



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 48 Number 9

October 2026

ACA MEETING - Sunday, October 18th, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Member Photo

By Ron Kalinoski



Astronomy Club of Akron held an outreach event for Aurora Children Early Learning Center on June 9th, 2026. Part of the event was a visit to our observatory where the children saw how the observatory roof rolls back and our telescope inside the observatory.

OFFICERS 2026 — 2028

President: Diwakar Chandrasekaran

- E-mail: president@acaoh.org

Vice President: Gary Smith

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

Treasurer: Dave Hartsook

- E-mail: treasurer@acaoh.org

Secretary: Christina Hoehn-Shackelford

- E-mail: secretary@acaoh.org

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Drew Carlson

- 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: Nick Mihiylov

- E-mail: trustee@acaoh.org

Trustee: position vacant

- E-mail:

Trustee: position vacant

- E-mail:

Statutory Agent: Mark Kochheiser

- E-mail: statutoryagent@acaoh.org



The Astronomy Club of Akron Welcomes New Members

- Richard Moecia
- David & Amy Walter
- Lynzi Terbanc
- Mackenzie Yako

We look forward to seeing you in future club events.

ACA Outreach Events

By Ron Kalinoski

Astronomy Club of Akron held an outreach event with Aurora Children Early Learning Center on June 9th, 2026. The group consisted of 23 children and four adults. We presented two presentations to the children. The first presentation was titled: Planets, Phases of the Moon, & Eclipses. The second presentation was titled: What Astronomers See When They Look Through a Telescope. The children asked many questions about our solar system and our Universe. We took a break between presentations for the children to take a look through a Meade 4 inch telescope. After the presentations, we all took a drive over to Portage Lakes State Park for a tour of the observatory, showing the children our 16 inch observatory telescope and TEC140mm refractor. Then, the children had their lunch sitting outside the observatory. Afterwards, the children took a hike along our Planet Walk. It was an enjoyable day for all. Aurora Children ELC gave Astronomy Club of Akron a \$130 donation.

On September 17th, 2026, Astronomy Club of Akron held an outreach event with Copley Daisy Girl Scouts. There were eight daisy scouts working on their Space Explorer Badge. Astronomy Club of Akron gave a presentation entitled: Planets, Phases of the Moon, & Eclipses. Then, we had three hands-on workstations set up for the girls. At the first workstation, each girl looked through a spectroscope to observe emission bands of a fluorescent light bulb. At the second workstation the girls observed how light is bent through a prism and a lens using a laser pointer. At the last workstation, each girl made an observation through a Meade 4 inch Schmidt Cassegrain telescope. On October 4th, the Girl Scouts came out to a star party at our observatory to view star clusters and the planet Saturn through the 16 inch observatory telescope and the observatory 5 inch refractor. Thanks to Tom Alexander for helping out at this event running the observatory 5 inch refractor. We had two other donations last month, one anonymous and the other from Drew Carlson. Thank you very much!





Book Review

By Niladri Kar

Book review of, "A city on Mars: Can we settle space, should we settle space, and have we really thought this through" by Kelly and Zach Weinersmith.

Kelly is a biologist, Zach a cartoonist. Together the wife-and-husband team discussed physical and technological feasibility and limitations; biological effects, some in uncharted territories; publicity void of scientific facts; and ethical aspects of proposed colonization of Mars. Common theme song led by a few billionaires supported by federal agency is something like this, "Earth is not well, so let's go and destroy some other place." With extensive research, great sense of humor and wonderful illustrations, the authors are not sure that is a good idea in any account. Being a biophysicist by education, training, and profession, and a space enthusiast by hobby, I find this book a must-read for everyone, no matter what political viewpoint one cherishes.

"Starting life anew somewhere far, far away sounds appealing. But that fantasy is so much further from realization than we think..." — MIT Tech Review

Meeting Minutes

By Christina Hoehn-Shackelford

Meeting was called to order by at 3:18 p.m. by President Diwakar Chandrasekaran

Officers' Reports:

President, Diwakar Chandrasekaran:

Welcomed all to the meeting. Discussed switching board meetings to quarterly meetings rather than just twice per year. A motion was made by President Diwakar Chandrasekaran to update the Bylaws rule on board meetings to be held quarterly, and Ron seconded. All members voted yes to switch to quarterly meetings. No nays.

Vice President, Gary Smith:

Discussed upcoming Space X flights and how this impacts the future of space exploration. The next SpaceX flight, Starship Flight 14, has been delayed to Monday, September 28, 2026. A member added information regarding SpaceX flights. Also discussed was a spaceship that has been recovered in the ocean for a thorough inspection.

Secretary Report, Christina Hoehn-Shackelford:

Secretary minutes are presented to members via the Night Sky Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections to the report. Briefly discussed minutes from the previous meeting. Informed members that Secretary Christina Hoehn-Shackelford has been posting on the ACA Facebook group more often and trying to engage followers. If any members have suggestions or feedback regarding the Facebook group, please contact Secretary Christina Hoehn-Shackelford.

Treasurer Report, Dave Hartsook:

Treasurer reports are presented to members via The Night Sky Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections to the report. Discussed financials and provided information about accounts. Discussed collecting new membership fees. Two new members signed up today.

Observatory Director Report, Ron Kalinoski:

Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski recently completed two outreach programs. The Aurora

Daycare Center outreach program began at the Kiwanis Civic Center, and then the group traveled to the Observatory. Children then took the planet walk. The Aurora Daycare Center donated eight hundred and thirty dollars (\$830.00) to the club. Ron brought the money to the Kiwanis Civic Center to provide to the treasurer. The second recent outreach program was with the Girl Scouts in Copley.

Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski discussed the need for a maintenance day for cleaning up the observatory and concrete work outside of the observatory. Described the concrete issues that need to be resolved, including closing a gap that would improve accessibility for wheelchairs. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski. This will be scheduled and completed within the next three weeks or so. Next discussed the new air conditioner and why this was necessary for the observatory and how this has improved the space.

Old Business:

President Diwakar Chandrasekaran reminded members about creating a public lecture committee so that there are volunteers to help with setting up the Kiwanis room prior to meetings as this is currently falling on Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski to do prior to meeting.

New Business:

None.

Member observations:

Glenn reported that he saw the ISS recently and due to a very clear and crisp sky, it was a fantastic viewing. A member reported that he was taking pictures of a galaxy and noticed a supernova, and that an astronomer had discovered another nearby supernova.

Member inquiry:

None.

President Diwakar Chandrasekaran adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

September 2026 ACA Treasurer's Report
By Dave Hartsook
10/1/2026

Checking Beginning Balance	\$ 1,433.20
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Inflows

Membership Dues	\$ 880.00
Donations (Unrestricted)	\$ 290.00
PayPal Fee Calc Overage	\$ 0.42

Total Inflows	\$ 1,170.42
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Outflows

Cash W/D for Speaker Honorarium - September 2026 ACA Meeting Presentation	\$ (50.00)
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Total Outflows	\$ (50.00)
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Inflows Less Outflows	\$ 1,120.42
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Checking Ending Balance	\$ 2,553.62
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$ 1,269.49
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Interest Income	\$ 0.01
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Savings Ending Balance	\$ 1,269.50
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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	\$ 3,873.12
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Member Photo

By Niladri Kar

Helix Nebula (NGC 7293 or Caldwell 63):
Aug 2026.

- 80mm Refractor
- IMX585 Color Camera
- 2h 32m Ha-Oiii filter
- 3h 22m Oiii-Sii filter
- Stacked and processed in Siril and SAS Pro

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Book Review

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Book review of, "A city on Mars: Can we settle space, should we settle space, and have we really thought this through" by Kelly and Zach Weinersmith.

Kelly is a biologist, Zach a cartoonist. Together the wife-and-husband team discussed physical and technological feasibility and limitations; biological effects, some in uncharted territories; publicity void of scientific facts; and ethical aspects of proposed colonization of Mars. Common theme song led by a few billionaires supported by federal agency is something like this, "Earth is not well, so let's go and destroy some other place". With extensive research, great sense of humor and wonderful illustrations, the authors are not sure that is a good idea in any account. Being a biophysicist by education, training, and profession, and a space enthusiast by hobby, I find this book a must-read for everyone, no matter what political viewpoint one cherishes.

"Starting life anew somewhere far, far away sounds appealing. But that fantasy is so much further from realization than we think...". — MIT Tech Review

Member Photos

By Jim Haas



Celestron Starsense Explorer 130az
Beaver Blood Moon Eclipse 11-8-22



Celestron Starsense Explorer 130az
Hunter's Moon 10-9-22

Member Photos (continued)

By Jim Haas



Dwarf 3
M42 Orion Nebula



Dwarf 3
M45 Pleiades Cluster

Member Photos (continued)

By Jim Haas



**Dwarf II
Andromeda Galaxy**



Dwarf II - Blood Moon Eclipse 3-14-25

Member Photos (continued)

By Jim Haas



Dwarf II
C12 Fireworks
Galaxy



Dwarf II
M13
Hercules
Globular

Member Photos (continued)

By Jim Haas



**Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra
Full 'Strawberry' Moon 6-4-23**

Member Photos

By Dean Philips

First couple of nights using a Seestar S50 Pro. Ohio; One-Hour (+/- a little) of 20-second subs.



Eastern Veil Nebula

Member Photos (continued)

By Dean Philips



Andromeda
Galaxy (M31 with
M110 and M32)



Triangulum Galaxy
(M33)



Astronomy Club of Akron

2026 Autumn 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. Nighttime temperatures drop rapidly, even during summer. 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 Autumn Schedule:

September 20, 2026 2:00pm

Dr. Niladri Kar, Stark State College
Citizen Science in Astronomy

Dr. Kar will explain how you can get involved to help classify and analyze data from world renowned observatories, making new discoveries of dwarf planets, asteroids, supernovae, and comets. Dr. Kar will share some of the discoveries he made, awaiting confirmation, while analyzing data from Rubin Observatory, NASA's WISE Mission, JWST, and TESS Mission.

October 18, 2026 2:00pm

Dr. Emily Safron, Case Western Reserve University, Lorain County Community College
Brave New Worlds (Extrasolar planets)

Dr. Safron will describe what exoplanets are and the ingenious detective methods that astronomers use to find them in the cosmos. Dr. Safron will discuss the many types of exoplanets that have been found and how astronomers study what they are like – including whether or not they may be capable of harboring life.

November 15, 2026 2:00pm

Stacy McGaugh, Case Western Reserve University
Missing Mass Problem – Dark Matter & Our Understanding of Gravity

There is ample evidence for missing mass in the Universe: dark matter whose gravity is felt but which goes unseen. Despite decades of searches for dark matter candidates, these efforts have repeatedly come up empty. Stacy McGaugh will discuss the astronomical evidence that establishes the missing mass problem and how some of it points to a different interpretation of gravity.

*** 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.

October Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
01	15:41	Moon at Perigee: 369338 km
03	08:25	LAST QUARTER MOON
04	07:00	Saturn at Opposition
04	07:27	Pollux 3.8°N of Moon
05	00:30	Mars 1.2°S of Moon: Occn.
06	05:18	Jupiter 0.2°S of Moon: Occn.
06	20:19	Moon at Descending Node
06	21:57	Regulus 0.6°N of Moon
10	10:50	NEW MOON
11	21:30	Venus 3.1°S of Moon
12	05:00	Mercury at Grtst Elong: 25.2°E
12	15:08	Mercury 2.1°N of Moon
14	15:25	Antares 0.4°N of Moon
16	17:56	Moon at Apogee: 404639 km
18	11:13	FIRST QUARTER MOON
21	03:53	Moon at Ascending Node
21	13:00	Orionid Meteor Shower
23	22:00	Venus at Inferior Conjunction
25	23:12	FULL MOON
27	20:11	Pleiades 1.0°S of Moon
28	13:01	Moon at Perigee: 364411 km
31	13:00	Pollux 4.0°N of Moon



November Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
01	15:28	LAST QUARTER MOON
02	09:23	Mars 1.1°N of Moon: Occn.
02	18:11	Jupiter 0.5°N of Moon: Occn.
02	22:02	Moon at Descending Node
03	03:40	Regulus 0.8°N of Moon
04	09:00	Mercury at Inferior Conj
05	14:00	S Taurid Meteor Shower
07	06:31	Venus 1.1°N of Moon: Occn.
07	07:40	Spica 2.4°N of Moon
09	02:02	NEW MOON
10	04:00	Mercury at Perihelion
10	08:49	Venus 0.1°S of Spica
10	22:58	Antares 0.3°N of Moon
12	13:00	N Taurid Meteor Shower
13	12:50	Moon at Apogee: 405619 km
15	23:00	Mars 1.2°N of Jupiter
17	06:48	FIRST QUARTER MOON
17	06:49	Moon at Ascending Node
17	19:00	Leonid Meteor Shower
20	18:00	Mercury at Grtst Elong 19.6°W
24	06:18	Pleiades 0.9°S of Moon
24	09:53	FULL MOON
25	02:47	Mars 1.6°N of Regulus
25	15:58	Moon at Perigee: 359348 km
25	18:00	Uranus at Opposition
27	20:27	Pollux 4.2°N of Moon
29	22:34	Moon at Descending Node
30	04:18	Jupiter 1.2°N of Moon: Occn.
30	09:35	Regulus 1.1°N of Moon
30	14:32	Mars 3.3°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

Additional Adult Member ☐ \$15.00

Junior (ages 12 to 17) ☐ \$15.00

Family Membership ☐ \$40.00

Visit us on the Web at www.acaoh.org