



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 48 Number 8

September 2026

ACA MEETING - Sunday, September 20th, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Member Photo

By Niladri Kar

Sadr Region (Gamma Cygni Nebula, IC1318): Aug 2026

- 90mm DSLR lens
- IMX585 Color Camera
- 2h 15m Ha-Oiii filter
- Stacked and processed in Siril
- Bortle 5 sky
- Sadr is at middle left
- Crescent Nebula lower right



OFFICERS 2026 — 2028

President: Diwakar Chandrasekaran

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Vice President: Gary Smith

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

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Trustee: position vacant

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Trustee: position vacant

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Statutory Agent: Mark Kochheiser

- E-mail: statutoryagent@acaoh.org



The Astronomy Club of Akron Welcomes New Member

- Stephanie Swain

We look forward to seeing you in future club events.

President's Column

By Diwakar Chandrasekaran

Hello ACA Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer!

Following our summer break, I am excited for our public lecture series to resume starting on September 20, 2026. We look forward to seeing everyone back for another great season of learning and stargazing!

Recap: ACA Summer Picnic

I want to send out a huge thank you to everyone who organized and attended our second club picnic in August. Despite a brief storm passing through, our crew weathered it wonderfully and made the picnic a fantastic success.

A special shoutout to fellow astronomer Jon French, who brought his telescope and astrophotography rig to give us a live demonstration. Seeing his setup in action gave me a true appreciation for the time, skill, and complexity required to capture a single deep-sky image. Kudos and thanks to Jon for sharing his expertise!

Building ACA Together: Continuing the Momentum

As we move into autumn, "Building ACA Together" remains our central focus for the year. We want to

see more members taking active roles, sharing fresh ideas, and helping shape the future of our club. Right now, the board is reviewing a set of priority projects that we will present to the membership at our upcoming meetings.

To tackle these initiatives effectively, we are hoping to establish small project committees. Whether you have 20 minutes a month or a few hours to spare, we strongly encourage you to jump in and collaborate with our leadership team.

Share Your Night Sky Photos!

Calling all astrophotographers and night-sky observers! If you wish to share your work, we invite you to send in any of your favorite astronomy photos—whether deep-sky objects, planetary shots, wide-field landscapes, or gear setups. Our newsletter team would love to feature member photography in upcoming editions of the ACA monthly newsletter!

Your input, suggestions, and feedback are always welcome as we work to make our club activities as engaging and rewarding as possible for everyone.

Clear skies, and I look forward to seeing you all under the stars very soon!

Ad Astra

Annual Membership

By Dave Hartsook

Greetings ACA members!

Hope everyone has been enjoying summer so far.

We've had some great ACA Meetings, Star Parties, Solar Parties, and TWO PICNICS this year, and there's more to come!

As a reminder, ACA memberships expire annually on August 31, and membership renewal payments are due in the month of September.

Please make a note or mark your calendar to renew your membership in September.

If you've already renewed early, Thank You! If not, please consider renewing today. :)

Renewal forms are available on the ACA website at <https://www.acaoh.org/membership.htm>.

I also wanted to let everyone know that I won't be able to attend the upcoming meeting because I won't quite be home yet from vacation.

Drew Carlson has agreed to collect ACA renewal dues at the meeting in my absence. Thanks Drew!

Just so that everyone knows who to point to when someone asks who to pay. 😊

Only a Few of The Things I Didn't Know About Nancy Grace Roman and Her Namesake Telescope

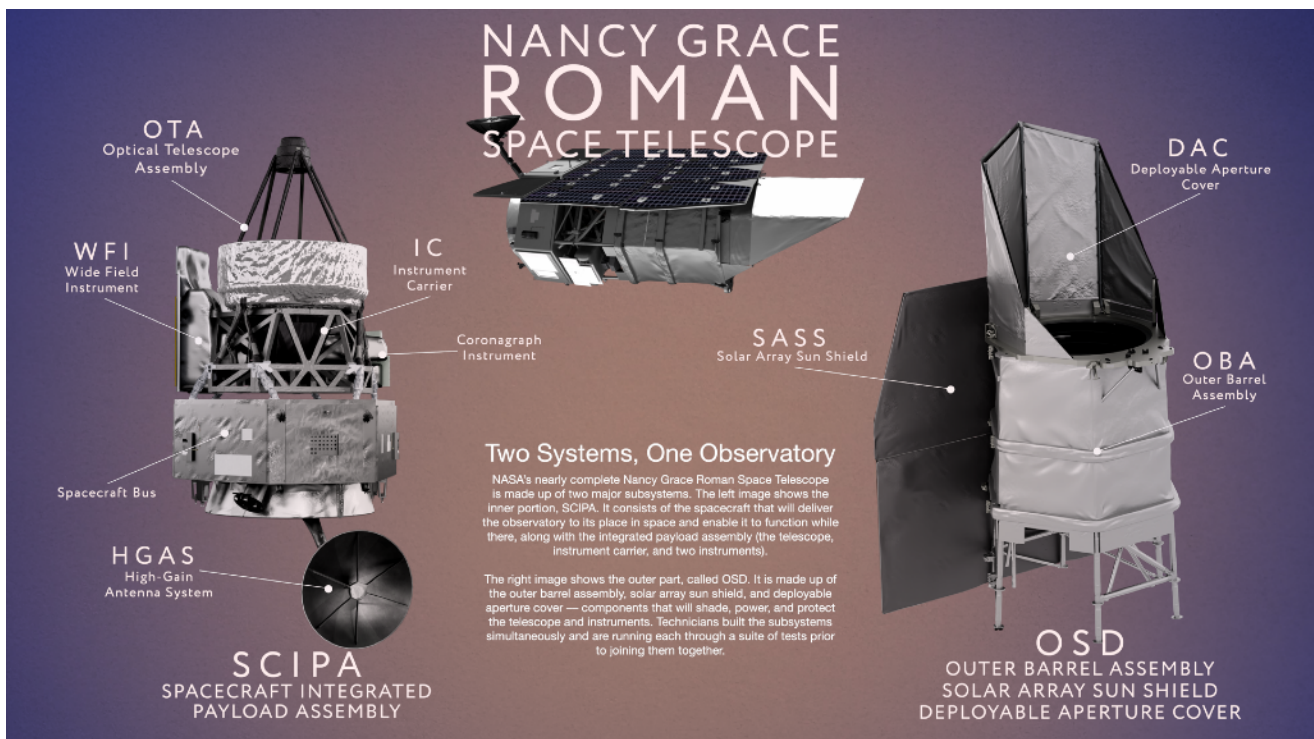
By Glenn R. Cameron

The Person

- Not only did she once hold the title of NASA *Chief of Astronomy* but she was the *first* to hold that title as well as the first female executive at NASA.
- She held other positions at NASA during her career including *Chief of Astronomy and Solar Physics* and *Chief of Astronomy and Relativity*.
- NASA considered her, “the mother of Hubble.” [the telescope, not the astronomer]
- She more broadly championed NASA’s Great Observatories program that included Hubble, Chandra X-ray, Compton Gamma Ray and Spitzer.
- In 2017 she was included in the Women of NASA LEGO set.
- <https://science.nasa.gov/mission/roman-space-telescope/who-is-nancy-grace-roman/>
- <https://science.nasa.gov/people/nancy-roman/>
- <https://www.lego.com/en-us/product/women-of-nasa-21312>

The Telescope

- The primary mirror of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope (NGRST) is the same size as the one in the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) but only $\frac{1}{4}$ the weight.
- The primary mirror was donated by the National Reconnaissance Office when it became surplus after a canceled spy satellite project.
- The Wide Field Instrument has 18 large-format detectors that will produce 300 megapixel images.
- The high-speed transmitter will downlink data to earth at up to 500 megabits per second totaling about 1.4 terabytes per day.
- The Solar Array Sun Shield does just that; provides power to the telescope and partially shades it to help keep the instruments cool.
- <https://science.nasa.gov/mission/roman-space-telescope/>
- <https://assets.science.nasa.gov/content/dam/science/missions/rst/education/aug%20Roman%20Press%20Kit-508compliant.pdf>
- <https://www.space.com/astronomy/from-spy-satellite-to-space-telescope-the-unlikely-origins-of-nasas-roman-space-telescope>



August 2026 ACA Treasurer's Report
By Dave Hartsook
9/1/2026

Checking Beginning Balance	\$ 1,269.30
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Inflows

Membership Dues	\$ 250.00
Donations (For Refreshments)	\$ 20.00
PayPal Fee Calc Overage	\$ 0.40

Total Inflows	\$ 270.40
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Outflows

Reimburse Secretary for Walker Pavilion Rental - August 2026 ACA Picnic	\$ (56.50)
Reimburse Statutory Agent for Annual OH Charitable Org Registration Fee	\$ (50.00)

Total Outflows	\$ (106.50)
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Inflows Less Outflows	\$ 163.90
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Checking Ending Balance	\$ 1,433.20
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$ 1,269.48
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Interest Income	\$ 0.01
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Savings Ending Balance	\$ 1,269.49
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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	\$ 2,752.69
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Member Vacation Photos

By Christina Hoehn-Shackelford

**Meteor Crater &
Barringer Space
Museum**



**A small piece of the iron-nickel meteorite
that impacted an area outside of Flagstaff,
Arizona over 50,000 years ago.**



**The meteorite was approximately 150 feet wide and weighed several hundred
thousand tons. The impact created a crater 550 feet deep and almost a mile wide.**

Member Vacation Photos (continued)

By Christina Hoehn-Shackelford



A Mars rover display featuring Martian sculptures at the front entrance to the Lowell Observatory.

The Dark Sky Planetarium at the Lowell Observatory is an open-air amphitheater offering live, guided night sky stargazing tours in heated seats.



The Lowell Observatory features the Open Deck Observatory, which has a collection of six advanced telescopes for public observing.

Member ACA Picnic Photos
By Diwaker Chandrasekaran



**ACA Picnic on
August 16th in the
Walker Pavilion at
Portage Lakes State
Park**



Member ACA Picnic Photos (continued)

By Diwaker Chandrasekaran





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.

September Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
01	08:24	Venus 1.2°S of Spica
03	07:03	Pleiades 1.2°S of Moon
04	02:51	LAST QUARTER MOON
06	13:24	Mars 3.0°S of Moon
06	15:26	Moon at Perigee: 368255 km
07	01:32	Pollux 3.6°N of Moon
08	13:13	Jupiter 0.8°S of Moon: Occn.
09	14:17	Moon at Descending Node
09	14:36	Regulus 0.5°N of Moon
10	22:27	NEW MOON
13	15:53	Spica 2.4°N of Moon
14	06:10	Venus 0.5°S of Moon: Occn.
17	07:18	Antares 0.6°N of Moon
18	15:44	FIRST QUARTER MOON
18	22:00	Moon at Apogee: 404217 km
22	19:06	Autumnal Equinox
23	21:40	Moon at Ascending Node
25	19:00	Neptune at Opposition
25	20:49	Mercury 0.8°N of Spica
26	11:49	FULL MOON
30	12:39	Pleiades 1.1°S of Moon



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



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