



# The Night Sky

The Newsletter of  
The Astronomy Club of Akron  
www.acaoh.org

Volume 32 Number 7

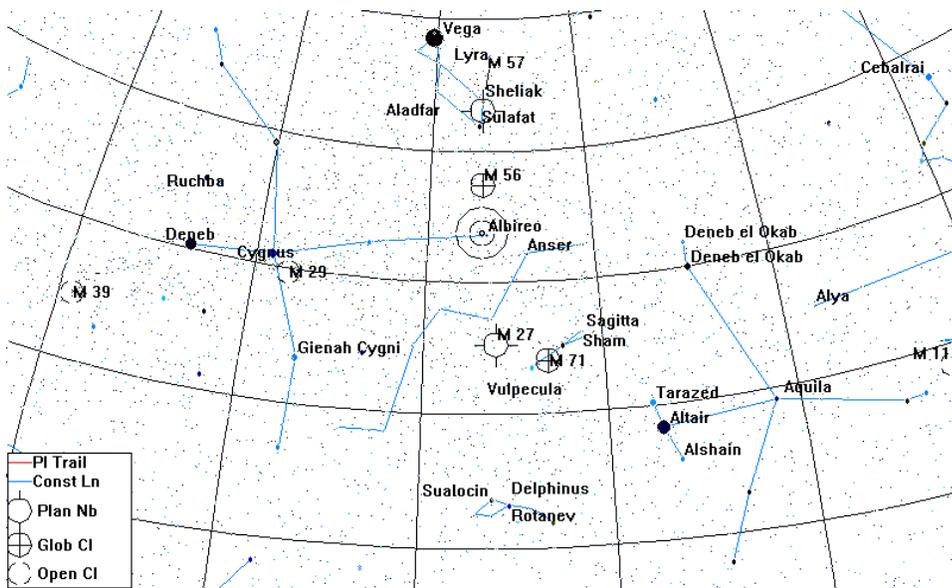
July 2010

## SUMMER BREAK! NO MEETING AT KIWANIS FOR JULY.

### Ramblings of the President: Scanning the Summer Triangle

By Dave Jessie

Call me sentimental, but the Summer Triangle holds a special place in my heart. On June 6 of this year, I celebrated fifty years in this hobby, having received a 4.25" reflector telescope after saving my allowances for over a year. It came from Edmund Scientific in Barrington NJ. My life would never be the same. I'll never forget setting up the telescope in my parents' front yard and trying in vain to find M57, the Ring Nebula, in Lyra. I studied the Edmund star charts and learned to recognize Cygnus, Aquila and Lyra - the three constellations that contain Deneb, Altair and Vega, the three stars of the Summer Triangle. Every spring since that summer fifty years ago, the first sighting of Lyra stirs memories of amazing detail Little did I realize that fifty years would pass in a seeming instant and that the view of Lyra, Cygnus and Aquila would remain such an important part of my life. I didn't know then that Cygnus lies smack dab along the Milky Way and contains several Messier objects easily within reach of binoculars. Lyra contains M57, a planetary nebula commonly called the Ring Nebula, and M56, a globular cluster 33,000 light years distant. Also in Lyra is the



The Summer Triangle region.

famous "double double", a star that reveals itself to be double under medium power. However, when the magnification is increased, each of the members of the "double" are themselves double. Something you must see to fully appreciate.

Cygnus contains M29 and M39, both open clusters easily spotted in binoculars. The star Sadr, at the junction of the outstretched wings and the body of the swan, is a magnificent sight in common binoculars. When you aim your binoculars at Sadr, it will be the brightest star in the field of view and will be surrounded by dozens and dozens of dimmer stars. It's an amazing sight. M29 is rather small while M39 is quite large.

Actually, as much as I love looking through a telescope, binoculars show many objects better than any telescope can - M39 and M29 are two such objects. Cygnus also contains Albireo, a beautiful gold and blue double marked by the bull's-eye in the image above. While not technically part of the Summer Triangle, Sagitta and Vulpecula are between Cygnus and Aquila, so I'm going to include them here. M71 is easy to find once someone shows you how; same with the Coathanger aka CR399. The Coathanger brings smiles to anyone who sees it in binoculars.

Aquila contains M11, the Wild Duck Cluster. It's a rich open cluster (con't page 3)

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## Activities Calendar

### Club

- July 10 - CAA OTAA Convention at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center 01:00 pm EDT (17:00UT)
- July 10 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event 09:00 pm EDT (01:00UT)
- July 31 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event 09:00 pm EDT (01:00UT)

### Celestial\*

- July 1 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 10h UT.
- July 4 - Last Quarter moon at 14:35 UT.
- July 11 - Total Solar Eclipse visible only from the South Pacific. Totality at 19:34 UT.
- July 11 - New Moon at 19:40 UT.
- July 13 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 11h UT.
- July 18 - First Quarter moon at 10:11 UT.
- July 26 - Full Moon at 1:37 UT.
- July 29 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 0h UT.

\*Source: [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com)

**The deadline for article submission is the 6th of each month.** 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 relevant to our forum. If you do not have access to a computer a handwritten article will suffice as long as it is legible. Any images submitted should be saved in .jpg format.

— PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES —  
Send your articles, items for sale, and comments to:  
Jason Shinn  
873A North Point Dr. Akron, OH 44313  
truemartian@aol.com

## Ramblings of the President (con't)

that's incredible in a telescope. Of course, M27, the Dumbbell, also resides in Vulpecula and is easy in binoculars if you're observing from a dark location. The nice thing about everything in this area is that it's with us, high overhead, the entire summer and remains visible in the western sky until quite late in the fall. This gives everyone more than ample chance to find all these objects. Don't hesitate to go out with your binoculars on clear nights and see how many of these objects you can find. Go on, get out there! You might build memories that will last a lifetime. It happened to me.

*Article by Dave Jessie.  
ACA President*

## The Shulan Report

By John Shulan



Stargazing with the pros can give one a new focus on the universe! I went to Ravenna with the hopes that Fred Huffman and Peter Clausen could help me colimate my CPC-11. Fred had the advice and Peter had the height to reach the colimation screws while I focused on the star Arcturus. My scope never has preformed as well as it did. All the famous bright clusters had a depth of field and I was able to pick them apart like never before. By the way, Fred's wife makes the best oatmeal cookies in the world! They were even better than getting my scope in focus!

My advice to other club members, hang out with the smart star gazers... the benefits are nutritious!

*Article by ACA member  
John Shulan.*

## - INSERT YOUR SUBMISSION HERE -

THE NIGHT SKY NEWSLETTER IS LOOKING TO PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES! SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, EXPERIENCES, STORIES, OPINIONS, LATEST ASTRO-IMAGES, AND ADVICE WITH YOUR FELLOW AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS.

ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE SIXTH OF EACH MONTH. ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .JPG FORMAT. SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

JASON SHINN  
truemartian@aol.com  
OR VIA SNAIL-MAIL:  
JASON SHINN  
873A North Point Dr.  
Akron, OH 44313

## June Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

6/1/2010 Through 6/30/2010

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<b>Checking Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,163.69</b>
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### Income

Donation	60.00
Dues	804.07
Hot Dog Roast	67.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$931.07</b>

### Expenses

Magazine Subscription	68.00
Office Supplies	38.83
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$106.83</b>

<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$824.24</b>
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<b>Checking Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,987.93</b>
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<b>Charter One Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,987.93</b>
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<b>Reconciled Difference</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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<b>Savings Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$5,926.73</b>
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Earned Interest	0.49
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<b>Savings Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$5,927.22</b>
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Petty Cash	50.00
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ACA Savings Balance	5,927.22
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ACA Checking Balance	2987.23
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,964.45</b>
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*Article by Lew Snodgrass  
ACA Treasurer*

# Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski

The weather during the first part of the month was poor. We cancelled our June 5th star party due to severe weather and the threat of tornadic conditions. We decided to get together for our June 12th star party to talk about the celestial coordinate system and finding techniques used to locate celestial objects. Skies remained cloudy so we didn't get the chance to look through our telescopes. Weather for our annual Solar Lunar Hotdog Roast improved. Solar telescopes were scattered across the observatory grounds. The sun displayed only two extremely small sunspots across its disk; however, there was a huge solar prominence seen on the Sun's northern limb. What an impressive sight! Rob Watkins arrived early to set up the Zimmerman 5 inch refractor. Rob had completed a refurbishment of the Zimmerman refractor in 2009. Everyone was anxious for their first look through the telescope in nearly tens years. Rays of moonlight was first to be focused by Rob. The image looked great! While observing the Moon, we noticed an Unidentified Flying Object in the east. Rob pointed the refractor at the object for a close up inspection. Even under telescopic observation, we could not identify the object. The star party continued with



Rob Watkins takes a break for a photo while setting up the 5" Zimmerman refractor.

Mary Pickelsimer cooking up some delicious hotdogs while Rosaelena Villasenor worked the concession stand. Solar and lunar observing continued throughout the event and we even captured Venus in the observatory telescope. Later, Tom Mino cranked up his computer to give the audience a slideshow presentation on the Sun. Following Tom's talk, Dave Jessie gave a hands-on presentation of the Moon with help from Isabella Rasicci and Deb Crenshaw. Overall, there was lots of

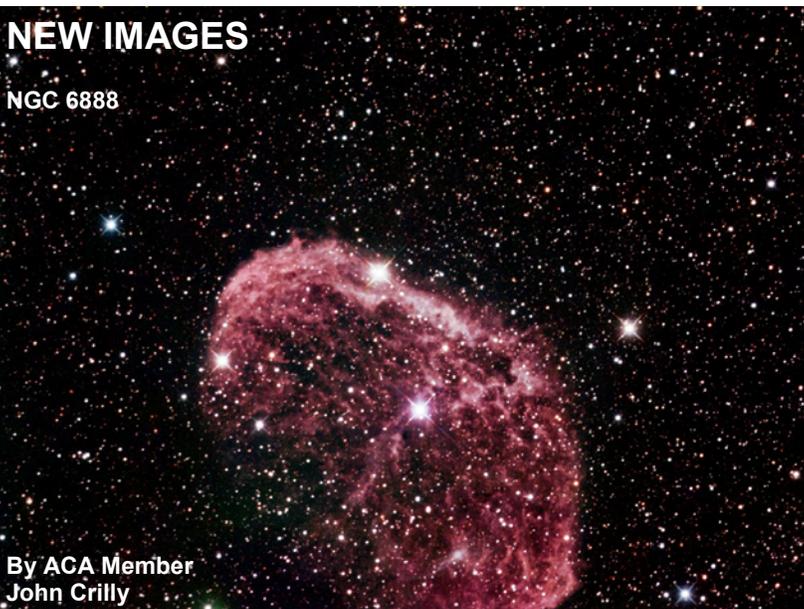
fun at this year's event.

The weather for the rest of June continued to get better. The last week of June had extraordinary observing conditions as a huge high-pressure system parked itself over Ohio. We had a mid-week star party at the observatory with pristine skies. Members planned individual star parties across northeast Ohio throughout the week.

Article by Ron Kalinoski,  
ACA Observatory Director.

## NEW IMAGES

NGC 6888



By ACA Member  
John Crilly

Ganymede's Shadow  
July 1, 2010



By Jason Shinn  
ACA Newsletter Editor

Lunar Closeup  
July 1, 2010



By Jason Shinn  
ACA Newsletter Editor

# SOLAR/LUNAR HOT DOG ROAST



(above) Dave Jessie and Isabella Rasicci demonstrate Earth-Moon orbital parameters during Dave's lunar presentation.



(above) Lew Snodgrass observes solar prominences on the Sun.



(left) Lou Poda and Mary Pickelsimer take a seat in the shade to listen to Tom Mino's presentation.

(below) Gregg Crenshaw receives a text message from Tom Erickson concerning the UFO sighting.

(below) Tom Mino explains the details of solar activity.



# 2010

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c/o Jason Shinn, Editor  
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Akron, OH 44313

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**The Astronomy Club of Akron**  
c/o Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer  
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Yes! I want to become a member of the Astronomy Club of Akron

[www.acaoh.org](http://www.acaoh.org)

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**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

Visit us on the Web at [www.acaoh.org](http://www.acaoh.org).