



Astronomy Club of Akron

2026 Activity Schedule

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

5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH www.acaoth.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.