



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 34 Number 2

February 2012

Next Meeting: Friday, February 24, 2011 8:00PM.

This and That

By Tom Mino



We had our January monthly meeting on the evening of the 27th at the Portage Lake Kiwanis community center. As Rick Burke observed, we have been having around 80% of the necessary members to officially have a quorum. The January meeting was not an exception...we ended up having 90% of a quorum. The meeting was an informal affair with the members just sitting around and talking. All in all I thought the

meeting went well. We basically reviewed the Board meeting that was held last November. Club members discussed the idea of hosting our Spring holiday meal. (We tentatively are holding Saturday, March 24 at the Golden Corral restaurant for the meal). We also discussed scheduling a field trip for a trip to visit Observatory Park in Geauga County. Club member Fred Huffman suggested that open our annual hot dog Solar Lunar program to the OTAA and have an OTAA swap meet. I have not looked at all of the OTAA summer events yet, but barring any conflicts with another OTAA club's summer event, I believe an OTAA swap & shop event will be

good event. Planning is underway for the Venus transit of the Sun which will happen on Tuesday, June 5, 2012. Be sure to check out our summer schedule on our website, www.acaoh.org. Many thanks to our observatory director Ron and webmaster Dave, for making the schedule happen and updating our website. Also hats off to club member John Crilly for more amazing astrophotography. These photos continue to dazzle us. That's all for now. More details to follow.

*Article by Tom Mino,
ACA President.*

Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



Included in the newsletter is our 2012 Observatory Schedule. This year's schedule has a few changes from schedules of previous years. Our solar lunar party has been changed to an early afternoon solar party. The main reason for this change is the long period of time between solar and lunar observing sessions. The June 30th solar party will feature ACA amateur radio astronomers searching for solar radio

bursts with array and dish instruments in addition to our hydrogen-alpha observing group. Mercury will be at greatest eastern elongation, so we'll have an opportunity to observe the planet during the day with the observatory telescope. Last year at our July 10th solar party, we observed a stunning view of Venus during the day with the planet displaying a full disk. Mercury will be more challenging than Venus, but we should be able to accomplish the task. We are fortunate to have three of our public star parties coincide with meteor shower peaks. The schedule also features four presentations: Star Maps, SETI, Historic Astronomers, and Sunspots

(see schedule for details). Our annual telescope seminar is scheduled for May 19th and will include an introductory talk on optics. Three public sky tours are planned throughout the year. An ACA tour guide will point out seasonal constellations, bright stars, and asterisms in the sky. A member and non-member favorite event is our Messier Marathon occurring on April 14th. Planned near the Vernal Equinox, our members will attempt to observe all 110 objects in the Messier catalog with only countless cups of the best free coffee in Akron to motivate their search. In addition to our scheduled public star parties,

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Lou Poda

2012 - February Activities Calendar - 2012

Club

February 18 - PUBLIC EVENT: ACA Observatory
06:30 pm EST

February 24 - KIWANIS: General Membership
Meeting 08:00 pm EST

Celestial*

February 7 - Full Moon at 21:55 UT.

February 11 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 19h UT.

February 14 - Last Quarter Moon at 17:05 UT.

February 21 - New Moon at 22:36 UT.

February 27 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 14h UT.

**Source: www.skymaps.com*

SWAP & SHOP



For sale:

- 15mm Ultra-Wide Angle Eyepiece
- 2 inch barrel
- FOV: 80°
- Eye Relief: 20mm

Asking: \$40

Contact: Lew Snodgrass
 Phone: 330-819-4886
 Phone: 330-867-4800
 Ask for Lew.
 Email: chrply@aol.com

A Note From The Treasurer

By Lew Snodgrass

If you are interested in updating your Astronomy or Sky & Telescope subscriptions; I am collecting for them now. A reminder that the club subscription price is \$34.00 for Astronomy and \$32.95 for Sky & Telescope. Call or e-mail me for a subscription or more info.

330-819-4886
 chrply@aol.com

Item two:
 My 15mm 2" UW 80 degree eyepiece is still for sale. Try it before you buy it.

ACA Treasurer,
 Lew Snodgrass

- 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 .txt or .rtf FORMAT TO MINIMIZE IMPORT PROBLEMS. ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .jpg FORMAT. SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

truemartian@aol.com

January Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

1/1/2012 Through 1/31/2012

Checking Beginning Balance	\$3,804.34
Income	
Total Income	\$0.00
Expenses	
ACA Website	45.00
Total Expenses	\$45.00
Income Less Expenses	\$45.00
Checking Ending Balance	\$3,759.34
Charter One Ending Balance	\$3,804.34
Outstanding Check	\$45.00
<hr/>	
Savings Opening Balance	\$6,433.62
Earned Interest	0.27
Savings Closing Balance	\$6,433.89
<hr/>	
Petty Cash	50.00
Savings	6,433.89
Checking (Charter One Balance)	3,804.34
Total	\$10,288.23

Article by Lew Snodgrass
 ACA Treasurer.



Observatory Report (con't)

I plan to have about as many impromptu star parties. Non-members have been slowly but steadily signing up to be notified of these events. If you want to look at stars, you will have many opportunities to do so this year!

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director.*

Trial and Error

By Marissa Fanady



When I started getting into astronomy I didn't know where to start or what equipment to purchase. I was too excited and anxious to view everything I could, after witnessing a good meteor shower and the 2010 total lunar eclipse, to do any proper research. Now I understand how important it is to learn the different types of telescopes and equipment, so you can avoid the stress and disappointment of purchasing faulty or wrong equipment.

I jumped right into scope shopping and ordered a Celestron NexStar 130 SLT and being physically disabled, I didn't even think about the eyepiece being tough to reach since this telescope is a reflector. After going to a star party at the ACA observatory in Portage Lakes State Park I had the opportunity to look through a number of different telescopes and found a refractor to be the best for physically disabled people. A few months later my NexStar started showing problems..., the slewing motion going from left to right slowed down when on the same rate. I had troubles aligning it and to top it off, unexpectedly the optical tube fell right off the fork arm!

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Minutes of the January 27, 2012 General Meeting

By Mary Pickelsimer

8:00PM With no presenter for the evening, the discussion centered on the recent board meeting. Without enough non board members present for a quorum, the meeting was an informal recap of the November 20, 2011 meeting.

Topics discussed:

- Membership dues – Lowering or changing.
- Budgeted Items – Up to a 30% increase.
- Fund Raising (Donate here button) – Not used as of yet.
- New membership packets - sample to be reviewed at the February general meeting.

- Observatory site – Current and potential new one (Crown Point), also maintenance on the site was discussed.
- Telescope donations – Current and future (storage is an issue).
- Spring dinner – Potential dates; March 17th or 24th, location to be determined.
- Field trip!! – Observatory Park, Saturday afternoon in late April.
- Treasures Report: Reporting for yearend 2011.

9:25PM Meeting adjourned. Next general meeting will be February 24, 2012 (Tom's birthday is 02/25... if anyone was wondering.)

*Article by Mary Pickelsimer,
ACA Secretary.*

For What It's Worth

Submitted by John Shulan

Scientists at NASA built a gun specifically to launch standard four pound dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets, and the space shuttle, all traveling at maximum velocity. The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the British engineers. When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two, and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin, like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Brits sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the U.S. scientists for suggestions.

NASA responded with a one-line memo, "Defrost the chicken."

*Submitted by John Shulan,
ACA Trustee.*

Trial and Error (con't)

Luckily someone was there to ease its fall so that the mirrors did not get damaged, even though some other things on it were. I was very frustrated because now I had a telescope I was afraid to use for fear of breaking it further. I had just barely begun to use it, I had lots of equipment for it, and I thought everything I had was trash until some ACA members stepped in and saved me. They fixed my telescope, gave me advice, and even gave me another nice little telescope!

All in all you should always, ALWAYS do your research before buying any equipment, and definitely look for an astronomy club near you. Attend a star party to get advice on what would best fit you, discover what you would like to view, find out if you want to take pictures, and get a feel for price ranges. There are hundreds of different telescopes to choose from and it can be very confusing, so it's really important to seek out a club and get advice from people who've been doing amateur astronomy for years. The most

important thing to remember is to not let trials and errors like these get in the way of discovering your universe and viewing amazing, beautiful objects. I didn't and I've gotten to see objects so beautiful that I couldn't imagine and they will stay with me forever.

*Article by ACA member
Marissa Fanady.*

DON'T FORGET...

We LIVE On A PLANET

TOO!!



Lake Temagami - Ontario, Canada by ACA member Jason Shinn

PUBLISH YOUR PHOTOS

OF OUR WONDERFUL EARTH IN THE ACA NEWSLETTER!

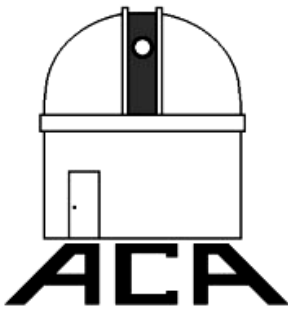
Email them to truemartian@aol.com

NEW IMAGES



M37

by John Crilly



Astronomy Club of Akron

2012 Observatory Schedule

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

www.acaoh.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.
- We also schedule impromptu star parties. Sign up for e-mail notification at our "Star Party Notice" link at acaoh.org.

February 18 – 6:30pm

Binoculars Night: Bring your binoculars to observe Kemble's Cascade, Hyades, Pleiades, & Beehive Cluster. Winter Sky Tour and the best free coffee in Akron.

March 17 – 7:30pm

Planet Parade: Mars is less than ½ degree from M95 & M96, shining at mag -1.2 covering 14" of arc. Jupiter and Venus continue their spectacular display just 2 days past conjunction.

March 24 – 7:30pm

Venus reaches greatest elongation on 3/27 allowing observers to view the planet 40 degrees above the horizon at sunset.

April 14 – 8:30pm

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

April 21 – 8:30pm

Going Long: We'll observe the most distant object in our galaxy (NGC 2419 at 304,000ly) and the most distant object within reach of the observatory telescope (Quasar 3C273 at 2.2 billion ly). Lyrid Meteor Shower peaks.

May 12 – 9:00pm

Galaxies Galore: Observe galaxies of the Virgo Cluster, including M87 hosting a 6 billion solar mass black hole.

May 19 – 8:00pm

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.

May 26 – 9:00pm

Saturn's rings have been increasing inclination angle since they disappeared from sight on September 4, 2009. Come out tonight to see the rings beautifully tilted at 14 degrees.

June 9 – 9:00pm

Program: Star Maps*

We'll show you how to follow a map to the stars.

June 16 – 9:00pm

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

June 30 – 1:00pm

Daytime Observing Event: Solar Party & Hotdog Roast

View sunspots, solar flares, and prominences. Our amateur radio astronomers will be searching for celestial radio signals. Mercury is at greatest eastern elongation and will be a target of the observatory telescope. Enjoy a hotdog for a small fee.

July 7 – 9:00pm

Program: SETI*

Learn about the latest search for extraterrestrials.

July 14 – 9:00pm

Classical Music Night: Listen to the best musical selections of Mozart, Vivaldi, & Bach by which to gaze at the stars!

July 21 – 9:00pm

Program: Historic Astronomers

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

August 11 – 8:30pm

Program: Sunspots

Sunspot activity & behavior explained. Our observing session includes the Perseid Meteor Shower peak.

September 8 – 8:00pm

It's a great time of year to observe globular clusters.

September 15 – 8:00pm

Best Free Coffee in Akron Night: An ACA member will take you on a sky tour of the Autumn Constellations.

October 6 – 7:30pm

View a sampling of October's planetary nebulae.

October 13 – 7:00pm

Galaxy Night: Come out to view Andromeda Galaxy, M32, & NGC 7331.

November 10 – 6:30pm

Relive Herschel's discovery of Uranus & the Saturn Nebula.

November 17 – 6:30pm

Star Gazing while the Leonid Meteor Shower peaks

* 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.

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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

(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.