



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 48 Number 1

January 2026/December 2025

ACA MEETING - Sunday, January 18th, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

President's Column

By Cathy Loboda

Welcome Back

The ACA Board wants to welcome you back with a list of eventful membership meetings scheduled for Spring 2026! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season filled with precious time spent with those you love. May the memories fill your hearts for years to come!

Upcoming ACA Meeting

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 18th at 2:00pm.

Astronomy Club of Akron members: John Crilly, Phil Creed, and Ron Kalinoski are presenting the ACA Annual Telescope Seminar. They will explain the advantages and disadvantages of optical equipment including refractors, reflectors, catadioptrics, binoculars, and eyepieces. As an added bonus, some classic telescopes will be on display.

All meetings are held at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron. Hope to see you on the 18th!

Members Needed

This spring ACA members will elect a new ACA Board to serve a two year term. If you are interested in making a difference in ACA's future by serving on the Board, please see Ron Kalinoski at our January meeting or connect with him via email: observatorydirector@acaoh.org.

A slate of members running for office will be announced at the March membership meeting and elections will take place during the April membership meeting. The new Board begins their 2 year term in May 2026.

Future Events

Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski has released the schedule of events for the Winter/Spring seasons. Click on the link to see upcoming events and mark your calendars:

<https://www.acaoh.org/Activity%20Schedules/2026%20ACA%20Winter%20Spring%20Activity%20Schedule.pdf>



Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski

First, Astronomy Club of Akron wants to thank the anonymous donor for a donation of \$560. That is fantastic!

A proposed 2026 Observatory Budget was submitted to the ACA Board on December 20th and approved on January 2nd. The 2026 Observatory Budget has been submitted for printing in the January newsletter. The 2026 Winter/Spring Activity Schedule is complete, circulated, and submitted for printing in the January newsletter. Thanks to Diwakar for circulating the activity schedule and Earl for updating our website with the new schedule. We have some exciting talks coming up this year for our members and the public at large.

Niladri Kar has been helping Astronomy Club of Akron by continuing our World-Famous Moon

Calendar featured on our website. The data source for the previous calendars made by Dave Jessie from 2009 to 2024 is no longer available. Niladri has written a program to collect NASA data and create the Moon Calendar for 2025 and 2026. Niladri's work maintains the same appearance as calendars produced by Dave Jessie; however, uses a different data source and a computer program written by Niladri to generate those calendars. Here is a brief explanation of what the Niladri program does: The program is written in python. First, it collects all moon images for designated year, month, time of the day, latitude and longitude from NASA Moon Phase and Libration page. Then it calculates the date and time of major phases (new, first quarter, full and last quarter) from ephemeral data. Finally, the script makes monthly calendar, fills each shell with day of the month, moon image, major phase, if applicable, and saves each month in HTML format.



The Astronomy Club of Akron Welcomes New Members

Ann Laurella DiFrangia — Luca Liva — Andrea Pallotta — Will Tucholski — Michael LeHere

We look forward to seeing you in future club events.

OFFICERS 2024 — 2026

President: Cathy Loboda

- E-mail: president@acaoh.org

Vice President: Gary Smith

- E-mail: vice.president@acaoh.org

Treasurer: Dave Hartsook

- E-mail: treasurer@acaoh.org

Secretary: Carol Spears

- E-mail: secretary@acaoh.org

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer:

- E-mail: secretarytreasurer@acaoh.org

Observatory Director: Ron Kalinoski

- E-mail: observatory.director@acaoh.org

ACA Webmaster: Earl Rodd

- E-mail: webmaster@acaoh.org

Publications Secretary: Glenn R. Cameron

- E-mail: newsletter.editor@acaoh.org

Trustee: position vacant

- E-mail:

Trustee: position vacant

- E-mail:

Trustee: position vacant

- E-mail:

Statutory Agent: Mark Kochheiser

- E-mail: statutoryagent@acaoh.org



Latest meeting video available on YouTube

By Glenn R. Cameron

2025-10-19 ACA Public Meeting Speaker Ron Kalinoski spoke about what astronomers see when they look through a telescope.

https://youtu.be/3QRQ2fce_nc



Meeting Minutes: November 16th, 2025

By Carol Spears

Meeting called to order by Vice-president Gary Smith: 3:41 PM

Officers' Reports

Vice President report by Gary Smith: No report

Secretary Report by Carol Spears: Secretary minutes are presented to members via the Night Sky Newsletter. No additions or corrections.

Treasurer Report by Dave Hartsook: Treasurer reports are presented to members via The Night Sky Newsletter. No additions or corrections.

Old Business:

* None

New Business:

- The date for the winter social for club members is February 1, 2026, noon. Held at the Galaxy Restaurant in Wadsworth. More information and how to reserve your spot will be announced in January.
- Thanks to the ACA for sponsoring the refreshments for the November meeting, and to Ron Kalinoski for making the purchases.

Observatory Director Report by Ron Kalinoski:

- Ron made a presentation at Story Point Senior Center; the club received a \$150 donation from them. We also received a \$20 donation from a star party participant. The

- Club purchased a \$400 12 mm Delos eyepiece which goes into the club telescope's refractor for looking at planets.
- Due to budget cuts at NASA, they currently are not a source of speakers for the club.
- The night lights at the Portage Lakes State Park new Visitor Center were installed to minimize light pollution. The light is projected downward. There appears to be some construction happening at the Tudor House which is near the beach at Portage Lakes State Park. Something for the Board to monitor as to whether there may be any impacts on start-party viewing.
- There have been a lot of star parties recently. Featured were comets Lemmon and Swan, Saturn, the Pleiades, and star clusters. Earlier start time due to shortened daylight hours.

Member Observations:

- Gary Smith brought up that this year we have been able to view two comets: Lemmon and Swan. A new member talked about the possibility of the club going as a group to Cherry Springs State Park in PA during the summer for a weekend star party.

Member Inquiries:

- No member inquiries.

Meeting adjourned by Gary Smith: 4:14 PM



<p align="center">November 2025 ACA Treasurer's Report By Dave Hartsook 12/2/2025</p>
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Checking Beginning Balance	\$ 1,350.66
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Income

Membership Dues	\$ 30.00
Donations	\$ 180.00
Transfer from Savings	\$ 200.00

Total Income	\$ 410.00
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Expenses

Speaker Honorarium- November ACA Meeting	\$ (100.00)
Reimburse Member for purchase of budgeted TeleVue 12mm Delos eyepiece for observatory	\$ (407.00)
Reimburse Member for postage to return defective ACA dew heater to Dew Not	\$ (7.20)
Paypal Fee	\$ (3.48)

Total Expenses	\$ (517.68)
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Income Less Expenses and Transfers	\$ (107.68)
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Checking Ending Balance	\$ 1,242.98
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$ 2,969.33
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Interest Income	\$ 0.03
Transfer to Checking	\$ (200.00)

Savings Ending Balance	\$ 2,769.36
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Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$ 50.00
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No Activity

Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$ 50.00
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Grand Total	\$ 4,062.34
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December 2025 ACA Treasurer's Report
By Dave Hartsook
1/3/2026

Checking Beginning Balance	\$	1,242.98
Income		
Membership Dues	\$	145.00
Donations	\$	580.00
Total Income	\$	725.00
Expenses		
Speaker Honorarium- October ACA Meeting	\$	(50.00)
Reimburse Observatory Director for refreshments at October ACA Meeting	\$	(28.81)
Reimburse Observatory Director for refreshments at November ACA Meeting	\$	(36.45)
Transfer to Savings	\$	(500.00)
Total Expenses	\$	(615.26)
Income Less Expenses and Transfers	\$	109.74
Checking Ending Balance	\$	1,352.72
Savings Beginning Balance	\$	2,769.36
Interest Income	\$	0.02
Transfer from Checking	\$	500.00
Savings Ending Balance	\$	3,269.38
Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$	50.00
No Activity		
Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$	50.00
Grand Total	\$	4,672.10



Astronomy Club of Akron

2026 Activity Schedule

View Celestial Objects through the area's Largest Amateur Club Telescope

5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH www.acaoh.org

Astronomy Club of Akron has been a distinguished northeast Ohio organization since 1949. The objective of the ACA is to promote the education of the public in the area of astronomy and related sciences through our public star parties and public lecture meetings.

STAR PARTIES: Portage Lakes State Park Observatory featuring a computerized 16 inch telescope

- Please join us for stargazing and educational activities. Our Star Parties are free and open to the public. Please arrive on time to avoid headlight distraction.
- For notice of “impromptu star parties”, send e-mail to ACAstarparty@att.net to request e-mail notification of our observing sessions.
- Events will be cancelled if skies are cloudy. Always check website for star party status two hours before event.
- This is an outdoor activity in an unheated environment. A general rule of thumb is to dress for 15 degrees cooler than predicted nighttime low temperature.
- Please, **No Smoking** on observatory grounds. Smoke reacts with optical surfaces, damaging optical coatings.
- Please, no use of cell phones or tablets in observatory (to preserve night vision).

Public Lecture Meetings: Free and open to the public featuring professional speakers

Meeting Place: Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center

725 Portage Lakes Drive Akron, OH

2026 Winter/Spring Schedule:

January 18, 2026 2:00pm

Astronomy Club of Akron Members: John Crilly, Phil Creed, & Ron Kalinoski

Telescope Seminar

Our members will explain the science and operation of optical equipment including binoculars, reflectors, refractors, and catadioptric telescopes. Some classic telescopes will be on display.

February 15, 2026 2:00pm

Gary Kader, Baldwin Wallace University, Director of Burrell Observatory and Lecturer

Hertzsprung Russell Diagram

Stars are born, live their lives, and experience death. Gary Kader will explain how data represented on the Hertzsprung Russell Diagram tells us about the lives of stars.

March 15, 2026 2:00pm

Dr. Patrick Durrell, Youngstown State University

Topic to be announced soon. Dr. Durrell is a professor of Physics, Astronomy & Geology at Youngstown State University. He has used the Hubble Space Telescope to research galaxies and globular star clusters.

April 19, 2026 2:00pm

Dr. Cyrus Taylor, Case Western University

Global Warming

Dr. Taylor, a String Theorist and Particle Accelerator Scientist, has now decided to take on an even more challenging role. Dr. Taylor will explain how emissions into our atmosphere impact planet Earth.

May 17, 2026 2:00pm

Jeff Woytach, Space Systems Consulting, LLC

James Webb Telescope: Looking Back to the Edge of Creation

Jeff Woytach will explain the complexities of the James Webb Telescope and how it is being used to discover history of the earliest times after the Creation of the Universe.

*** We hold unscheduled star parties when skies are clear. For an e-mail notification of impromptu star parties send a message to ACAstarparty@att.net to be added to the list. For private star parties (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Groups, School Groups, etc.) send a request to the same e-mail address.

Swap-n-Shop

Glenn Cameron

Email: glenn@cameronclan.org

- Astro-Tech AT60ED 60mm F6 ED Doublet. Contains one FPL53 lens by Ohara in Japan which minimizes chromatic aberration. Price is \$300



Swap-n-Shop

Freddy Huffman

Phone: 330-535-8009

Email: trusstube2@gmail.com

- 8" Dobsonian
- 8" SCT
- 6" SCT
- 6" Refractor
- 5" Refractor
- 100 mm Binoculars
- EQ Mount w/ dual axis tracking
- iOptron SkyTracker and tripod

Call to set up appointment to see if you are interested.

Thank you,

Freddy



January Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
01	16:43	Moon at Perigee: 360348 km
03	05:03	FULL MOON
03	12:00	Earth at Perihelion: 0.98330 AU
03	17:00	Quadrantid Meteor Shower
03	17:01	Jupiter 3.7°S of Moon
03	22:28	Pollux 3.0°N of Moon
06	06:00	Mercury at Aphelion
06	11:00	Venus at Superior Conjunction
06	11:20	Regulus 0.5°S of Moon
07	06:22	Moon at Descending Node
09	05:00	Mars in Conjunction with Sun
10	03:00	Jupiter at Opposition
10	10:48	LAST QUARTER MOON
10	18:50	Spica 1.6°N of Moon
13	15:48	Moon at Apogee: 405437 km
14	14:28	Antares 0.6°N of Moon
18	14:52	NEW MOON
21	11:00	Mercury at Superior Conj
21	19:03	Moon at Ascending Node
22	15:00	Venus at Aphelion
23	07:31	Saturn 4.3°S of Moon
25	23:47	FIRST QUARTER MOON
27	16:07	Pleiades 1.1°S of Moon
29	16:53	Moon at Perigee: 365878 km
30	21:31	Jupiter 3.8°S of Moon
31	08:45	Pollux 3.0°N of Moon



February Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
01	17:09	FULL MOON
02	21:48	Regulus 0.4°S of Moon
03	14:18	Moon at Descending Node
07	03:26	Spica 1.8°N of Moon
09	07:43	LAST QUARTER MOON
10	11:52	Moon at Apogee: 404577 km
10	22:19	Antares 0.7°N of Moon
17	07:01	NEW MOON
17	07:12	Annular Solar Eclps mag=0.963
18	01:19	Moon at Ascending Node
18	18:03	Mercury 0.1°N of Moon: Occn.
19	06:00	Mercury at Perihelion
19	13:00	Mercury at Grtst Elong: 18.1°E
19	18:54	Saturn 4.6°S of Moon
23	21:43	Pleiades 1.2°S of Moon
24	07:28	FIRST QUARTER MOON
24	18:18	Moon at Perigee: 370132 km
27	01:26	Jupiter 4.0°S of Moon
27	16:34	Pollux 3.0°N of Moon



Sky Event Almanacs Courtesy of Fred Espenak, www.AstroPixels.com

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Glenn R. Cameron, Editor

The Astronomy Club of Akron
c/o Dave Hartsook
4174 Meadow Wood Lane
Uniontown, OH 44685-7717

Yes! I want to become a member of the Astronomy Club of Akron

Check one: ☐ New Membership
☐ Renewal

www.acaoh.org
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Astronomy Club of Akron annual memberships renew in the month of September.

Initial dues for New Members are prorated. If joining in Sep-Nov, pay full amount below; Dec-Feb pay 75%; Mar-May pay 50%; Jun-Aug pay 25%

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