



# Astronomy Club of Akron

## 2026 Activity Schedule

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

5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH      [www.acao.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.