



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

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April 2006

Elections at this months meeting Friday, April 28

Ramblings of the President

by Dave Jessie

Item 1 – Spring is here and you all know what that means... ACA Elections! The next meeting will determine your Board for the coming year. It is *very* important that you come and cast your vote for the people you want to run your club. *Not interested?* Then no complaining is allowed!

The Board tries its best to make this club run as smooth and problem-free as possible. Do we always succeed? No! But we keep trying. It's not too late to run for office...nominations for the elected positions will be accepted right up until moments before ballots are cast. (*Note: write-ins are expressly prohibited by our By-laws*)

To my knowledge, only one elected Board position is still open - without anyone running... the Night Sky newsletter editor. Ray Hyer has done a truly magnificent job of making this newsletter what it should be: a forum for members to express their thoughts, tell us about astronomy-related trips, new astro-gear, observing news and all events the Club puts on. Ray has had the job for four

years now (OK, there was a break in there someplace) and he has chosen to sit back and read someone else's work. Ray, we are sorry to be losing you, and your position will be difficult to fill, but nobody will replace you! Please accept a huge 'Thank you!' from me and the entire ACA.

That said, who wants to help out the club by being the *Night Sky* editor? Ray will be available for consultation and boilerplate, I'm sure. Please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee if you'd like to run for the office...Jeff Kreidler, Chairman; Gregg Crenshaw or Freddy Huffman.

Item 2 – Our Observatory welcomed a large group of elementary students from the Wadsworth School System, along with their parents and teachers, on Saturday, March 18, 2006. Unfortunately, clouds were ever-present but at least a few sucker holes allowed everyone to see at least a few celestial objects. Saturn, Mars, M42, M44, SAO173349 (the 'Winter Albi-reo' I wrote about last month) and

other objects.

Special thanks to VP John Crilly for scheduling, coordinating and presenting the event; Mark & Diane North for manning the Observatory; Freddy Huffman for bringing one of his many beautiful telescopes; Mark Kochheiser; Paul & Linda Koberg; and Justin & Patricia Philips. Could we have used more help? Of course! However, due to the weather, we had just about all the optics we needed.

As always, the Club's 14" scope performed beautifully! The next event at the observatory will be April 22nd at 8:00PM followed by our annual 'ACA Messier Marathon' Saturday, April 29/Sunday April 30. Yup. It's an all-nighter and a great deal of fun. Come and enjoy your facilities!

Item 3 – The ACA dinner is now in the history books. We had about 40 members in attendance at the Golden Corral on Arlington Rd. this past Saturday, April 1st. It actually was rather difficult to get an accurate count (continued on page 3)

OFFICERS 2005 – 2006

President

Dave Jessie..... 330-688-9043djessie@neo.rr.com

Vice President

John Crilly..... 330-334-6668jcrilly@neo.rr.com

Treasurer

Diane North..... 330-819-4330diane@beadgirl.com

Secretary

Pete Flohr 330-645-9153jlf31@uakron.edu

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Rosaelena Villasenor.....revillasenor@hotmail.com

Observatory Director

Mark North..... 330-819-4394mark@marknorth.net

ACA Webmaster

Glenn Cameron 330-456-2022glenn@cameronclan.org

Editor, Night Sky

Ray Hyer 330-784-3970rhyer@neo.rr.com

Trustee (term through 2006)

Tom Mino 330-923-7704tjmino@neo.rr.com

Trustee (term through 2007)

Jeff Haren 330-773-6842eharen@neo.rr.com

Trustee (term through 2008)

Freddy Huffman ... 330-535-8009atmos@netzero.com

Statutory Agent

Mark Kochheiser.. 330-882-3713mkochheiser@neo.rr.com

OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

Activities Calendar

Club

April 22, Open house at Observatory 8 pm
April 28, Monthly Meeting - Elections 8 pm
April 29,30 Messier Marathon at Observatory
May 20, Telescope Seminar at Observatory 8:30 pm
May 26, Monthly Meeting - 8 pm
June 3, Solar/Lunar Event at Observatory 6 pm

Celestial

April 8, Mercury at greatest elongation
April 13, Full Moon
April 18, Venus & Uranus 18' apart
April 22, Lyrid Meteors
April 27, New Moon
May 3, Jupiter at opposition
May 6, Eta Aquarid Meteors
May 13, Full Moon

The deadline for article submission is **the second Tuesday after each meeting**. All word processing files should be saved in straight ASCII text files or any version of Word to minimize import problems. We will not turn away **any** submission, as long as the article's subject is astronomy or a related topic. If you don't have access to a computer, don't hesitate to write something out long hand. As long as it is legible, I will slave over the keyboard and get it published.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES!!!!

Send your articles, items for sale, and comments to:

Ray Hyer 725 Brewer St. Akron, OH. 44305 email rhyer@neo.rr.com

PERFECT?

Another administration is at an end and a new one about to begin. This is the perfect time for Club members to make clear their wishes for the direction the Club will take for the next twelve months. There have been some changes made these past few years in our activities, procedures, and Club equipment. If the members think those changes are good ones then they should let us know - and hopefully some of those folks will offer to get more involved and help to keep things moving. Those members who think the Club is moving in a wrong direction have a greater need to speak out - and a greater need to become involved in the decision-making processes.

At the very least, please come to the April meeting and cast your vote. Better yet, come out and take the opportunity to express yourself. Even better - run for an office!

John C.

Legal Notice

**Ohio Campaign
Spending limit
laws do not
apply to the
ACA
Elections!**

Treasurer's Report: 3/1/06 - 3/31/06	
Diane North, Treasurer	
Total Beginning Assets	\$7,440.13
Income	
Interest on balances.....	\$5.87
Expenses	
Newsletter copy cost.....	\$(24.64)
Stamps	\$(78.00)
Insurance	\$(783.00)
Observatory Improvements.....	\$(29.57)
Total Ending Assets.....	\$6,530.79

(Ramblings, continued)
 Since members were constantly returning to the open buffet-style accommodations to refill their plates. Organizers Carl & Betti Hervol had promised us, 'You won't leave there hungry', and nobody did! This may turn out to be the new standard for our club dining needs. Were you there? Please let us know if you like these arrangements. Your opinion matters!

The hit of the evening? Quite possibly Marty's star atlas - "The Herald-Bobroff AstroAtlas" available from <http://www.heraldbobroff.com/> It ain't cheap - \$79.95 + \$5 S&H, but what an atlas it is! Member Terry Taylor was so impressed, he ordered one the next day. Let's see...if I didn't already have more star atlases than I can count...

Item 4 - I had occasion to review the meaning of the word 'Club' (as in the *Astronomy Club*

of Akron...so I turned to the Merriam-Webster OnLine dictionary and was shocked to find the first definition to be "**Club: a heavy usually tapering staff especially of wood wielded as a weapon**" Folks, this isn't that kind of 'Club'. This is a group of folks who love the night skies and all the wonders they contain. Some have a special affinity for hardware, some love the mythology, some like to view through the eyepiece, some like to create images, some just like to be around friends and discuss matters celestial. Whatever your preference, we're here to please. Are we perfectly suited to be exactly what *you* want? Probably not, but at least there's a chance that you'll find someone else with pretty close to your interests with whom you can share your thoughts...that's what clubs do! If you want to complain about the lack of whatever, please re-read **Item 1 !!**

**It's Spring!!!
Three Chores for
Astronomers
By John Shulan**

1. Spring cleaning: After last month's meeting on scope care, I now have one clean machine ready for the discovery. Clean your scope!

2. Share the joy! Whenever I talk with friends about astronomy, I keep a note on who has expressed an interest or even got a scope for the holidays. Invite these people to a public event. *We enjoy being out there, let someone else have fun too!* If they have a good time, give them a membership application. That is how I became a member. It is good for the club, it is great for astronomy, and everyone, including the new member, will think highly of you.

3. With warm weather comes the outreach requests and we should be thrilled for them. I can look at the same objects and generally they stay the same. When I look at them with someone who has never looked into a scope, the wonderment in their eyes and the sharing of knowledge reminds me why I love astronomy so much. If it wasn't for the sharing, the pictures in a book are far better views...they just never say thanks and smile in wonderment.



John Crilly applies the soft touch as he demonstrated the proper way to clean optics at the last meeting.



Make sure you apply the cleaning solution to the cotton. DO NOT spray the cleaner on to the lens directly!



What the Club provides...help to members by fellow members!
Member Jeff Kreider working on his Meade LX-650 German Equatorial Mount

Attention Designers!

This is what the official ACA logo shows.



There has been discussion about updating the logo for the club. Visitors have come to the park looking for a dome after seeing our publications and cannot find the observatory. Let's put our creativity to work and see what ideas result.

This is the reality.



Bring your ideas in paper form, a sketch, a drawing or a photo, to the May meeting and a panel of experts will judge which masterpiece will be the new ACA logo. The images should be 8" x 10" for easy viewing. A high quality production is not needed, the winning design can be produced at a later time for use.

Join the Messier Marathon Midnight Madness

Does the thought of a good night's sleep keep you awake at night?

Do you fall asleep counting M1, M2, M3, M4, M5,....?

Have we got a treat for you!!! Spend the night communing with the stars, chasing faint fuzzies and sucking up a month's worth of coffee in 10 hours.

April 29th and 30th at the ACA Observatory

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Ray Hyer, Editor

725 Brewer St

Akron, OH 44305-2103

To join the ACA, **or to renew your membership**, please fill out the form below, place in an envelope and mail to the address shown in the return address area of the form.

Please be sure to enclose payment for the membership level desired.

The Astronomy Club of Akron
c/o Diane North, Treasurer
795 Mohawk Ave
Akron, OH 44305-1811

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

I realize the full color version of *The Night Sky* newsletter is available for download by members from our web page at www.acaoh.org, but I would rather have the B&W version mailed to my address via USPS.