



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.acao.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.