which to gaze at the stars.

October 14 – 6:45pm

Presentation: *Anthropic Principle* – followed by observing session: Autumn Sky Tour and observing Herschel's Double Cluster, Andromeda Galaxy, and globular cluster M15.

October 21 – 7:00pm

Double Star Observing this evening including some double stars that can be resolved with binoculars – on observing list: 61 Cyg, Albireo, $\alpha^{1,2}$ Cap, ϵ Sge, δ Cep, α^1 Cyg, 95 Her, $B^{1,2}$ Sco, 16 Cyg, 57 Aql, γ Del, and more!

*** 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.

Getting Started in Astronomy

Getting started in astronomy as a hobby isn't necessarily as expensive as most people think. While it's easy to spend several thousand dollars on high-end equipment, most skywatchers begin their odyssey with little more than an inexpensive skychart and their own eyes. Taking it one step farther, a modest pair of 10x50 binoculars can be had for less than \$50. While binoculars are seemingly less glamorous than a telescope, the views offered are nothing short of incredible. Many deep-space objects are visible and the sheer number of stars that are revealed will delight and amaze.

While the temptation to purchase an inexpensive, department store telescope can be overwhelming, you should think twice before taking the plunge. The optical quality is often enough to discourage rather than encourage. Claims of super-high magnification are nothing but smoke and mirrors in the world of amateur astronomy. How much light your instrument can collect and effectively bring to your eye is what really matters. It's not at all unreasonable to expect pricing in the \$300 dollar range for a reliable and more importantly, useful telescope. It's really worth waiting and saving for such an instrument if need be.

The Astronomy Club of Akron (ACA) hosts public viewing events, also known as "star parties," throughout the year (see reverse side for dates and times). As a non-profit entity with public education as our goal, the ACA's mission is to bring astronomy to you! Our public events are designed to teach and to foster interest in amateur astronomy. This being the case, our permanent observatory facility at the Portage Lakes State Park houses a 16" Meade LX200-ACF, computerized, Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. This instrument is the centerpiece of our public star parties and everybody is welcome to have a look through the eyepiece at whatever happens to be targeted. We enjoy answering questions and requests to see astronomical objects are gladly accepted. In addition to our observatory, you will find members scattered around the property, expertly manning their own private telescopes and binoculars. Again, questions are welcome as is the opportunity to show you astronomical wonders through a variety of brands and optical designs. If you don't

currently own a telescope but are considering purchasing one, our public star parties are fantastic sources of information. Come and see the many choices and options available and see how much more informed a purchasing decision you can make afterward!

As a non-profit organization, the ACA exists and operates through a combination of charitable donations and membership dues. If you'd like to be a member, you will know that your dues help to support our recurring expenses and purchase of new and replacement equipment. You will also receive discounts on annual subscriptions to *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazines and will be able to borrow ACA loaner telescopes. You will be invited to our members-only events and will be eligible to vote on club issues. Even more important, you will know that you are part of our effort to teach and enlighten those who may never have been exposed to astronomy in any other way. Visit us at: www.acaoh.org



Map & Direction to:

[Observatory](#) [New Franklin City Hall](#) [Kiwanis](#)