



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron
www.acaoah.org

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September, 2009

Ramblings of the President

By Glenn R. Cameron

Hello fellow stargazers. If you missed the star party on September 12th, you missed an exceptionally clear night. The atmosphere was rock steady. You could see a hint of the Milky Way. Freddy Huffman's new telescope and Freddy's superb knowledge of the sky led us to several low southern horizon Messier objects. My iPod Touch's Star Walk software helped us find Neptune and Uranus using Freddy's new "push to" SCT.

The annual Astronomy Club of Akron picnic was held on September 13th. This was a fun time with good food and lots of star talk. I'm sorry more of the membership didn't participate. Maybe next year.

This past week we got to see the fruits of the most recent Hubble Space Telescope repair mission. NASA must have really worked some overtime in order to release so many incredible images so quickly after the upgrade. Go to <http://www.stsci.edu/hst/> to read about and see the results of the amazing new capabilities.

This is September so that means our monthly club business meetings begin again. Be sure

and come out to the Kiwanis Club on September 25th for the next meeting. This also means the Kiwanis Club Rose Remembrance Day roses will be going on sale soon. Please consider supporting the Kiwanis Club by buying some roses for that special someone. Their kindness in allowing us to meet freely at their building should be repaid at least a little by helping them with this annual event.

Don't forget, 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy. Let us go out and spread the astronomical word!

New Member Info from Dave Jessie:
The ACA would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members...

Dinesh Kakade and family,
Manish Kulkarni,
Frederick Moore
We are thrilled to have you with us and look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!

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Lou Poda		

Calendar

Club

Oct. 10- Open House and Star Party, Portage Lakes Observatory, 7:30 PM- Andromeda, Our Sister Galaxy.

Celestial

Oct. 4 - Full (Harvest) Moon

Oct. 6- Mercury at greatest elongation, 18 degrees W of the sun; visible in early morning, near Venus

Oct 8- Mercury, Venus and Saturn within a 6 degree circle prior to sunrise

Oct 13- Venus 0.5 degrees from Saturn

Treasurer's Report From Lew Snodgrass

Checking Opening Balance, 8/1/2009= \$ 2959.68
Savings Opening Balance, 8/1/09= \$5921.81

Income

Dues	\$230.00
Printing	\$26.07
Savings interest	\$0.50

Total income	\$256.57
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Expenses

Website	\$45.00
Total Expense	\$45.00
Income less expenses	\$211.57
Checking Closing Balance, 8/31	\$3167.43
Savings closing balance. 8/31	\$5922.31
Total 8/31	\$9089.74

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

ACA held a star party for the Cuyahoga Falls Cub Scouts on August 14th. With twenty scouts attending, we started the star party with a talk introducing astronomy to the group. Afterwards, Ed Howe, John Shulan, Gary Smith, and Bob Burns showed the scouts the night sky as seen through the eyepieces of their telescopes. We observed M57, M13, NGC6633, Albiero, M29, and Jupiter. John Shulan was the first to have Jupiter in the eyepiece and observed two of Jupiter's moons at a separation of less than 5 arcseconds. We watched the moons over time to see them slowly increase their distance apart as viewed from Earth.

The following night we had a public star party at the observatory. This event complemented our April 4th star party celebrating International Year of Astronomy 2009. Our presentation was titled Historic Astronomers and featured the works of Kepler, Galileo, Herschel, Parsons, Hubble, and Thorne. Seeing conditions were better on Saturday and we were able to observe a large festoon in Jupiter's southern equatorial belt. On a separate observing session on September 14th, Gregg Crenshaw, Fred Huffman, Ray Hyer, and I observed a festoon in the same position within the southern equatorial belt. The festoon was larger and more elongated than the August 15th observation and was visible

in 8" telescopes set up on the observatory grounds.

We had great weather for our September 12th star party with about fifty people attending. A high pressure system moved into the area just before star party time providing us with low humidity and good seeing conditions. Members brought out large light buckets on this night. Five of the telescopes set up on the observatory grounds were 10" or larger. Thanks to John Shulan, Lew Snodgrass, Ed Howe, Fred Huffman, Gary Smith, Bob Burns, and Nick Mihiylov for bringing out their equipment. Jupiter was our featured celestial object, but it was definitely a night for planetary nebulae observation. The Little Gem, Blue Flash Nebula, and Blue Snowball Nebula were among the celestial treats. Herschel's Double Cluster was a late evening delight. This star party was a great way to end the summer observing season.

Work continued on the brick pad this month. John and Pat Phillips poured concrete pads at each manway entrance of the roof roll-off structure. Jeff Kreidler continued laying brick and the pad is approximately forty percent complete.

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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Tom/Leigh Alexander, Editors
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For Club information, please visit our website: www.acaoh.org. Astronomy Club of Akron annual memberships renew in the month of May.

To join the ACA, **or to renew your membership**, please fill out the form below, place in an envelope and mail to:

Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer, Astronomy Club of Akron
1865 Stabler Rd
Akron, OH 44313-6124

Yes! I want to become a member of the Astronomy Club of Akron
(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

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 sent by email to , but I would rather have a B&W version mailed to my address via USPS.