



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 33 Number 1

January 2011

Next Meeting: Friday, January 28, 2011 8:00PM.

Ramblings of the President

By Dave Jessie



It's winter in Ohio, and the skies are generally behaving the way they do every late December/early January...cloud cover from horizon to horizon. We missed the Total Lunar Eclipse on Tuesday Dec 21, 2010 – of course it was at 3:15am on a work-night, but some of us had planned on at least taking a look. Clouds pretty much obscured the entire show. That's a shame since it was perfectly placed for us, even if it was awfully early in the morning. There was also a partial eclipse of the Sun just a couple days ago – again on Tuesday, but this time on January 4. Nothing for us to see, however, but parts of southeastern Europe got to see a fairly nice bite taken out of the solar disc by the Moon. For us in the U.S., it was a close call – the Moon and Sun were separated by an angle of less than 2 arc minutes at 3:06am. Of course, the Sun was nowhere to be seen at 3 o'clock in the morning. These eclipse things are so picky! The next total lunar eclipse for us will be

on Tuesday Apr 15, 2014 at 3:42am and the next partial solar eclipse for us will be on Monday August 21, 2017 at 2:25pm. Looking rather far ahead, we have a Total Solar Eclipse on Monday April 8, 2024 at 3:14:23pm right here in good 'ol Akron Ohio! Be sure to mark your calendars for this once-in-a-lifetime event. If you're interested, the last Total Solar Eclipse (non-annular) in Akron was on June 16, 1806! Yes, that's right – over two hundred years ago. When I say “once-in-a-lifetime”, I'm not kidding. We had a close call here on May 10, 1994 when we had an Annular eclipse. Had the timing been a tad better, and the Moon at Perogee instead of Apogee, the lunar disc would have been large enough to have covered the solar disk and given us a true total eclipse. If wishes were horses then beggars would ride, or some such phrase. Anyhow, it didn't provide the “OMG!!!!” view the way a true total solar eclipse does. You know, the kind that people, once they experience one, travel around the globe to see another. We'll be able to just take the lawn chairs out and have a fantastic view. That is, in thirteen more years. Let's hope for good weather! ;^)

Speaking of lunar phenomena, I've been researching the mysterious

“Lunar X” that's visible for a mere hour approximately at exactly first quarter Moon phase. It occurs when the light hits the terminator at exactly the right angle. Even if the weather would cooperate, the odds of the Moon being well-placed for an observer at exactly the right time is rather slim. Never the less, it doesn't hurt to plan and try. I'll be writing this up for a future issue. Stay tuned.

I have some great news! Mark Kochheiser has received the finalized, legally binding, signed by all the necessary State of Ohio officials, lease for our property in Portage Lakes State Park! This has been a task-in-progress for almost three years. Talk about long stories!

Finally, please remember that our January meeting will be on schedule – the 4th Friday of January (1/28/2011) at 8:00pm at our normal meeting place – the Kiwanis Civic Center. Everybody try to make it. If you received any astro-toys, bring 'em and share your joy!

Clear skies, everyone!

*Article by Dave Jessie,
ACA President.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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2011 - January Activities Calendar - 2011

Club

January 28 - KIWANIS:
General Membership Meeting.
08:00 pm EST (13:00 UT)

Celestial*

January 3 - Earth at perihelion (closest) at 19h UT.	January 10 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 6h UT.
January 4 - QUADRANTID METEOR SHOWER.	January 12 - First Quarter moon at 11:32 UT.
January 4 - New Moon at 9:03 UT.	January 19 - Full Moon at 21:22 UT.
January 8 - Venus at greatest elongation at 16h UT. (morning sky)	January 22 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 0h UT.
January 9 - Mercury at greatest elongation at 14h UT. (morning sky)	January 26 - Last Quarter moon at 12:58 UT.

*Source: www.skymaps.com

The ACA wishes to welcome our newest members:

**Scott Miley
Ann & Russ Ferrell**

We look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!

CORRECTION:

October 2010's treasurer report was published with a mathematical error in the savings account section. Instead of a savings closing balance of \$5929.31 it should have read a savings closing balance of \$5929.21. This was an editorial oversight and I apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused.

Jason Shinn,
ACA Publications Secretary

The Treasurers Corner

By Lew Snodgrass

A word from your treasurer, I am now taking orders for Astronomy & Sky & Telescope subscriptions. If you need to update your subscription to either, you will be entitled to the club discount price. Send me an e-mail or call me at 330-819-4886 if you are interested. This is just one of the perks for being a member of the ACA.



Article by Lew Snodgrass
ACA Treasurer.

2010 Annual Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

1/1/2010 Through 12/31/2010

Checking Beginning Balance \$2,504.44

2010 Income

Total Income \$2,012.95

2010 Expenses

Total Expenses **\$1,392.51**

Income Less Expenses \$620.44

Checking Ending Balance \$3,124.88

Charter One Ending Balance \$3,124.88

Difference \$0.00

Savings Opening Balance \$5,924.29

Earned Interest @ .10% 5.91

Savings Closing Balance \$5,930.20

Year End Totals For 2010

Petty Cash 50.00

Savings 5,930.20

Checking 3,124.88

Total \$9,105.08

Article by Lew Snodgrass
ACA Treasurer.

- PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES AND IMAGES -

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. ARTICLES MUST BE RELEVANT TO OUR FORUM. ALL TEXT FILES SHOULD BE SAVED IN PLAIN ASCII FORMAT OR ANY VERSION OF WORD TO MINIMIZE IMPORT PROBLEMS. ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .JPG FORMAT. SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

truemartian@aol.com

OR VIA SNAIL-MAIL:

JASON SHINN
873A North Point Dr.
Akron, OH 44313

**Minutes of the November 19, 2010
General Meeting**

By Mary Pickelsimer

8:00PM Call to order. The location of the meeting was The Tudor House in the Portage Lakes State Park due to the usual location was unavailable.

8:05PM The ACA welcomed two new members; Ann & Russ Ferrell. Then the meeting moved on to a Questions/Answers led by our President.

(con't page 4)

November Minutes (Con't)

The topics covered were:

- First Telescopes to purchase.
- Binoculars, pros and cons.
- Locations for best dark sky – Top of the World seems to be the spot (might be a long drive though...).
- Smart phone apps.

9:30PM Business meeting called to order.

- The Lease for the observatory was presented and signed by our President, Dave Jessie. The final step will be to have the Governor the State of Ohio sign it.

Thank you Marc Kochheiser for all your hard work in coordinating our lease with the State of Ohio!!

Treasures Report:

- Club account balances.
- Paper statements will soon have a fee.

New Business:

- Board meeting time and date to be decided.

10:10PM Meeting adjourned. Next general meeting will be January 28, 2011.

*Article by Mary Pickelsimer,
ACA Secretary.*

November Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

11/1/2010 Through 11/30/2010

Checking Beginning Balance	\$2,977.71
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Income

Dues	75.00
------	-------

50/50 Drawing	45.00
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Total Income	\$120.00
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Expenses

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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Income Less Expenses	\$120.00
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Checking Ending Balance	\$3,097.71
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Charter One Ending Balance	\$3,097.71
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Difference	\$0.00
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Savings Opening Balance	\$5,929.21
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Earned Interest	0.49
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Savings Closing Balance	\$5,929.70
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Petty Cash	50.00
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Savings	5,929.70
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Checking	3,097.71
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Total	\$9,077.41
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*Article by Lew Snodgrass
ACA Treasurer.*

December Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

12/1/2010 Through 12/31/2010

Checking Beginning Balance	\$3,097.71
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Income

Dues	30.17
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Total Income	\$30.17
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Expenses

Service Charge	3.00
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Total Expenses	\$3.00
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Income Less Expenses	\$27.17
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Checking Ending Balance	\$3,124.88
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Charter One Ending Balance	\$3,124.88
----------------------------	------------

Difference	\$0.00
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Savings Opening Balance	\$5,929.70
-------------------------	------------

Earned Interest	0.50
-----------------	------

Savings Closing Balance	\$5,930.20
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Petty Cash	50.00
------------	-------

Savings	5,930.20
---------	----------

Checking	3,124.88
----------	----------

Total	\$9,105.08
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*Article by Lew Snodgrass
ACA Treasurer.*

Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski

2011 ACA Observatory Budget

1) Miscellaneous Maintenance.	\$300
2) Folding chairs for star party Presentations.	\$100
3) 2" 32mm Meade Superwide Eyepiece or equivalent.	\$150
4) Rain gutter & spouting for observatory building.	\$200
5) Maintenance workers & star party presenters.	\$300
6) Public Event Schedule Printing.	\$50
Total:	\$1100

ACA Observatory Budget Item Description

Miscellaneous Maintenance

This entry covers miscellaneous maintenance costs of \$25/month to handle small invoice items such as light bulbs, fasteners, logbooks, keys, electrical supplies, etc.

Folding Chairs

Additional four folding chairs so star party attendees can seat during a star party presentation.

32mm Eyepiece

User-friendly eyepiece for 14" telescope.

Rain Gutter & Spouting

Drain water away from observatory building.

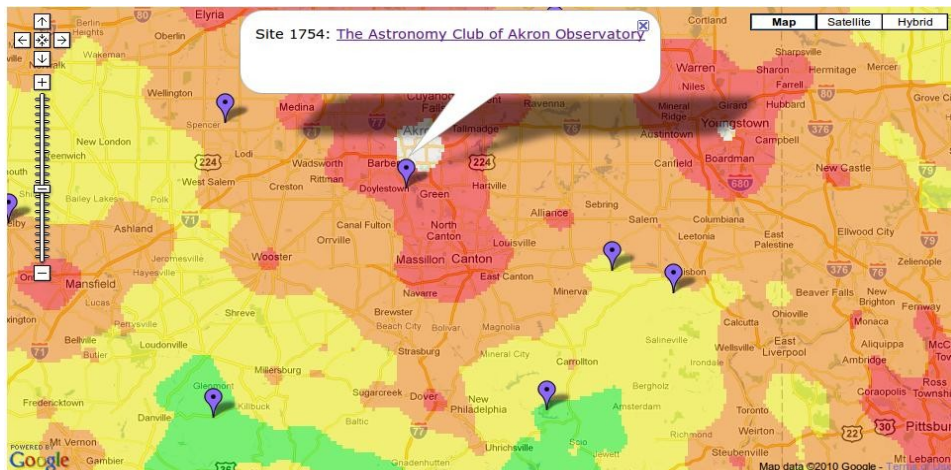
Dinner for Maintenance Workers & Star Party Presenters

Maintenance workers and star party presenters will be honored at this dinner for the extra effort they put forth for the club.

Public Event Schedule Printing

This item covers the cost of printing 500 copies of our public events schedule.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director.*



In Search Of Dark Skies

By Robert Benedict



While waiting out these days of leaden skies I have been thinking about darker sky places to observe from. Two good resources are the color coded light pollution map at Dark Sky Finder

[http://www.jshine.net/astronomy/dark_sky/index.php?](http://www.jshine.net/astronomy/dark_sky/index.php?lat=40.49800613242087&lng=-81.14347457885742&zoom=13)

[lat=40.49800613242087&lng=-81.14347457885742&zoom=13](http://www.jshine.net/astronomy/dark_sky/index.php?lat=40.49800613242087&lng=-81.14347457885742&zoom=13)

The colors go from white in urban areas to red in suburbs through to black in areas of the Southwest.

The other is the site Observing Sites

<http://www.observingsites.com/index.html>

I marked the location of the ACA observatory on Dark Sky Finder, As you can see, it is in a red zone. Heading East to the West Branch Area yield the darkest sky nearby, but even that is only into the brown zone. Going Southeast to the Zepernick Wilderness Area gets us into a yellow area. The nearby Scenic Vista Park is used by the Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society. Further South to the Leesville Lake State Wildlife Area brings us into a green area. Finally, we can head all the way down to the Lamping Homestead Picnic Area in Wayne State Forest to get into

a blue area. A reviewer at Observing Sites rates this the darkest sky he has seen in Ohio.

There are two other interesting sites in Southern Ohio: Conkle's Hollow Dark Sky Site - <http://www.the-cas.org/Conkdir.htm> and Greiser Field on AEP Recreation Lands - <http://www.the-cas.org/ObsSiteAEP.html>. Unfortunately, the web sites claim that you need a special permit and must be a member of the Columbus Astronomical Society.

Going Northeast to the Grand River Wilderness area we can again get to a yellow area but I think that it is farther than Zepernick for most of us. Continuing Northeast you can go all the way to the The Heart's Content campground in Allegheny National Forest in Pa to again find a blue area. That is rated well on Observing Sites.

Yet further East in a blue zone is Cherry Springs State Park, Pennsylvania's first Dark Sky Park and the second International Dark Sky Park

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherry_Springs_State_Park

By the way, the Geauga Park District Observatory Park under construction is also an International Dark Sky Preserve, although it appears to be in a brown area. I notice that it is in a "Silver-Tier", perhaps for that reason.

<http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org/observatorypark.shtml>

Anyone up for a field trip?

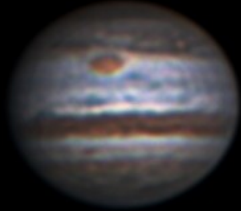
*Article by ACA member
Robert Benedict.*

NEW IMAGES

Jupiter November 11-12, 2010



06:54 pm



08:25 pm



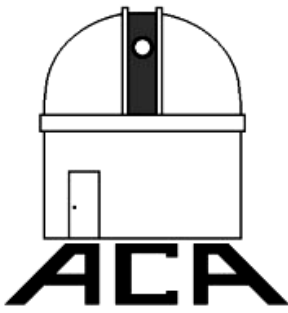
08:49 pm



09:06 pm



by Len Marek



Astronomy Club of Akron

2011 Observatory Schedule

Portage Lakes State Park, 5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH 44319

www.acao.org

- Our star parties are free and open to the public. Please join us for stargazing and educational activities. Star parties will begin promptly.
- Events may be cancelled if the skies are cloudy. If the skies are questionable, please call for the latest information: 330-837-5848
- This is an outdoor activity in an unheated environment. Nighttime temperatures drop rapidly, even in the summer. A general rule of thumb is dress for 20 degrees colder than the predicted nighttime low temperature.
- Please be considerate of those who bring their own telescopes. Children should be supervised at all times. Pets should be left at home.
- Smoke and expensive optics don't mix. Please, **no smoking** in or near the observatory, on the surrounding grounds where club members have set up their telescopes, and during star party presentations. Be considerate of your fellow observers.
- Come As You Are, Learn As You Go!

March 5 – 7:00pm

Observe The Great Orion Nebula. Seeing this stellar nursery through the observatory telescope is a stunning sight.

March 26 – 8:00pm

Binoculars Night – bring your binoculars and we'll show you some interesting celestial objects to view including: Beehive Cluster, Pleiades, and Hyades.

April 2 – 8:00pm

Special Event: Messier Marathon – stay all night to observe all 110 Messier objects with ACA club members. We'll have the best free coffee in Akron brewing all night.

April 30 – 9:00pm

Jupiter sets with the sun, but The Ghost of Jupiter is well-placed for observation. Come out to see this eerie planetary nebula.

May 21 – 9:00pm

View the Whirlpool Galaxy and Bode's Galaxies (M81 & M82) Also, an ACA member will take you on a sky tour of the Spring Constellations.

May 28 – 9:00pm

Observe galaxies in the Virgo Cluster and the most distant object within reach of the observatory telescope: Quasar 3C273 at a distance of 2.4 billion light-years.

June 4 – 8:00pm

Annual ACA Telescope Seminar Our members will describe the advantages and disadvantages of each type of telescope. If you plan on purchasing a telescope, don't miss this program.

June 11 – 6:00pm

Solar & Lunar Event / Hotdog Roast View sunspots, solar flares, and prominences on the sun and craters, mountains, and maria on the Moon. Enjoy a hotdog for a small fee.

Program 1: WRAO radio telescope demonstration

Program 2: The Moon Program 3: The Sun

June 25 – 9:00pm

*Program: Saturn**

Saturn's rings tilt 10 degrees for Earthling observers.

July 2 – 9:00pm

*Program: Mythology**

Learn the myths and legends behind the constellations.

July 23 – 9:00pm

*Program: Spectroscopy**

Find out how astronomers use light to discover information about the Universe.

July 30 – 9:00pm

*Program: Comets**

Learn more about these visitors from outer space.

August 6 – 8:30pm

*Program: Lunar Phases and Eclipses**

Find out what causes phases of the Moon and solar and lunar eclipses.

August 20 – 8:00pm

*Programs: Historic Astronomers**

Learn about the astronomers who set the foundation for our understanding of the Universe.

September 17 – 8:00pm

Globular Cluster viewing tonight

September 24 – 8:00pm

Planetary Nebulae viewing tonight

October 15 – 7:00pm

Serving the best free coffee in Akron tonight while observing the stars!

October 22 – 7:00pm

An ACA member will take you on a sky tour of the Autumn Constellations.

October 29 – 7:00pm

Observe Andromeda Galaxy and companion galaxy M32 in the same field of view.

November 19 – 6:30pm

View Jupiter and some straggler meteors tonight.

* listed program or make-up program

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor

873A North Point Dr.

Akron, OH 44313

The Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer

1865 Stabler Rd

Akron, OH 44313-6124

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

Visit us on the Web at www.acaoh.org.