



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 28 Number 10

October 2006

Ramblings of the President

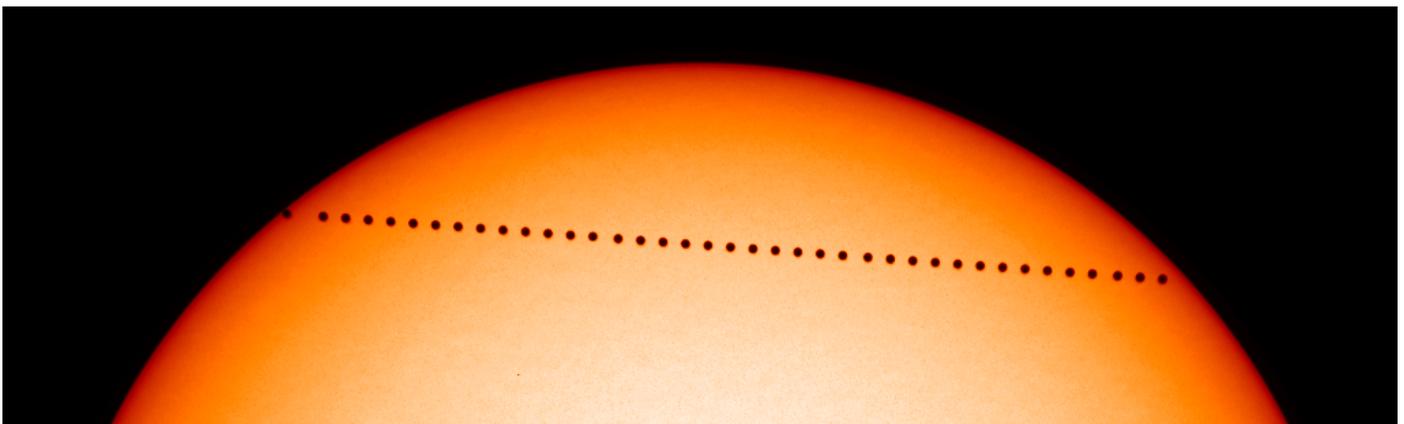
by Dave Jessie

A great start of meetings for this season. Last month marked the start of our fourth-Friday-of-the-month regular meetings in the Kiwanis Civic Center. Member Jason Shinn was our speaker and did a wonderful job with a digital image presentation of his trip to Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. The discovery of Pluto by Clyde Tombaugh occurred at this site. Jason also discussed his involvement with Radio Jove and played some genuinely fascinating sounds from the Sun as recorded by his CFARO radio telescope and computer. Jason is a guest speaker at the prestigious Hidden Hollow convention on Oct 20/21 where he'll be discussing his involvement with the Radio JOVE project. If you have access to the Internet, here's the website with all the information: <http://www.wro.org/hiddenhollow2006.html> Want to go? You have to make plans now since pre-registration is MANDATORY; there will be NO REGISTRATIONS at the gate. Cost is \$40 per person. See the mail-in registration form included in this newsletter.

Thanks for supporting the Kiwanis Rose effort! Great news...The Club was responsible for purchasing at least 17 dozen roses for the Kiwanis. Our illustrious and talented treasurer, Steve Rohweder, wrote and delivered a check to the Kiwanis for the total amount guaranteeing that we'll receive credit for those sales. Way to go, gang – that goes a long way to helping us keep the Civic Center for our meetings at no charge.

Something unusual happening before the next newsletter comes out! What is it? The planet Mercury will be transiting the Sun on Wednesday, Nov 8 with second contact at 2:14:23PM (EST) when the Sun is at an altitude of slightly over 25 degrees! The transit will continue for almost five hours with Mercury making it a tad over half-way across the solar disk before sunset at 5:16PM. Let's hope the weather will cooperate and provide great skies as we experienced for the Venus transit the morning of June 8th 2004. I don't know about you, but seeing Venus transit the Sun was almost magical and gave me such an appreciation for our place in the solar system. I have no doubt, weather permitting, that we'll experience the same sensation with this transit. If you have Internet access, see: <http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/OH/transit06.html> for more information on this rather rare event. I've never seen a Mercury transit and am really looking forward to this! Try not to think about November being one of the cloudiest months around here. Please, John Crilly, PLEASE stop buying/trading telescope gear and condemning us to several more months of clouds!

TIME CHANGE! Don't forget to change your clocks – even the ones in your telescope computers! – on Sunday, Oct 29 at 2:00AM. We're going to be back on Eastern Standard Time and off that awful Daylight Saving Time. Set the clocks BACK so we'll regain that hour we lost on April 2. I'm going to really enjoy that extra hour of sleep! How about you?



Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) image of the 2003 Mercury transit. It is a composite of many images taken as Mercury progressed along the face of the sun. For more information, visit http://soho.nascom.nasa.gov/hotshots/2003_05_07/

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Lou Poda		

Activities Calendar

Club	Celestial
Oct. 21, Open House and Star Party 7:30 pm	October 7, Full Moon
Oct. 27, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm	October 15-29, Orionid Meteor Shower October 22, New Moon
Nov. 17, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm	November 5, Full Moon November 8, Mercury Transit
Nov. 25, Open House and Star Party 7:30 pm	November 22, New Moon

The deadline for article submission is **the second Tuesday after each meeting**. All word processing files should be saved in straight ASCII text files or any version of Word to minimize import problems. We will not turn away **any** submission, as long as the article's subject is astronomy or a related topic. If you don't have access to a computer, don't hesitate to write something out long hand. As long as it is legible, I will slave over the keyboard and get it published.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES!!!!

Send your articles, items for sale, and comments to: Justin Phillips 402 Crystal St. Akron Ohio
email phillipsaca@gmail.com

Hidden Hollow 2006

Once again it is time for the Hidden Hollow Star Party. I invite you all to attend this wonderful event on October 20 and 21. Having been my first star party ever last year I must say it was exciting to be among so many like minded people sharing new and old ideas. If you do not come to Hidden Hollow for anything else please do come just to look through the Richland Astronomical Society's 31 inch Rupp telescope. Information and registration form can be found at the following web addresses.

Hidden Hollow Star Party: <http://www.wro.org/hiddenhollow2006.html>

Registration Form: <http://www.wro.org/HH06rega.pdf>

Warren Rupp Observatory: <http://www.wro.org/index.html>

Registration is being accepted up until October 15th or until 350 registrations are received. There are no registrations accepted at the gate so be sure and send yours in today!

Jason Shinn

Email: truemartian@aol.com

Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/cfaro/index.html>

Comments from Observatory Director

I am honored to serve as Observatory Director for Astronomy Club of Akron. This will be a great learning opportunity and a chance to share my love of astronomy with the public.

During the last couple of years, many of our public events have been canceled due to poor weather conditions. Mark North had a great idea to incorporate rain dates into the public event schedule to increase the chances of having a successful star party. I would like to continue with this theme, or possibly just schedule more public events knowing some will be canceled due to poor weather conditions. We may want to explore additional ways of informing the public about our star parties and conversely, notifying them when our events are canceled.

Many of our public star parties have started with a presentation given by one of our members. This "campfire chat" is a great way to inform the public about the celestial objects they are about to view. By understanding what they are looking at, the public is more likely to get excited about astronomy and want to attend future star parties. They are also more likely to tell others about our club. And thus, I believe we should continue these presentations at the start of each star party.

To accomplish these goals and others, it is important to have several people involved performing various tasks. For this purpose, I am creating an Observatory Staff. The staff will be responsible for relaying information to the public about our events, preparing the grounds for star parties, giving presentations at our star parties, providing technical advice, and operating the 14" telescope as required. Ideally, I would like the Observatory Staff to represent the full spectrum of our membership. I ask any interested member to contact me by e-mail or phone.

Ron Kalinoski

Treasurer's Report: 9/1/06 - 9/30/06

Steve Rohweder, Treasurer

Total Beginning Assets	\$9498.55
Income	
Interest on balances	\$5.72
Merchandise	\$10.00
Donations	\$10.00
50/50 Drawing	\$18.00
Dues	\$60.00
Kiwanis Rose Sales	\$255.00
Expenses	
Newsletter Expense	(\$23.60)
Kiwanis Rose Sales	(\$255.00)
Telescope	(\$674.10)
Total Ending Assets	\$8904.57

WRITING FOR THE “NIGHT SKY” NEWSLETTER

John Crilly 10-1-2006

PREFACE

Like most amateur astronomy organizations, our Club regularly publishes a newsletter. It is used to distribute useful information to the membership, including Club news, upcoming events within the Club, and upcoming astronomical events. It is more than that, though - it is also a platform for members to contribute their own material for the purposes of entertainment, education, or information. This is the material for which a Club newsletter editor is always the most appreciative. It keeps the newsletter from being a dry, one-way communication from the Club to the membership.

Each of us adds to the value of the Club in our own way and all these contributions in whatever form are what make the Club interesting and worthwhile. Very few members generally choose to contribute in the form of newsletter submissions; my purpose here is to describe the process and to offer some tips in the hope of encouraging folks who haven't tried it yet to give it a go.

FORMAT

First I'll address the “nuts and bolts” aspect. The preferred form of submission is a document in Word format, sent to the newsletter editor as an attachment to an email. This is simply the most convenient way for the editor to acquire material and to edit it into the Newsletter. This is most definitely not a requirement, though. I'm sure that our editor, like most of his ilk, would be glad to accept a submission in any readable format whether electronic or crayon or anything in between. Just don't neglect the word “readable” in the above statement. If he can't read it he can't use it - and if he can read it only with difficulty it's likely to go to the bottom of the stack until he has sufficient extra time to dedicate to decoding it.

STRUCTURE

Now for structure. There's no required structure for a newsletter article. In general, this is an informal type of writing so whatever style the writer prefers will work just fine. However, this does not mean that errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling are acceptable. Please take pity on the editor and either proofread the document yourself before submission or have someone with good language skills proofread it for you before submission. While it is the editor's job to check the document and to make necessary corrections, it is always preferable for the writer to do so in order that meaning not be lost in the editing process. Our editor will “fix” whatever requires fixing but the easier his job is, the more likely it is that he will continue to undertake this obligation. Also, as with the readability issue, a submission requiring drastic rewrites is likely to remain on the bottom of the pile for an extended period.

For a new writer, I strongly suggest using an outline before commencing the article. Begin by telling the reader what you intend to do. Then do it one piece at a time. This sort of organization encourages an inexperienced to avoid needless repetition or rambling. Headings are optional; I like them but don't always use them myself unless submitting to an editor who requires them. Shoot for 500 to 1000 words at first - keeping the article short forces a degree of discipline that enhances readability. A photograph or two never hurts, but avoid using too many.

CONTENT

That's the dull stuff out of the way. Nearly, anyway - one last bit of dullness first. Remember that it is your obligation to ensure that all material submitted is original; plagiarism or “borrowed” photographs are an insult to the Club and can not be tolerated. Now let's discuss content!

Choosing a topic can appear to be the most difficult part of the process but it can and should be very simple. Bear in mind that we generally are most effective at writing about things that interest us. What has your interest right now? Are you in the process of trying out a new piece of gear? Choosing your next eyepiece? Working on an observer list or a new category of observing objects? Been on a field trip? Visited a star party? Want to discuss a recent (or not so recent) scientific discovery? Think the Club should take a new direction or adopt a project? If it interests you, folks will probably find the article interesting to them as well.

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

You have nothing to lose by giving writing a try and the Club has everything to gain. You have an opportunity to share your interests and/or knowledge with the members of your Club. You may find that you unknowingly share a specific interest with some members you know well. Often, just seeing the article in print provides a kick sufficient to make it all worthwhile.

Of Interest to Our Members

Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Frontiers of Astronomy Lecture Series 2006-2007

Frontiers of Astronomy is a free lecture series that offers those with an interest in astronomy the chance to learn about some of the latest research in the field.

Presentations are given in the Museum's Murch Auditorium. On clear evenings, the Ralph Mueller Observatory will be open afterward.

Frontiers of Astronomy is sponsored by the Department of Astronomy at Case Western Reserve University through the support of the Arthur S. Holden, Sr. Endowment; The Cleveland Museum of Natural History; and The Cleveland Astronomical Society.

No tickets or reservations are required.

2006-2007 Lectures

Mapping the Milky Way with SDSS and LSST

Dr. Željko Ivezić, University of Washington
Thursday, October 19, 2006, 8 pm

The formation of such galaxies as the Milky Way was long thought to be a steady process that created a smooth distribution of stars. Instead, recent discoveries of complex substructure in the distribution of the Milky Way's stars have deeply shaken this standard view. Željko Ivezić discusses how the exceptionally accurate and robust data from such modern surveys as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey have made some of these discoveries possible. He also speculates on what further progress can be expected from upcoming next-generation surveys, such as the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope.

The Quantum and the Cosmos

Dr. Edward "Rocky" Kolb, University of Chicago/Fermilab
Thursday, November 30, 2006, 8 pm

Long before planets, stars or galaxies emerged, the Universe consisted of an exploding quantum soup of "elementary" particles. Encoded in this formless, shapeless soup were the seeds of cosmic structure, which over billions of years grew into the beautiful and complex Universe we observe today. Edward Kolb explores the connection between the "inner space" of the quantum and the "outer space" of the cosmos. The inner space/outer space connection may hold the key to the nature of the dark matter holding our galaxy together and the mysterious dark energy pulling our Universe apart.

The Top-10 Scientific Achievements of the Hubble Space Telescope

Dr. Mario Livio, Space Telescope Science Institute

Thursday, December 14, 2006, 8 pm

Mario Livio briefly reviews and explains what he regards as the top-10 scientific achievements of the Hubble Space Telescope in its 16 years of operation. He covers topics ranging from dark energy and black holes to extrasolar planets and stellar births.

Stellar Alchemy: The Origin of the Elements

Dr. Jennifer Johnson, The Ohio State University
Thursday, March 22, 2007, 8 pm

Understanding the transmutation of the elements is one of the triumphs of modern astrophysics. Right after the Big Bang, the Universe was made up of hydrogen and helium, with the tiniest sprinkling of the next-heaviest elements. All the other elements, such as carbon, oxygen and uranium, were created inside stars while they lived and in explosions when they died. Jennifer Johnson looks at the diverse ways astronomers learn about these processes, including observations of neutrinos and gamma-rays, radioactive elements in the Earth's crust, the remnants of stellar explosions and the elements present in stars' atmospheres.

Mapping the Universe: Galaxy Clustering in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey

Dr. Idit Zehavi, Case Western Reserve University
Thursday, April 26, 2007, 8 pm

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) is an ambitious project aimed at obtaining optical images covering a quarter of the sky and creating a three-dimensional map of about a million galaxies. It is providing a wealth of information on the distribution of galaxies, allowing for extensive large-scale structure studies. One of the survey's major goals is to study the clustering properties of galaxies. Idit Zehavi provides an overview of SDSS and describes the measurements of galaxy clustering. She also discusses how these measurements are interpreted and their implications for galaxy formation and the relationship between galaxies and dark matter.

-from Cleveland Museum of Natural History web site: <http://www.cmnh.org>

For a map: http://www.cmnh.org/site/planavisit_map.aspx

I am planning to attend as many of these lectures as possible. If anyone needs further directions, a ride, or would like to car pool send me an email at gbcrenshaw@sbcglobal.net or call me at 330-289-9345

-Gregg Crenshaw



New Horizons Views Jupiter

New Horizons, NASA's mission to Pluto, took this picture of Jupiter on September 4, 2006. The tiny spacecraft will fly past the giant planet in February 2007. For more information, visit <http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/>.

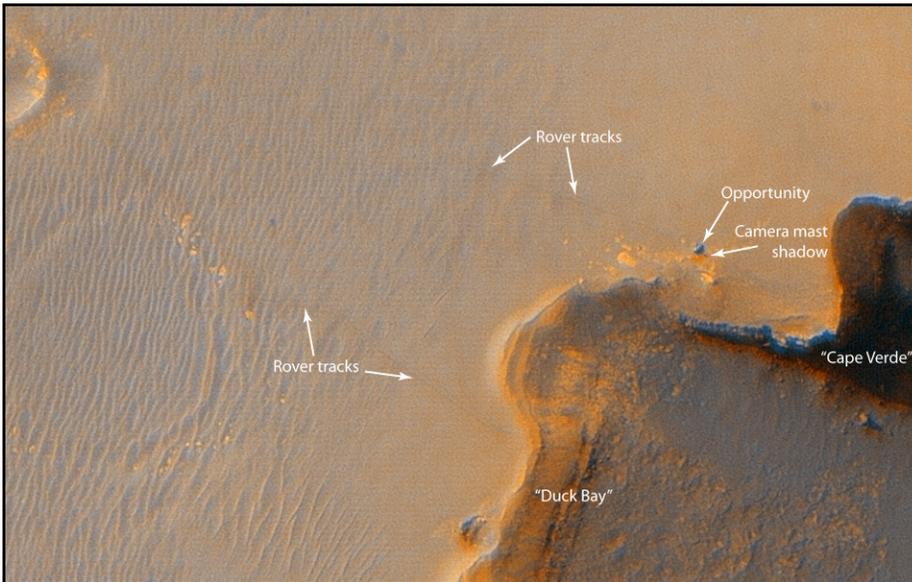
Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Photographs Opportunity Rover at Victoria Crater

NASA announced on October 6, 2006 that the newest Mars orbiter, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, has observed Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity sitting on the rim of the half-mile-wide Victoria Crater. Additional resources:

- http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/MRO/news/mro-20061006.html
- http://hiroc.jpl.arizona.edu/images/TRA/TRA_000873_1780/
- <http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Left: Close-up view of Opportunity at Victoria Crater.

Below: Victoria Crater



Hidden Hollow '06 mail in registration form:

Adult registrations include one door prize ticket per registrant, which will be given at check-in. Additional door prize tickets may be purchased at the event.

1. For safety of all attendees, use of GREEN LASER POINTERS ARE PROHIBITED.
2. You must provide an email address (print clearly!) if you want a confirmation.
3. Registration through October 15, 2006 or until we receive 350 registrations. Fire code regulations
4. No cars will be permitted to enter the Star Party area after dark and no cars are permitted to move on the field after dark except in an emergency.
5. Pre-registration is MANDATORY; there will be NO REGISTRATIONS at the gate.
6. Pets are not permitted Service animals for disabled are permitted.
7. Individuals using this form to register are not allowed to sell items, you must register as a vendor to sell. Contact RAS if you wish to register as a vendor.
8. Not responsible for theft or accidents; No refunds.
9. Very Rustic bunk house style cabins first come, first served; bring your own sleeping bags "consider these as wooden tents". No heat, 200 maximum.
10. Wrist bands are mandatory

Please indicate your selections by placing a number in the appropriate box. If multiple people are applying from different postal addresses, please use a separate form for each address.

Number of Adult registrations @ \$40 each _____

Number of Family registrants @ \$60 each _____ immediate family only no extended family members at this rate.

Number of Children under 12 (must be accompanied by an adult) free _____

Name(s):		
Name(s):		
Street Address:		
Street Address:		
City,	State	Zip Code:
Telephone Number:		
Email address (print clearly this is what we use to contact you!!)		
Bringing Telescope?	Type	
Club affiliation		
Using Bunk House Cabins	Yes	No
SIGN AT X BELOW TO AGREE TO THE REGISTRATION PAPER		
X		

Please print and send page along with your check (made payable to "RAS") to:

R.A.S. P.O. Box 1146 Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

You will receive a confirmation email from hhreg@earthlink.net within 1 day after your registration has been received.

Not responsible for misspelled, non-functioning, or blocked email accounts this is beyond our control.

Submit email questions about your already submitted registration form to hhreg@earthlink.net all other questions should be directed to theastronomer@webtv.net



The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Justin Phillips, Editor

402 Crystal St

Akron, OH 44305-3116

To join the ACA, **or to renew your membership**, please fill out the form below, place in an envelope and mail to the address shown in the return address area of the form.

Please be sure to enclose payment for the membership level desired.

The Astronomy Club of Akron
c/o Steve Rohweder, Treasurer
3981 Meadow Wood Ln
Uniontown, OH 44685-7785

Yes! I want to become a member of the Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org
(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Astronomy Club of Akron annual memberships renew in the month of May.

ADULT (ages 18 and older)..... \$30.00

JUNIOR (ages 12 to 17).....\$15.00

ADDITIONAL ADULT member \$15.00

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP\$40.00

I realize the full color version of *The Night Sky* newsletter is available for download by members from our web page at www.acaoh.org, but I would rather have the B&W version mailed to my address via USPS.