



# The Night Sky

The Newsletter of  
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 32 Number 5

May 2010

Next Meeting: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:00PM

## REMINDER

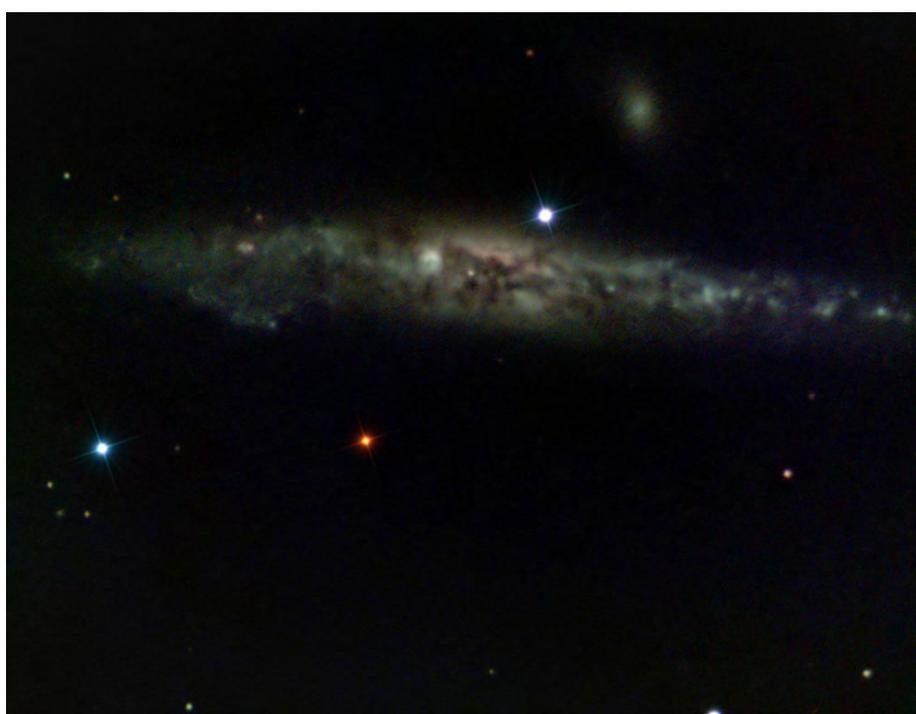
MAY IS MEMBERSHIP  
DUES RENEWAL MONTH!



## Ramblings of the President

By Dave Jessie

Summer is upon us, but you wouldn't know it by walking outside at the moment. As I write this, the temperature is barely 40 degrees, the wind is blowing and a light rain is falling - looking and feeling more like mid-March than early May. I'm not worried though. Before you know it, we'll be out under the stars with fellow Club members, friends and interested public. I've mentioned many times how much I truly enjoy the fellowship we share. Need help with equipment? One of our members is right there to assist. Can't find one of the faint fuzzies? Again, one of our highly knowledgeable observers will be there to show you the way. Want to get into astro-imaging? It shouldn't come as a surprise that our Club is blessed with a veritable wealth of information from any one of our highly accomplished imagers. Need proof? I'll direct you to our Webpage to see the posted images as well as



The Whale Galaxy (NGC 4631) By ACA Member Lenny Marek. This was taken at f/10. The exposures are 10x5 minutes in RGB. Aligned and combined in Images Plus. Autodarks and flats were applied. Further processing done in Adobe Photoshop CS2, Neat Image and Star Spikes Pro applied to increase saturation of the star colors.

links to members' Webpages. Speaking of the Club Webpage, all manner of new information is readily available there, including detail of all observing events, including outreach events & locations.

One of our favorite off-site observing events is conducted by the MVAS (Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society) and will occur next Saturday, 5/15/2010 at Scenic Vista Park in Lisbon, OH. . Take a look here for a map and directions:

[http://www.acaoh.org/\\_events/2010-05-15\\_Scenic%20Vista.htm](http://www.acaoh.org/_events/2010-05-15_Scenic%20Vista.htm)  
It's a beautiful dark-sky location and we're invited to attend. Of course, bring a scope with you! If you don't, you'll wish that you had.

This next off-site event is a month away, but I'm going to mention it now regardless. Once again, we've been asked to set up telescopes for Camp CHOPS (Children's Hospital Oncology Patients and Staff).

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## OFFICERS 2010 – 2012

### President

Dave Jessie DJessie@neo.rr.com

### Vice President

Tom Mino tjmino@neo.rr.com

### Treasurer

Lew Snodgrass 330-819-4886 CHRPLY@aol.com

### Secretary

Mary Pickelsimer marypickelsimer@sbcglobal.net

### Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Rosaelena Villaseñor revillasenor@hotmail.com

### Observatory Director

Ron Kalinoski 330-837-5848

### ACA Webmaster

Glenn Cameron 330-737-1472 Glenn.cameron@acaoh.org

### Editor, Night Sky

Jason Shinn 330-685-5382 truemartian@aol.com

### Trustee

Freddy Huffman 330-535-8009 trusstube2@gmail.com

### Trustee

Ray Hyer 330-784-3970 rhyer@neo.rr.com

### Statutory Agent

Mark Kochheiser 330-882-3713 mkochheiser@neo.rr.com

### OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

## Activities Calendar

### Club

May 9 - Open House at Portage Lakes Observatory:  
09:00 pm EDT (01:00UT)

May 15 - OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze.

May 22 - Annual Telescope Seminar at Portage Lakes  
Observatory: 08:00 pm EDT (00:00UT)

August 14 - MVAS-OTAA meeting at the MVCO.

### Celestial\*

May 6 - Eta Aquarid meteor shower peaks at 00h UT.

May 6 - Last Quarter Moon at 04:15 UT.

May 6 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 22h UT.

May 14 - New Moon at 01:04 UT.

May 20 - First Quarter moon at 23:43 UT.

May 20 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 9h UT.

May 26 - Mercury at greatest elongation at 2h UT in the  
morning sky.

May 27 - Full Moon at 23:07 UT.

*\*Source: www.skymaps.com*

The deadline for article submission is the 6th of each month. 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 relevant to our forum. If you do not have access to a computer a handwritten article will suffice as long as it is legible. Any images submitted should be saved in .jpg format.

— PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES —

Send your articles, items for sale, and comments to:

Jason Shinn

873A North Point Dr, Akron OH 44313

truemartian@aol.com



Pluto by ACA member Jason Shinn. This composite of two images shows the location of Pluto on two separate occasions.

### Ramblings of the President (con't)

Yes, these campers are children battling cancer, and they are always overjoyed to see us and what we can show them through our telescopes. Patients or not, they're just children having a great time at camp. You owe it to yourself to experience of showing the beauty of the heavens to these brave children. We've been lucky enough to have conducted this event for many years. It will take place on the first Friday in June at Camp Christopher located at the intersection of Ira Rd and N. Hametown Rd in Akron. A map and directions are available here:

[http://www.acaoh.org/\\_events/2010-06-04\\_event.htm](http://www.acaoh.org/_events/2010-06-04_event.htm)

Your Club was well represented at the Astronomy Day activities at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Peter Clausen had his magnificent display of astro-images and was joined by Leslie, his wife. Leslie is fantastic with the public and especially with children. Jason Shinn was there with his fantastic displays of members' astro-images. Several of us overheard attendees comment that they thought the images were from Hubble! We assured them that all were taken by our members using their own equipment from NE Ohio. Expressions exhibited shock and near disbelief! How could we get such images under the conditions we have in NE Ohio? Recall that comment I made early in the article about expertise? It is so very true.

As a final word, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Glenn Cameron for his past two years as President of the Club and also to Gary Smith for his service as Vice President. The Club is indebted to you for jobs well done. The new administration will do its best to continue moving the Club forward.

*Article by Dave Jessie,  
ACA President*

## April Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

4/1/2010 Through 4/30/2010

<b>Checking Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$1,860.04</b>
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### Income

Dues	160.00
Donation	40.00
Merchandise Sales	10.00
50/50 Drawing	15.00

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>
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### Expenses

Website	<b>45.00</b>
Observatory Improvements	<b>18.59</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$63.59</b>
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<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$161.41</b>
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<b>Checking Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,021.45</b>
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<b>Charter One Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,021.55</b>
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<b>Reconciled Difference</b>	<b>\$0.10</b>
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<b>Savings Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$5,925.74</b>
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Earned Interest	0.49
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<b>Savings Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$5,926.23</b>
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ACA Checking Balance	2,021.55
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ACA Savings Balance	5,926.23
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Petty Cash	50.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,997.78</b>
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*Article by Lew Snodgrass  
ACA Treasurer*



## In my opinion

By Freddy Huffman

Of late as I read magazine and articles about astronomy all I hear is that visual astronomy is a dying thing and that astro imaging is taking over. While most new equipment is slanted toward imaging and not much or very little is for visual astronomy. Let me say that imaging is a very fine art and many armature astronomers are going into the field and doing very nice work. Most or all of the equipment that is used for imaging is very expensive and out of the reach of most amateurs, not to mention the time and learning curve that is required to achieve a good finished product. My hat is off to those that go into imaging and if that is what you like then more power to you.

Now the case for visual viewing, all of my life I have viewed the heavens with binos, telescopes and my naked eye. I have taught myself to

locate many objects without the aid of a telescope that along with a mount will do it for me. To me there is no benefit to star gazing if I don't know what I am looking at or where in the sky I am looking and to do this you first need to learn the sky. Time and time again I have seen new people in astronomy will buy a goto scope on the word of the manufacture that anyone can operate it without little or any experience, this is just not true and it does more to turn people off to the wonderful hobby of star gazing.

For me there is far more to amateur astronomy than to isolate one's self in a private observatory and take images all night. I like to look through other scopes and talk about what they are doing and what new equipment they have or are planning to buy, I guess I like the social aspect to the hobby. For me looking at an M object or NGC in an eyepiece and seeing something different each time I look is worth a million pictures and when you can

show a newbie one of those objects or a planet they have never seen it is a pleasure you can't describe.

Let me say that this is by no means a put down to those who do imaging, for I have many good and close friends that are very good at it. But I have to ask myself are they missing something by not dragging a telescope out to a dark muddy field and setting it up next to a fellow visual amateur and waiting for it to get dark so you can see the first star or planet that shows up in the night sky and scream I got it! This is how the whole hobby got started and I think this is what keeps the hobby going.

To say that visual observing is dying out and is not in the future of the hobby in my opinion is not a true statement, so I say keep your eye to the eye piece and don't let a good thing drift from the field.

*Article by ACA Member/Trustee  
Freddy Huffman*

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## - **INSERT YOUR SUBMISSION HERE** -

THE NIGHT SKY NEWSLETTER IS LOOKING TO PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES!  
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, EXPERIENCES, STORIES, OPINIONS, LATEST ASTRO-  
IMAGES, AND ADVICE WITH YOUR FELLOW AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS.

ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE SIXTH OF EACH MONTH.  
ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .JPG FORMAT.  
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

JASON SHINN  
truemartian@aol.com

OR VIA SNAIL-MAIL:

JASON SHINN  
873A North Point Dr.  
Akron, OH 44313

# April ACA Meeting

Photos by Ray Hyer



(left) As Dave lectures, Jeff Kreidler follows along with his planisphere.



(below) Dave Jessie presents a lecture on how to use a star atlas to locate objects in the sky.



(above) Winners of the Messier Marathon. In the digital telescope class we have Lew Snodgrass and John Shulan. In the manual category the winners are Rosalena, Dave Jessie, Leah and Tom Alexander. (That's right, Tom Alexander actually came to a meeting and I had no idea who he was!).

# ASTRONOMY DAY

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL HISTORY**



Photos by Leslie Clausen

# 2010

# *The Night Sky*

*Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron*

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor

1579C Treetop Trail

Akron, OH 44313

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**The Astronomy Club of Akron**

**c/o Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer**

**1865 Stabler Rd**

**Akron, OH 44313-6124**

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

[www.acaoh.org](http://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

Visit us on the Web at [www.acaoh.org](http://www.acaoh.org).