



# Astronomy Club of Akron

## 2025 Activity Schedule

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

5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH      [www.acao.org](http://www.acao.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 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](mailto: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. Nighttime temperatures drop rapidly, even during summer. 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 Meetings:** Free and open to the public featuring professional speakers

**Meeting Place:** Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center  
725 Portage Lakes Drive      Akron, OH

### *2025 Spring Schedule:*

**February 16, 2025 2:00pm**

**Jeffrey Woytach, NASA Glenn Research Center**

#### **OSIRIS-Rex and DART Missions**

This presentation covers two NASA missions. OSIRIS-REx is an asteroid sample return to Earth endeavor and DART investigates the possibility of deflecting an asteroid by a kinetic impactor. Jeffrey Woytach will explain how these missions were executed and the successes of each mission.

**March 16, 2025 2:00pm**

**Dr. Donald Terndrup, Ohio State University**

#### **Astronomy in the Era of Giant Surveys**

This talk features the challenges faced in an upcoming sky survey by a giant collaboration of astronomers including Dr. Terndrup, that wants to understand quasars and the evolution of black holes.

**April 27, 2025 2:00pm**

**Dr. Cyrus Taylor, Case Western Reserve University**

#### **Verification of the Standard Model of Particle Physics**

Dr. Taylor will discuss verification of the predictions of the Standard Model of Particle Physics. The Standard Model of Particle Physics classifies all known elementary particles and describes the electromagnetic force, strong force, weak force and how those forces are conveyed.

**May 18, 2025 2:00pm**

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

#### **Cosmic Distance Ladder**

Gary will discuss the various methods called “standard candles” that astronomers use to determine the distances to celestial objects.

\*\*\* 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](mailto: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.