



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 33 Number 4

April 2011

Next Meeting: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:00PM.

Ramblings of the President

By Dave Jessie



Great News and lots and lots of events!

First, the Great News! At our March 25th meeting, the ACA received a \$500 donation from Firestone Polymers.

Lew Snodgrass, our Treasurer, was overjoyed at this unexpected surprise and hasn't stopped smiling yet. Tremendous thanks to the kind folks at Firestone Polymers for this generous donation.

The CMNH tour on Wednesday March 16 was a huge success! Clyde Simpson really put on a show for the thirty-four or so Club members who attended. The show got underway promptly at 7:00pm and began with a private show in their magnificent planetarium. It's startling to go from a light blue hazy-appearing normal NE Ohio sky to a pitch black perfect sky with the Milky Way in all its glory in a matter of seconds. That's the affect at the Shafran Planetarium. The sky is so authentic looking you'd swear you could take binoculars in there and resolve open clusters or, perhaps, pick out a bright globular cluster or two. It really is that natural appearing. The stars show the proper degree of color

differences and even display their proper magnitude. I wish I had that on my bedroom ceiling, let me tell you. From there we ventured up to the Mueller Observatory for a tour of the facility including the 10½" refractor. Clyde swung that beast around to the western horizon, checked some charts from the US Naval Observatory, glanced up at the huge setting circles and moved the scope slightly to find Mercury. Most of the members had a chance to see Mercury's waning gibbous phase before it was covered by unpredicted clouds in the west. Undaunted, Clyde again swung the refractor to the opposite side of the mount and showed us a very nearly full waxing gibbous Moon. Clyde selected the region around the Gassendi crater where a wealth of detail could be seen. Following the eyepiece views, we could venture out onto the observing deck just outside the observatory. A couple of scopes were set up for our use, including an 8" Dob-mounted Newtonian reflector. Surprisingly, it was clear out despite the rainy conditions that ended during the drive to Cleveland. When we finished in the observatory, the tour of the rest of the museum began. It's obvious that Clyde is quite proud of the Museum...he speaks with great pride of the many accomplishments of the Museum in many different fields. We had to keep an eye on John Shulan when we were taken in the display of gem stones! After Clyde announced

that the tour was completed, and thanked us for our enthusiasm, many of us called it a night even though we had the museum at our disposal until 10:00pm. All in all, a fabulous *Night at the Museum*. We'll try to make a habit of this!

Another significant event occurred this past month – a lecture by PBS's Neil deGrasse Tyson who lectured on *Ten Things You Should Know About the Universe* at Mount Union College in Alliance. Eight of our members attended and were both entertained and impressed with Dr. Tyson's talk and stunned by the 2500 people in attendance. The lecture began promptly at 8:00pm and lasted until 9:20pm or so. Following Dr. Tyson's talk, an hour-long question-answer session began. I had delusions of meeting him, but alas, it was not to be – not that I didn't try! This was a very worthwhile lecture.

Upcoming Events

There are three KSU Planetarium programs scheduled on April 15, 16 and 22nd at Kent State University's Smith Hall located on E. Summit Street, just south east of the KSU Library. A PDF and map are available on the ACA home page at www.acaoh.org While this planetarium isn't quite up to the level of the Shafran Planetarium, the shows are always entertaining.

(con't page 4)

OFFICERS 2010 – 2012

President

Dave Jessie

DJessie@neo.rr.com

Vice President

Tom Mino

tjmino@neo.rr.com

Treasurer

Lew Snodgrass

330-819-4886

CHRPLY@aol.com

Secretary

Mary Pickelsimer

marypickelsimer@sbcglobal.net

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Rosaelena Villaseñor

revillasenor@hotmail.com

Observatory Director

Ron Kalinoski

330-837-5848

ACA Webmaster

Glenn Cameron

330-737-1472

Glenn.cameron@acaoh.org

Editor, Night Sky

Jason Shinn

330-685-5382

truemartian@aol.com

Trustee

Freddy Huffman

330-535-8009

trusstube2@gmail.com

Trustee

Ray Hyer

330-784-3970

rhyer@neo.rr.com

Trustee

John Shulan

330-836-0800

john@shulans.com

Statutory Agent

Mark Kochheiser

330-882-3713

mkochheiser@neo.rr.com

OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

2011 - April Activities Calendar - 2011

Club

April 5 - OBSERVATORY: SPECIAL EVENT
THE ANNUAL MESSIER MARATHON
08:00 pm EDT (2011 04 06 00:00 UT)

April 15-17 Northeast Astronomy Forum (NEAF)

April 22 - KIWANIS: General Membership Meeting.
08:00 pm EDT (2011 04 23 00:00 UT)

April 30 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event.
09:00 pm EDT (2011 05 01 01:00 UT)

Celestial*

April 2 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 9h UT.

April 3 - New Moon at 14:33 UT.

April 4 - Saturn at opposition at 0h UT.

April 11 - First Quarter moon at 12:06 UT.

April 17 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 6h UT.

April 18 - Full Moon at 2:44 UT.

April 22 - **LYRID METEOR SHOWER**
peaks at 23h UT.

April 25 - Last Quarter moon at 2:47 UT.

April 29 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 18h UT.

**Source: www.skymaps.com*

The ACA wishes to welcome our newest member:

Gary Whiston

We look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!

Minutes of the March 25, 2011 General Meeting

By Mary Pickelsimer

8:00PM Ron Kalinoski, our Observatory Director, presented a great explanation of time dilation. A difficult subject that was broken down into stick figures and a baseball.

9:00PM Break.

9:15PM Business meeting called to order.

Treasures Report:

- Reporting February 2011 activity.

Observatory Director's Report:

- Next Star Party will be March 26, 2011
- Messier Marathon 2011 – Saturday April 2, 2011

Old Business:

- Tour of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on Thursday March 10, 2011 was well attended.

New Business:

- Scopes in libraries was discussed. Robert Benedict led the discussion and was asked to head the newly established committee.

10:00PM Meeting adjourned. Next general meeting will be April 22, 2011.

*Article by Mary Pickelsimer,
ACA Secretary.*

March Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

3/1/2011 Through 3/31/2011

Checking Beginning Balance	\$2,501.61
----------------------------	------------

Income

50/50 Drawing	15.00
Donation: Ed Howe	15.00
Dues	160.00
Magazine Subscriptions*	32.95
Mag. Subs. Overpayment*	7.00
Total Income	\$229.95

Expenses

Magazine Subscriptions*	32.95
Service Charge	3.00
Total Expenses	\$35.95

Income Less Expenses	\$194.00
-----------------------------	-----------------

Checking Ending Balance	\$2,695.61
--------------------------------	-------------------

Charter One Ending Balance	\$2,695.61
-----------------------------------	-------------------

Difference	\$0.00
-------------------	---------------

Savings Opening Balance	\$5,931.20
--------------------------------	-------------------

Adjustment to Feb. Interest	-0.22
-----------------------------	--------------

Donation: Firestone Polymers, LLC	500.00
-----------------------------------	--------

Earned Interest	0.25
-----------------	------

Savings Closing Balance	\$6,431.23
--------------------------------	-------------------

Petty Cash	50.00
------------	-------

Savings	6,431.23
---------	----------

Checking	2,695.61
----------	----------

Total	\$9,176.84
--------------	-------------------

**Subscription details available upon request.*

*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
1025C Hemlock Hills Dr.
Akron, OH 44313

Ramblings (cont')

KSU's Brett Ellman, PhD always does a great job with his presentations.

Wednesday April 6 at 7:00pm
Lecture at Case Western Reserve University, Schmitt Hall; *"Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void"* by Mary Roach. A link to a PDF with further details is located on the ACA home page at www.acaoh.org

Saturday, April 30 at 3:00 PM,
lecture at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History by NASA's Dr. Mark V. Sykes, CEO and Director, Planetary Science Institute; *"The Great Planet Debate, the Origin of Life, and Our Place in the Universe"*. In addition, there will be free museum admission all day! A link to a PDF with details is available on the ACA home page at www.acaoh.org

ASTRONOMY DAY at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on Saturday May 7, 2011 from 9:45am until 4:00pm. For the past several years, the ACA has celebrated Astronomy Day at the CMNH. We arrive at 9:45am to set up our displays prior to the Museum opening at 10:00am. We receive free entrance and free parking. Also, during slack periods, we have the run of the Museum including attending planetarium shows. The more of us that are there, the easier it is to take advantage of these benefits. <hint hint> Plus, we have a great time educating the public. Around 3:45pm we tear down and pack up to come home. Visit the ACA page at www.acaoh.org for further details.

Camp CHOPS on June 3, 2011 at 8:00pm at Camp CARL. As many of you are aware, yearly the ACA provides a night under the stars for children from Children's Hospital. These children have cancer but you'd never know it based on their enthusiasm and interest in the Moon,

planets and stars that we show them each year. In years past, this event has taken place at Camp Christopher. However, this year it's to be at a new location – Camp CARL in Ravenna. We arrive by 8:00pm which gives us plenty of daylight time to set up equipment to prepare for the eager campers and counselors. By 10:30pm, most of the campers are in for the night so we're free to leave or stay and observe. With Camp Carl being so close to the Ravenna Arsenal, my guess is that we'll have wonderfully dark skies. Visit the ACA homepage at www.acaoh.org for more information including a Google map and directions from wherever you are.

Camp WUNDERLUNG on August 12, 2011 at 8:00pm at Camp Y-Noah. This is the second of two very important events the ACA conducts yearly. At this event, we provide a night under the stars for children from Children's Hospital. These children have severe breathing

disorders but you'd never know it based on their enthusiasm and interest in the Moon, planets and stars that we show them each year. In years past, this event has taken place at Camp Christopher and last year at Camp Y-Noah. This year it's again to be at Camp Y-Noah in Clinton, OH near the Akron-Canton Airport. We arrive by 8:00pm which gives us plenty of daylight time to set up equipment to prepare for the eager campers and counselors. By 10:30pm, most of the campers are in for the night so we're free to leave or stay and observe. My guess is that both Camp CHOPS and Camp WUNDERLUNG will both be at Camp Carl next year, but we'll have to wait and see. Visit the ACA homepage at www.acaoh.org for more information including a Google map and directions from wherever you are.

Clear skies, everyone!

*Article by Dave Jessie,
ACA President.*

Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski

Three star parties and three washouts for this year so far. Let's hope our luck changes. Our Messier Marathon is rescheduled for April 30th. We have an outreach request from Cub Scout Troop 3339 of Clinton, Ohio. I'll update the group as

soon as a date is confirmed. The other outreach programs we have scheduled are the Boy Scouts campout at Camp Butler in Peninsula on April 27th and a presentation for Green Public Library on July 6th.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director.*

Second Annual Portage Lakes Boating and Fishing Swap Meet

**Saturday, May 15, 2011
8:00AM - 4:00PM
Portage Lakes State Park**

The location will be at the Tudor House next to Portage Lakes State Park. This rain or shine event will be heavily advertised on all of the local media outlets. Despite the bad weather during last year's event (cold, windy, rainy), there were over 500

people in attendance. We will have exhibit space inside a large tent just like last year where we can set up a display and sell items. I would like to set up a couple of solar telescopes for observing in the beach area parking lot. I also need some assistance in manning the booth in the tent.

If you can help, please contact Mark Kochheiser at :

mkochheiser@neo.rr.com
or at 330-882-3713.

*Article by Mark Kochheiser,
ACA Statutory Agent.*

ALL ABOUT THE PLANET MERCURY

E B P A Q E R Z D V L Z R T K
C I N N E R M O S T U E Z C V
N X G T V O A X M U A O J U E
S A M H K C R L E A X W L X T
S Y V J T K I G S F N V F G Q
H R R S Q Y N R S F H G Y L U
Y V E U R J E T E E C U O T L
S F H K C E R I N X I L O D M
S I X V I R T A G N B A K Q H
D Z J A G L E A E H X I L O T
R S X I L I N M R Z T N H F H
X M X A V A G O H C L D V E Y
N W M U F T I W O U U F A T T
H S T A K C E J T M B P T Y B
F G S P M Y E V K U D Q A C S

CRATERS

EIGHTY-EIGHT DAYS

INNERMOST

MARINER TEN

MERCURY

MESSENGER

MOON-LIKE

ROCKY

ROMAN GOD

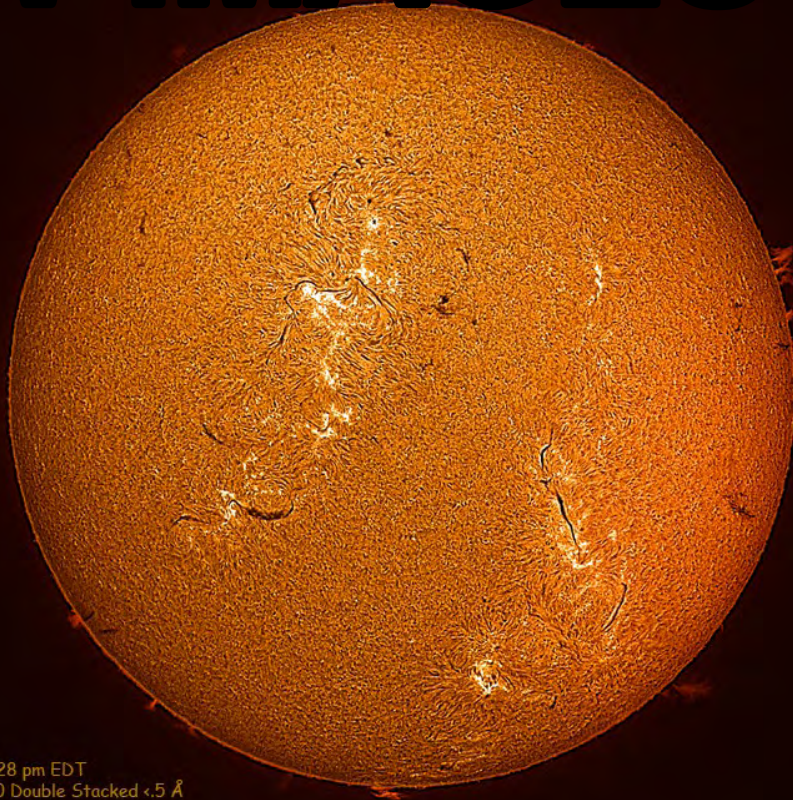
SMALL

Answers in next month's newsletter.

Created with: <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>

Answer to last month's Space Cryptogram: YANG LIWEI AND THE SHENZHOU FIVE

NEW IMAGES



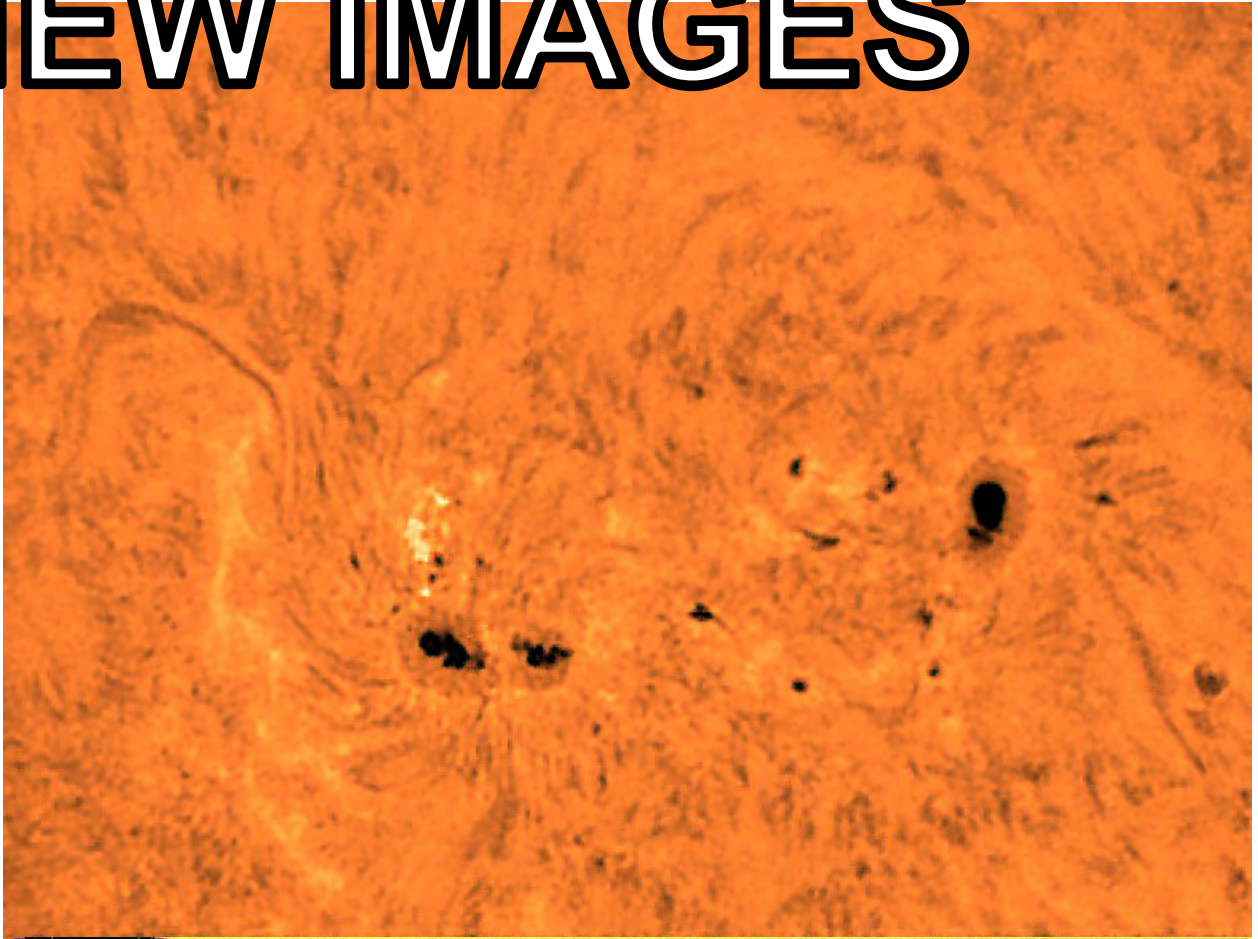
Sun - 03/29/2011 03:28 pm EDT
Coronado Maxscope 90 Double Stacked $\lt 5 \text{ \AA}$
SBIG ST2000XM
By: Len Marek



Sun - 03/27/2011 03:30 pm EDT
Coronado Maxscope 90 Double Stacked $\lt 5 \text{ \AA}$
SBIG ST2000XM
By: Len Marek

by Len Marek

NEW IMAGES



by John Crilly

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor
1025C Hemlock Hills 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.